STATES OF JERSEY

PROPOSED BUDGET (GOVERNMENT PLAN) 2026-2029 (P.70/2025): TWENTIETH AMENDMENT

TEACHING JÈRRIAIS

Lodged au Greffe on 24th November 2025
by the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Earliest date for debate: 8th December 2025

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSED BUDGET (GOVERNMENT PLAN) 2026-2029 (P.70/2025): TWENTIETH AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 4, PARAGRAPH (b)(xii) –

After the words "in the Appendix to the accompanying report" insert the words –

", except that, on page 47, after the words "Budgets for arts, culture and heritage funding will increase in future years, with inflation allocations for pay and non-pay.", there should be inserted the words –

"The Education and Lifelong Learning Head of Expenditure includes funding in the sum of £670,700 for promoting and teaching the language of Jèrriais. This will be specifically ringfenced for this purpose and, also, further work will develop and renew the Jèrriais language strategy, which expires in 2025.""

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND HOME AFFAIRS SCRUTINY PANEL

Note: After this amendment, the proposition would read as follows –

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion −

(a) In accordance with Article 16 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 (the Law) to approve an amendment to the Government Plan 2025 – 2028 (entitled "Budget 2025 – 2028") to a reduction in the 2025 head of expenditure "Grants to States Funds" as included in Table 5(i) Revenue Heads of Expenditure of that Government Plan from £119,821,000 to £69,821,000.

(b) To receive the Government Plan 2026 – 2029 (entitled "Budget 2026-2029") specified in Article 9(1) of the Law and specifically –

i. to approve the estimate of total States income to be paid into the Consolidated Fund in 2026 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 1 to the Report, which is inclusive of the proposed taxation and impôts duties changes outlined in the Government Plan, in line with Article 9(2)(a) of the Law.

ii. to refer to their Act dated 24th June 2003 in which they approved that no new 'user pays' charges be introduced without any such charge receiving prior in principle approval by the States Assembly and accordingly to approve the introduction of two new charges, to be levied by Health and Care Jersey to promote appropriate use of the Emergency Department and for repeated non-attendance of outpatient appointments, detailed in the section entitled "Departmental Income Sources" as set out in the Appendix to the accompanying Report.

iii. to approve the proposed Changes to Approval for financing/borrowing for 2026, as shown in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 2 to the Report, which may be obtained by the Minister for

Treasury and Resources, as and when required, in line with Article 9 (2)(c) of the Law, of up to those revised approval amounts.

iv. to approve the transfers from one States fund to another for 2026 of up to and including the amounts set in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 3 in line with Article 9(2)(b) of the Law.

v. to approve a transfer from the Consolidated Fund to the Stabilisation Fund in 2026 of up to £50 million, subject to a decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources based on the availability of funds in the Consolidated Fund as at 31st December 2025 in excess of the estimates provided in this plan, or from budgeted underspends identified before 31st December 2026.

vi. to approve a transfer from the Consolidated Fund to the Agricultural Loans Fund in 2026 of up to £5 million, subject to a decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources based on availability of funds in the Consolidated Fund as at 31st December 2025 in excess of estimates provided in this plan, or from budgeted underspends identified before 31st December 2026;

vii. to approve each major project that is to be started or continued in 2026 and the total cost of each such project and any amendments to the proposed total cost of a major project under a previously approved Government Plan, in line with Article 9(2)(d), (e) and (f) of the Law and as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 4 to the Report.

viii. to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund for 2026, for each head of expenditure, being gross expenditure less estimated income (if any), in line with Articles 9(2)(g), 10(1) and 10(2) of the Law, and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Tables 5(i) and (ii) of the Report.

ix. to approve the estimated income, being estimated gross income less expenditure, that each States trading operation will pay into its trading fund in 2026 in line with Article 9(2)(h) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 6 to the Report.

x. to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from each States trading operation's trading fund for 2026 for each head of expenditure in line with Article 9(2)(i) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 7 to the Report.

xi. to approve the estimated income and expenditure proposals for the Climate Emergency Fund for 2026 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 8 to the Report.

xii. to approve, in accordance with Article 9(1) of the Law, the Government Plan 2026-2029, as set in the Appendix to the accompanying Report, except that, on page 47, after the words "Budgets for arts, culture and heritage funding will increase in future years, with inflation allocations for pay and non-pay.", there should be inserted the words –

"The Education and Lifelong Learning Head of Expenditure includes funding in the sum of £670,700 for promoting and teaching the language of Jèrriais. This will be specifically ringfenced for this purpose and, also, further work will develop and renew the Jèrriais language strategy, which expires in 2025."

Re-issue Note

This amendment has been re-issued to fix an error in the wording of the amendment. The word 'CYPES' has been replaced with 'Education and Lifelong Learning.'

REPORT

Summary

The purpose of this Amendment to the Proposed Budget (Government Plan) 2026-2029 (hereafter the "Budget") is to ringfence the funding for Jèrriais within the existing head of expenditure budget for Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) to ensure it is only used for purposes of developing and supporting the Jèrriais language.

Why is this Amendment needed?

The budget for Jèrriais sits within the Department for Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) and the Panel understands that the total budget allocated in 2025 was £647,500[1]. This budget covered all aspects of the team responsible for teaching and promoting Jèrriais and did not solely relate to teaching in schools.

The Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel (the 'Panel') asked for a breakdown of the planned expenditure of the £647,500 for 2025 and was advised that £545,000 related to staff costs and £102,500 related to non-staff costs[2]. The Panel was also provided with the following details which related to the mapping of non-staff expenditure:

Action	Predicted	Actual to 30.9.2025
Develop and expand the school Jèrriais education programme	£76,700	£30,201
Increase Jerriais participation and attainment	£7,500	£540
Increase media coverage	£8,700	£24
Develop written forms of Jerriais	£5,000	
Defining Jerriais roles and responsibilities	£2,000	
Jerriais development	£5,100	£9
Total	**£105,000**	**£30,775**

This breakdown provides a different total predicted non-staff spend (in the sum of £105,000), however, it indicates that there are significant underspends in various areas of the non-staff budget.

Despite this, the Panel is aware that during the course of 2025 an application was made for funding an educational theatre production of La Carpéleuse Hardi Affanmée (The Very Hungry Caterpillar). This production visited a number of primary schools, however, the application for funding was declined by CYPES as it was not budgeted as a planned expenditure[3]. Funding was subsequently sourced through a charitable trust for the production, however, the Panel suggests that such initiatives would be suitable to fall within the remit of the Jèrriais budget, which has an important place within the Government's commitment to Arts, Culture and Heritage funding.

[1] Written Question 383/2025
[2] Letter – CEHA review of Budget 2026 – 2029 - Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning – 5th November 2025
[3] Written Question 383/2025

In addition, the current Jèrriais Language Strategy runs for the period 2022 to 2025. To ensure continuity it will be essential to either extend or refresh the strategy beyond 2025, with appropriate coordination and planning and, until further clarity about the future of the strategy is known, the Panel wishes to highlight the importance of the Jèrriais funding within the CYPES budget.

The Panel has made enquiries about the projected budget for Jèrriais in 2026 and has been advised that the indicative 2026 budget is £670,700, which is made up of £565,700 staff costs and £105,000 non-staff costs. The Panel wants this budget to be specifically ringfenced, so that the full sum is used for its intended purposes of supporting the cultural and heritage importance of Jersey's own language.

Conclusion

The Panel is concerned that the promotion of Jèrriais is not being given the priority it deserves and has therefore proposed this amendment to safeguard the allocation to it within the CYPES head of expenditure.

Financial and staffing implications

The Panel does not anticipate that this amendment will create additional financial or manpower requirements for 2026.

Children's Rights Impact Assessment

A Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) has been prepared in relation to this proposition and is available to read on the States Assembly website.