

Government of Jersey
Union Street | St Helier | Jersey | JE2 3DN

Catherine Curtis
Chair of the CEHA Panel

By email only

6 November 2025

Dear Deputy Curtis,

Follow-up matter from the Public Hearing on 28th October 2025

Thank you for your letter dated 29 October 2025. I have answered your additional questions below.

You have noted that we agreed to provide some additional information in respect of one of your question areas. I include that information below.

Numbers of Police Officers and Police support staff for 2026 and anticipated numbers for 2027.

The States of Jersey Police (SoJP) will operate with approximately 192 FTE officers in 2026 (subject to resignations), plus 10 new recruits (£0.6M). On average SoJP lose one officer per month, so will need to run a recruitment campaign in 2026 for a 2027 intake. SoJP are reliant upon a vacancy factor and officers leaving to afford the new recruits. Treasury are supporting the SoJP to ensure the force can proceed with the 10 new recruits.

Officer numbers for 2027 will be subject to funding considerations arising from the introduction of legislation for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), for which there is an intention to set out clearly the additional staffing and funding requirements across the criminal justice system, including for the police.

Police staff FTE is forecasted as 131.5 in 2026 and 2027 (21.5 FTE within Victims Services, operating independently from SoJP). As in previous years vacancies will be held to ensure we can deliver against budget.

Further information on the £600,000 cost for boilers at the prison.

The current boilers were installed in August 2009 (serving 118 cells), the boilers have reached the end of life. The budget of £600,000 is the money available from the underspend on the Phase 6 of the development plan (previously listed as outworkers' unit). £560,000 will be used for the replacement of boilers and £40,000 was used for security fence repairs. The remaining £60,000 will be contingency for the boiler project.

Revenue expenditure growth: Emergency Services Control Centre (Ambulance and Fire and Rescue) (ESCC)

1. Can you clarify if this additional revenue expenditure is connected to the funding for the Information Technology 'Combined Control Room' project, which has £200,000 of funding proposed for 2026 [page 62 of Budget]?

This is ongoing funding for information technology improvements related to the ESCC. In 2026, this will be committed to the provision of contractual payments to the supplier of the Fire and Rescue Service Mobile Data Terminals platform. There will also be other project costs, including integration and network connectivity (JT and SURE). Additionally, with the ESCC Integrated Command and Control System (ICCS) moving to live implementation in January 2026, some of this budget will be used for training, room booking, and other peripherals (headsets, desks, monitor arms) for the ICCS system.

2. Now that the States of Jersey Ambulance Service is under the Health and Social Services Directorate rather than Justice and Home Affairs, what are the challenges for running the hybrid control room model?

The ESCC continues to operate as it did before the transfer of the Ambulance Service to Health and Care Jersey on 1 July 2025. Governance arrangements have been strengthened so that there is now a monthly Strategic Board for the ESCC, which includes both the Chief Ambulance Officer and the Chief Fire Officer. There is a Service Level Agreement in place between the Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs, and each of the Heads of Service, setting out the service which will be provided by the ESCC for each of the Emergency Services. These arrangements will remain in place, and continue to be strengthened, until any further strategic decisions on the future operation of the control functions for the Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Services are taken and we are confident that they remain appropriate at the current time.

Revenue expenditure growth: Vaping tax

3. Please can you confirm the proportion of revenue expenditure growth funding under the title 'vaping tax' is to upgrade the CAESAR duty system across 2026 – 2029?

£40,000 estimated in 2026 for CAESAR development to collect tax on vapes.

Scoping work for the system changes is underway.

a. How expensive / difficult is it to upgrade that system and are costs for its upgrade included in business-as-usual budgets? [Can you explain why this required extra resource?]

The annual maintenance and support budget for CAESAR addresses issues that arise on a day-to-day basis and ensures the system continues to operate effectively. Minor upgrades can be accommodated within this budget, but additional functionality or more significant upgrades require additional funding. Planning for upgrades/changes can be lengthy and complex requiring months

of work with developers. Any changes are subject to GoJ Change Authorisation Board approval and are robustly tested before deployment on the Caesar Live site.

Forecast costs for CAESAR development for the vaping tax have been split into both one off and recurring costs to reflect the initial budget requirement for the design, implementation and testing of the new excise codes with a third-party developer. In addition, there is a small additional budget forecasted for 2027 for minor updates and necessary ongoing development associated with excise collection.

4. Can you tell us about the specialist staff recruitment required for the introduction of this tax? [referenced on page 42 of the Annex]

a. Can you confirm if this specialist staff recruitment is a new role in the JCIS service?

i. If so, how have other roles changed? [We noted that the overall staff FTE in customs will reduce by 1 role, i.e. what other roles have reduced?]

The business case made for introduction of the vaping tax foresees a new dedicated, specialist resource (1 FTE) for the development of operational policy, trader engagement and onboarding, education and compliance on an ongoing basis.

JCIS reduced its headcount by 1 FTE in early 2025 through rationalisation of its senior management team.

