

Chief Minister



Deputy Inna Gardiner
President
Scrutiny Liaison Committee
By email

26th August 2025

Dear Deputy Gardiner,

Timeline for major debates in 2025

I am writing to seek your views on the scheduling of two significant items of business for the States Assembly: the 2026 Government Budget and the draft Assisted Dying Law. Both are due to be considered before the end of 2025, and careful planning will be essential to ensure each receives the attention it merits.

The draft Assisted Dying Law remains on track to be lodged on 2nd September 2025 by the Council of Ministers. As previously agreed, the intention was for the Assembly to debate the draft law on 9th December 2025, following an extended 14-week lodging period.

Similarly, it was originally intended that the 2026 Budget would also be lodged by 2nd September, with debate scheduled for 25th November 2025, in line with the statutory 12-week lodging requirement. However, it has now become clear that the Budget will not be lodged by that earlier date and, as in previous years, will need to be debated at the end of the autumn session, namely on 9th December.

Given the significance and complexity of both items, it would be challenging for the Assembly to consider them during the same sitting. To avoid this, I propose bringing forward the debate on the draft Assisted Dying Law to 25th November 2025. This adjustment would reduce the lodging period from 14 weeks to 12 weeks - still double the standard six-week period for a Government proposition, though not fully aligned with previous discussions.

For your additional information, the Scrutiny Panel received an advanced draft of the law on 6th June in order to enable early examination of its key provisions.

I trust dates suggested above strike the right balance between allowing sufficient time for robust scrutiny and fulfilling our commitments to the public. I would, of course, be happy to discuss further if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyndon Farnham".

Deputy Lyndon Farnham
Chief Minister

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