

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS
BY THE CONNÉTABLE OF ST. HELIER
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 6th JULY 2026
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 13th JULY 2026**

Question

“Will the Minister advise –

- (a) how many prisoners at H.M.P. La Moye are currently awaiting transfer to prisons in the United Kingdom;
- (b) the average length of time these prisoners have been waiting for transfer and the reason for each transfer;
- (c) the estimated annual cost of holding these prisoners in Jersey pending transfer;
- (d) the cost of transferring and accommodating Jersey prisoners in United Kingdom prisons;
- (e) whether such costs are met by the Government of Jersey, the United Kingdom Government or shared between them; and
- (f) whether any delays in arranging transfers have affected prison capacity, prisoner welfare, rehabilitation opportunities or family contact?”

Answer

- (a) 12 prisoners have applied for transfers and are on the transfer list awaiting approval. 10 prisoners applied to transfer to prisons in England and Wales, 2 prisoners have applied to transfer to prisons in Scotland.
- (b) The average time these prisoners have been on the waiting list is approximately 10.3 months. All prisoners on the current list requested transfers for rehabilitation reasons to be closer to home to maintain family contact, and to access support networks.
- (c) The estimated annual cost of accommodating Jersey prisoners according to the latest Government of Jersey figures is £84,000.
- (d) Based on six transfers undertaken in 2026 the estimated average transfer cost is £1,603 per transfer. Actual costs will vary according to staffing, operational requirements and cost of travel.
- (e) Under the Memorandum of Understanding currently in place with His Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), when an unrestricted prisoner is transferred the UK takes responsibility for administering and enforcing the remainder of the sentence. Jersey is not billed for the cost of imprisonment. Travel costs for prisoners and escorting staff are met by the Government of Jersey.
- (f) The current position is not attributable to delays in arranging transfers but to the limited capacity within the England and Wales prison estate to accept transferred prisoners, resulting in a waiting list for approved transfers. La Moye prison is required to seek and obtain approval from HMPPS before transferring a prisoner, and must also accommodate essential movements of prisoners (such as for medical treatment or court appearances) in addition to the voluntary transfers requested by prisoners.

While waiting periods may have implications for prisoner welfare, rehabilitation opportunities and family contact, the extent of any impact cannot be reliably measured. Further, due to population pressures, transfer to England and Wales does not guarantee placement in a prison close to a

prisoner's family or support network. In addition, while family ties are commonly cited in transfer applications, other factors may also influence requests for transfer, including the sentencing and release arrangements that apply in England and Wales.

No evidence is held to demonstrate a measurable impact on prison capacity, prisoner welfare, rehabilitation outcomes or family contact arising from current waiting times for transfer. Prisoners held at La Moye still have access to letters, telephone calls and visits options to keep in touch with their family and friends. The main impact cited by prisoners or their families is the costs of travel and accommodation costs in Jersey. Extra back-to-back visits is offered for visitors from the UK and beyond.