5. Please can you confirm the proportion of this funding that will be used for educating or communicating details about the new vape tax?

£20,000 estimated for published / printed material to publicise and educate the public about the new tax.

Work will not commence until decision on the introduction of vaping tax and funding has been agreed by the States Assembly in December.

6. How do these set up costs compare to the introduction of other taxes / duties that the Jersey Customs and Immigration Service is responsible for collecting?

These costs align with previous changes in the tax/duties area. No new taxes/duties have been introduced for a number of years, however, JCIS has seen a number of changes more generally which have impacted the Service. A good example of this are the reductions in the GST de minimis, which most latterly occurred in 2023 when the de minimis dropped from £135 to £60. A business case compiled prior to the implementation indicated a potential requirement for 7 new staff across both JCIS and CLS (now ESSH) and an upgrade to Caesar costing £200,000. Costs (both staff and non-staff) associated with the introduction of the new vaping tax are necessary and cannot be met within existing budgets or resources. It has been estimated that one additional member of staff will be required to administer the tax on an ongoing basis.

Information Technology Funding and other projects

7. We note that £850,000 is allocated to the Next Passport project for 2026 and 2027, and this is a significant increase from last year's budgeted figures of £425,000 per annum. Please could you outline the reasons for the increased costs?

a. Will the updated funding be adequate and do you believe the work will be complete by the end of 2027?

The total project funding remains unchanged at £850,000. The profile of spend has been adjusted across 2025 and 2026 (£425,000 per annum) to better reflect payment milestones now the project has started.

The Future Passport System project is being run jointly with His Majesty's Passport Office, the Crown Dependencies and Gibraltar. The project will give the Crown Dependencies and Gibraltar access to modified versions of HMPO's online passport application and application processing solutions which will enable the continuation of the Jersey variant British passport.

A fully online application process will ensure a better customer experience by delivering a streamlined application process with quicker processing times. A slower paper application process will be retained.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2026 and the new system will be available to Islanders from early 2027. The changes will be widely communicated in the run up to that date.

8. The funding for 'rolling votes', i.e. replacement assets and minor capital for both Justice and Home Affairs [£380,000] and States of Jersey Police [£350,000] have not been increased between 2025 and 2026. Please can you give some examples of what this is used for and, also, confirm if the 2025 funding for both departments was sufficient? [Note: see page 66 of Budget]

Justice and Home Affairs: £380,000 per year is allocated in a rolling vote for JHA minor capital. This was an increase in 2025 from previous years and is sufficient for the annual needs of the Department.

Recent examples include road traffic rescue equipment, replacement prison fencing, boilers, back-up generators, defibrillators, electric vehicle firefighting blankets, commercial dishwashers, X-ray machines.

The minor capital criteria consist of any piece of equipment or infrastructure under £100,000 that is agreed at JHA Chief Officer level before procurement can proceed year on year.

States of Jersey Police: £350,000 per year is allocated in a rolling vote for SoJP minor capital. This was an increase in 2025 from previous years and is sufficient for the annual needs of the Service.

The States of Jersey Police operate within a challenging financial environment, where global increases in equipment and freight costs have significantly impacted procurement. Since 2023, some essential items have seen price rises of up to 40%, accelerating the depletion of allocated budgets and placing additional strain on operational planning. This trend mirrors pressures across the wider public sector, requiring careful financial stewardship to maintain service delivery.

To address these challenges, a rigorous RAG-rating is applied process to all purchases. This ensures that critical items, those essential for public safety and operational effectiveness, are prioritised for replacement or acquisition. Less urgent requirements are deferred to future years, enabling us to maximise the impact of available funds while maintaining core policing capabilities. This structured approach provides transparency and accountability in decision-making.

Through disciplined prioritisation and efficient budget management, SOJP ensures that essential equipment, such as firearms training infrastructure; digital forensic virtualisation hardware; custody cell pads; covert vehicle replacement; monitored alarm systems for the tactical training centre; non-negotiable/discretionary computer applications; and classroom setups for new recruits is procured to maintain operational readiness and resilience.

9. We note that there is £667,000 of funding included for 'Electronic patient records' under the Justice and Home Affairs Department, however, had understood that this project related to the Ambulance Service, which has transferred to Health. Please could you confirm why this budget is still with JHA?

This is an Ambulance project, the substantive part of which is complete (£573,000 of prior year expenditure). The remaining amount (£94,000) is intended to be used for mobile data solutions for the Ambulance Service.

This is a paused project that was and remains on JHA Digital Services prioritisation list, however due to higher priorities not yet completed, the likelihood remains that it will not be resumed until 2026.

The rationale for remaining within JHA is around knowledge and awareness of the requirements and its potential fit into a project currently in progress for the States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service for Mobile Data Terminals to be provisioned within SJFRS vehicles. Upon a successful proof of concept there lies a potential opportunity to onboard the solution into Ambulances dependent on configuration changes and contract schedule amendments, thereby negating a need for full procurement process being undertaken.

Yours sincerely



Deputy Mary Le Hegarat
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs