

States Greffe

Deputy Lyndon Farnham
Chief Minister

Deputy Kirsten Morel
Minister for Sustainable Economic Development

BY EMAIL

11 August 2025

Dear Ministers,

Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Battle of Flowers Events Limited

The Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel (the Panel) would like to request details about the following areas regarding Government Financial Support to Battle of Flowers Events Limited which is as follows:

1. Given the transfer of up to £121,000 from the Chief Minister's Pilot Fund to Battle of Flowers Events Limited.
 - a. Can you provide detail as to how the process of being awarded funding from the Chief Minister's Pilot Fund works?
 - b. Can you outline why the decision was made to seek funding from the Chief Minister's Pilot Fund rather than departmental funds?
 - c. Could you advise the Panel on what measures are being taken to secure the long-term sustainability of the event out with of ongoing financial support from the Government?
2. It is understood that this funding will be deducted from future grants. Does this presume that future grant applications will be successful?
3. Will this not leave a shortfall for future grants, potentially leading to further deficits?

Could you clarify the amount to be offset and explain how this arrangement will be managed to avoid placing undue financial strain on Battle of Flowers Events Limited?

4. The [letter](#) dated 4 August 2025 states that the Department for the Economy's £90,000 top-up grant provided in 2024 will not be recouped.
 - a. Can you provide us with the conditions that were attached to this £90,000 top-up grant at the time it was issued?
 - b. Can you clarify the reasoning behind providing this top-up grant that will not be recouped?

- c. In the recent press release you stated that 'we would ask that any future grants to any organiser of the Battle of Flowers event are made with this funding in mind, accounted for accordingly and deducted from future grants to the event.' Can you clarify what is meant by this, and whether this is a binding instruction?
 - d. Can you advise the Panel does this instruction relate to the £121,000 2025 grant to clear debts, or to the £90,000 top up grant from 2024 or both? If so, over how many years would these grants for future funding for the Battle of Flowers be recouped? Would the amount deducted include interest, and if not, why not?
 - e. Have you received accounts from the previous Battle of Flowers organisation?
 - f. Can you advise the Panel if this this been done before and will this happen again?
 - g. Can you confirm whether this decision represents a permanent write-off, or if the Government intends to revisit the matter should Battle of Flowers Events Limited achieve greater financial stability in the future?
5. Can you advise the Panel where does the jeopardy sit in practice for organisations that may reasonably expect Government intervention?
6. Also, in the letter of 4 August 2025, it was noted that the Public Finances Manual (PFM) requires officials to demonstrate that any proposed action is economic, efficient, and effective. It was further stated that the provision of this grant funding may not align with your obligations under the PFM as Accountable Officer. Given the formal instruction to proceed with the grant, can you confirm whether this funding complies with the PFM? If not, please can you explain this to the Panel?

We would be grateful if you could respond to this no later than 18 August 2025 in line with the 5 working days approved for responses between Scrutiny Panels and Ministers.

We look forward to working with you and thank you in anticipation of your assistance on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Montfort Tadier
Chair
Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel