STATES OF JERSEY

PROPOSED BUDGET 2027-2030 (P.73/2026): ELEVENTH AMENDMENT

STATISTICS JERSEY FUNDING

Lodged au Greffe on 24th November 2026
by the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
Earliest date for debate: 8th December 2026

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSED BUDGET 2027-2030 (P.73/2026): ELEVENTH AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (l) –

After the words "as set in the Appendix to the accompanying report", insert the words –

", except that, on page 46, after Table 8, there should be inserted the words –

"Within the Revenue Head of Expenditure for the Cabinet Office, funding for 'Statistics and Analytics' will be increased by £401,000 in 2027, £288,000 in 2028, and £22,000 in 2029, for the production and publication of the Living Costs and Household Income Survey, through reallocation of departmental expenditure within the Cabinet Office.""

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

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

to receive the Budget 2027 – 2030 specified in Article 9(1) of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 (the Law) and specifically –

(a) to approve the estimate of total States income to be paid into the General Revenue Fund in 2027 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 Budget, in line with Article 9(2)(a) of the Law;

(b) to approve the estimate of total States income to be paid into the Jersey Capital Investment Fund in 2027 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 2 to the Report, which is inclusive of the proposed taxation and impôts duties changes outlined in the Budget, in line with Article 9(2)(b) of the Law;

(c) to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund for 2027, for each head of expenditure, being gross expenditure less estimated income (if any), in line with Articles 9(2)(c), 10(1) and 10(2) of the Law, and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 3 of the Report;

(d) to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from the Jersey Capital Investment Fund for 2027, for each head of expenditure, being gross expenditure less estimated income (if any), in line with Articles 9(2)(d), 10(1) and 10(2) of the Law, and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Tables 4 and 5 of the Report;

(e) to approve the transfers from one States fund to another for 2027 of up to and including the amounts set in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 6 in line with Article 9(2)(e) of the Law;

(f) to approve the proposed Changes to Approval for financing/borrowing for 2027, as shown in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 7 to the Report, which may be obtained by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, as and when required, in line with Article 9 (2)(f) of the Law, of up to those revised approval amounts;

(g) to approve for each project that is to be started in 2027 and that has not previously been set out in an approved Budget, the total cost of each such project, in line with Article 9(2)(g), and (h) of the Law and as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 8 to the Report;

(h) to approve any amendments to the proposed total cost for each project that has previously been approved in a Budget, in line with Article 9(2)(i) of the Law and as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 8 to the Report;

(i) to approve the estimated income, being estimated gross income less expenditure, that each States trading operation will pay into its trading fund in 2027 in line with Article 9(2)(j) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 9 to the Report;

(j) to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from each States trading operation's trading fund for 2027 for each head of expenditure in line with Article 9(2)(k) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 10 to the Report;

(k) to approve the estimated income and expenditure proposals for the Climate Emergency Fund for 2027, in line with the terms of reference for the Fund in Government Plan 2020 - 2023 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 11 to the Report; and

(l) to approve, in accordance with Article 9(1) of the Law, the Budget 2027-2030, as set out in the Appendix to the accompanying Report ", except that, on page 46, after Table 8, there should be inserted the words –

"Within the Revenue Head of Expenditure for the Cabinet Office, funding for 'Statistics and Analytics' will be increased by £401,000 in 2027, £288,000 in 2028, and £22,000 in 2029, for the production and publication of the Living Costs and Household Income Survey, through reallocation of departmental expenditure within the Cabinet Office.""

REPORT

The Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel's (the "Panel") Amendment to the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 (the "Proposed Budget") seeks to ensure that the required funding is available in the core budget for Statistics and Analytics ("Statistics Jersey") to deliver the Living Costs and Household Income Survey ("LCHIS"). The effect of this Amendment will therefore be to:

- Increase funds for Statistics Jersey, through the reallocation of departmental expenditure within the Cabinet Office.
- Ensure that Statistics Jersey has the additional funds available within its core budget to conduct the LCHIS.

Rationale for the Amendment

The Panel is proposing this Amendment to the Proposed Budget to ensure that Statistics Jersey is sufficiently resourced to conduct the LCHIS in 2027, with funding allocated for 2028 and 2029 to fulfil the completion of the related work. The Panel understands that the intention is for funding to be provided through Cabinet Office underspends to Statistics Jersey for delivery of the LCHIS. However, as 2026 underspends are not reported in the Proposed Budget, the Panel is seeking an amendment to guarantee that the funding to deliver the LCHIS is allocated within Statistics Jersey's core budgets for 2027, 2028 and 2029.

Background:

The Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 (the "Law") contains provisions intended to safeguard the independence of the Chief Statistician and ensure that sufficient resources are available to support the functions of the office. Article 4(3) states that:

> *"The Minister must make an annual assessment of the funding required to ensure that the Chief Statistician is provided with the financial and administrative resources, and other support, including staff, services, equipment and accommodation, necessary to enable the Chief Statistician to discharge the functions of the office economically, effectively and efficiently."*

The Law was amended in 2025, which strengthened the responsibilities for the Chief Minister, Chief Statistician and States Assembly in relation to Jersey's statistics framework and the production of official statistics.

The Panel understands that the Chief Statistician has made a number of unsuccessful business case requests for funding for the LCHIS. Following the rejection of a funding request for 2026, it was suggested that a further business case be submitted for 2027. In a submission provided by Statistics Jersey to the previous Panel's review of the Proposed Budget 2026-2029, the Chief Statistician stated:

> *"For the 2024-2027 and 2025-2028 Government Plans/Budgets, I provided briefing, including to the Council of Ministers… For the 2026-2029 Government Budget, the more formal and transparent process meant that, as I mentioned in my 20 October letter to the Panel, the decision not to include the LCHIS in the 2026-2029 Government Budget was that funding is not required until 2027 and so should be funded under the Government Budget 2027-2030."*

Given this explanation, the Panel was surprised to learn that funding for the LCHIS is now expected to be met through Cabinet Office underspends, rather than approved through a business case as part of the Proposed Budget process. The Panel is concerned that this represents a departure from the rationale previously provided for rejecting funding requests and may not provide the certainty of funding required for the delivery of a significant survey.

The Panel is concerned that this approach does not provide certainty of funding and may undermine the operational independence of Statistics Jersey. The Amendment has therefore been brought forward to ensure there is a dedicated funding allocation within the core budget for Statistics Jersey, supporting both the delivery of the LCHIS and the independence of Statistics Jersey.

Living Costs and Household Income Survey

The LCHIS is a periodic survey of household income and expenditure which supports the Island's Outcome Indicators and informs the Retail Price Index. The Panel recognises that the cost of living remains a significant issue for Islanders and for Ministers and notes that it has been identified as one of the four priorities within the proposed Common Strategic Policy 2026-2030. The Panel further recognises that robust and up-to-date evidence is essential to informing policy decisions in this area.

The Panel notes that the LCHIS is the primary source of information on household income, expenditure and relative low income in Jersey. However, the most recent survey was undertaken in 2021-2022, meaning that the latest statistics are now five years old.

The Panel notes that Recommendation 2 of the Office of the Children's Commissioner Jersey's November 2026 report, *Less Money, More Stress: Children's Everyday Experiences of Money and Rights,* highlighted the need for a firm commitment to regular income distribution surveys, recognising that robust and timely data are essential for monitoring child poverty, assessing the effectiveness of Government policies and interventions, and informing future decision-making.

Submission from Statistics Jersey

In a submission from Statistics Jersey to the Panel's review of the Proposed Budget, the Panel learnt that funding for the LCHIS is not included within Statistics Jersey's core budget and therefore requires a separate business case to be submitted for each iteration of the survey. The Panel understands that the LCHIS was planned to run for a 12-month period from spring 2027 and was expected to cost £401,000 in 2027; £288,000 in 2028; and £22,000 in 2029 (for the production and publication of the LCHIS).

Statistics Jersey also advised that the commencement of the survey may be delayed by approximately one month from the original planned start date in order to spread costs more evenly across 2027 and 2028 to make it easier to fund the survey from Cabinet Office underspends in 2027. It is understood that any delay to the commencement of the survey would result in a corresponding delay to the publication of the survey results. The Panel understands that the resulting income distribution statistics are expected to be published at the end of 2028. As such, the associated outputs and findings of the survey would not be ready to inform the next budget cycle for 2028.

The Panel was advised that Statistics Jersey's dedicated two-person team had undertaken a range of preparatory activities during 2026 to support the delivery of the LCHIS, ahead of full funding becoming available in 2027.

The Panel understands that it was confirmed to the Chief Statistician in a letter on 30th September 2026 that a decision was subsequently taken to fund the survey through underspends within the wider Cabinet Office Head of Expenditure budget rather than through additional Treasury funding. Given the importance of LCHIS to both Government and the States Assembly, the Panel is concerned that funding for the survey is reliant on Cabinet Office underspends rather than being provided through a dedicated budget allocation.

Submission from the Jersey Statistics Council (the "Council")

The Panel wrote to the Council on 13th October 2026 and received a submission from the Council on 8th November 2026. The Council was established in 2025 following amendments to the Law. The Council's functions include advising on the production, quality, relevance and integrity of official statistics, and upholding the independence of both the Chief Statistician and the Jersey Statistical System.

The Panel further notes that the Law provides the Council with a specific role in monitoring matters relating to statistical governance, including the ability to use its annual report "*to report any concerns that it has in relation to the funding, resourcing and independence of the Chief Statistician and the Jersey Statistical System*".

In its submission, the Council emphasised the need for stable, forward-planned funding arrangements to support periodic but essential statistical exercises. Concern was raised regarding the LCHIS and preparations for the 2031 Census. The Council noted that these programmes require funding commitments well in advance to enable effective planning and delivery. It also expressed concern over reliance on ad hoc budget pressures to fund significant statistical activities and highlighted the importance of maintaining adequate resources to support future methodological developments and public confidence in official statistics.

The Council concluded that, while Statistics Jersey's current funding is broadly adequate to maintain its existing statistical outputs, the lack of business support continues to place pressure on statistical leadership and capacity. The Council emphasised that maintaining current services does not equate to having sufficient resources to meet future demands, particularly in relation to major periodic statistical exercises such as the LCHIS and the 2031 Census.

The Council highlighted concerns regarding the absence of committed funding for these future programmes, warning that unless additional resources are secured, either core statistical work may be adversely affected or planned surveys may be delayed or unable to proceed. It stressed the importance of providing early certainty regarding future funding arrangements to support effective planning and delivery.

Scrutiny

At the Panel's Review Hearing with the Chief Minister on 16th October, the Panel raised questions regarding the process of securing funding for Statistics Jersey:

Deputy C.J. Rebindaine: *So, Chief Minister, we understand that by law you have to make an annual assessment that the Chief Statistician has adequate funding. Can you outline the steps that you have taken for the 2027 Budget process to comply with the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 and are you confident that they are adequately resourced?*

The Chief Minister: *The Chief Executive Officer leads the work with the Chief Statistician on that and they have come to a mutually agreeable position, which I am satisfied ensures they have the required funding to carry out their work in line with the law. Paul, did you want to add anything?*

Chief Executive Officer: *Yes, I think you spoke to the Chief Statistician the other day and what he described is, since we introduced the new law, an annual process of him identifying what all of his pressures are. In my old role as accountable officer for the Cabinet Office, I would see if we could balance that within the Cabinet Office head of expenditure, and where we could not, we would discuss with the Chief Minister as to what additional pressures or growth was needed. This year, it was conducted through the same period of the Budget and I wrote to him on 29th September and recorded formally that Statistics Jersey was therefore protected from the efficiency savings that we apply to other areas of the Cabinet Office, as well as giving him assurance that we would fund the costs of the Living Costs and Household Income Survey, which will be conducted through 2027 and through 2028. We will fund out from the Cabinet Office underspends.*

The Panel notes that the funding arrangements for the LCHIS rely on assurances that it can be funded from Cabinet Office underspends rather than through a dedicated budget allocation within the Proposed Budget. While the Chief Executive Officer provided assurance that the costs of the LCHIS would be met in this way, the Panel considers that reliance on Cabinet Office underspends presents a degree of risk to the delivery of significant statistical projects.

The Panel is also concerned that this funding arrangement may not represent best practice for supporting and safeguarding the operational independence of Statistics Jersey. The Panel considers that reliance on funding decisions made within the Cabinet Office budget process could create a perception that Statistics Jersey's ability to undertake its functions is dependent on the priorities and financial position of the wider Cabinet Office.

The Panel proposes this Amendment to provide greater certainty, transparency and independence by allocating funding directly to Statistics Jersey through the Proposed Budget process. This would strengthen the Chief Statistician's ability to plan and deliver work, whilst reducing reliance on funding from Cabinet Office underspends.

Conclusion

The Panel recognises the significance of the LCHIS, and the importance of safeguarding the independence of Statistics Jersey. It understands that funding for the LCHIS has been committed through anticipated underspends within the Cabinet Office. However, as underspends are not reflected within the Proposed Budget, the Panel considers that

there is no formal assurance within the Proposed Budget that sufficient funding will be available to support the delivery and completion of the survey.

The Panel therefore proposes this Amendment to provide certainty that funding for the LCHIS will be available in 2027 and the forward years for the completion of the survey. In doing so, the Amendment seeks to formalise within the Proposed Budget the funding commitment that the Panel understands has already been made, thereby guaranteeing the delivery of the survey without adversely affecting other service areas within the Cabinet Office.

Financial and staffing implications

The Panel is of the view that the Amendment would not incur additional financial and staffing implications. The Amendment aligns with previously set ambitions of the States Assembly and within the existing priorities of the Chief Minister to determine the appropriate way forward in respect of ensuring that Statistics Jersey can fulfil the work to complete the LCHIS. The funding would be provided through 2026 underspends.

Children's Rights Impact Assessment

The Panel considers that this Amendment has no direct or indirect impact on children and that the duty to have due regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does not arise. Accordingly, a Children's Rights Impact Assessment is not required under the Children (Convention Rights) (Jersey) Law 2022.