| States Assembly

States Greffe

Deputy Ian Gorst
Minister for External Relations

BY EMAIL

17th October 2025

Dear Minister,

Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Proposed Budget 2026-2029 Review

I write to inform you that the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel has agreed to undertake a Scrutiny Review into the Proposed Budget 2026-2029 (P.70/2025). Attached to this letter are the Terms of Reference for the Panel's review.

We intend to begin our work immediately and have scheduled a Public Hearing with you which is due to held on 3th November. To inform our review, we will also be seeking the views of industry professionals and the general public.

We note that the published Departmental Business Plans for 2025 have been drafted to cover the remainder of this Government term. Specifically the Panel requests the following information in respect of your ministerial portfolio:

- Progress reporting on the projects and/or workstreams agreed by the States Assembly as part of the Government Plan 2025-28 including:
  - Where these are continuing in 2026
  - Where these have been delayed and the rationale for this
  - Where these have been cancelled and the rationale for this

- An outline of any changes in policy direction or delivery for 2026 and the impact thereof

- An outline of any changes to staff posts and restructuring within your department and the anticipated resultant savings and impact on service delivery

- Details about the efficiencies and other savings made in 2025 and how these were achieved.

We would also like to receive responses to the following questions:

Income and Expenditure

1. External Relations is projected to have approximately £340k of income earned through operations in 2026. Please could you provide detail about the source of this income?

2. Please could you provide a more detailed breakdown of the following expenditure, as detailed in the statement of comprehensive net expenditure for External Relations:

    a. Staff Costs

    b. Other Operating Expenses

    c. Grants and subsidies payments

3. Please could you provide a more detailed breakdown of the following expenditure, as detailed in the Service Level Analysis for External Relations and Financial Services:

    a. External Relations

    b. Financial Services

    c. Financial Intelligence Unit

Savings Proposals

2. The previous Government Plan 2025-28 identified £79k of value for money savings for External Relations and £783,000 for Financial Services in 2025. Are you able to confirm if those savings have been or are on track to be achieved, where savings were identified and how this will impact the approximately £79k and £101,000 of savings proposed in 2026?

3. External Relations has targeted approximately £79k of savings in 2026 and Financial Services has targeted approximately £101,000. Please could you provide a breakdown of where the savings will be achieved?

4. The Savings Proposals in the Proposed Budget 2026-2029 detail £79k under 'Roles' in 2026. However, the Service Level Analysis with the Annex to the Proposed Budget 2026-2029 states 'nil' in relation to 'FTE Role Reduction' in 2026. Please can you clarify the £79k under 'Roles' as detailed within the Savings Proposals of the Proposed Budget 2026-2029?

    a. Please can you provide a breakdown of the total planned 'Role Reductions' within External Relations in 2026?

    b. Please can you detail the nature of the roles affected by the 'Role Reductions' within the Savings Proposals in 2026?

Other Special Funds

5. Please can you confirm the balance of the 'Dormant Bank Accounts Fund' as set out within the 'Other Special Funds' section of the Proposed Budget 2026-2029.

We would be grateful to receive this information by a formal response no later than 30th October 2025**.** Please be advised that it is the Panel's intention to publish the response it receives on the States Assembly website.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Montfort Tadier
Chair
Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Proposed Budget 2026 – 2029 Review
Terms of Reference

Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel

1. To review components of the Proposed Budget 2026-2029 Proposition [P.70/2025] which are relevant to the Economics and International Affairs Panel to determine the following:

    a) The impact of the Budget proposals on departmental budgets, savings and staffing levels.
    b) Whether the revenue expenditure growth, capital and other projects are appropriate and likely to have a positive impact on Islanders and Island life.
    c) How the proposed revenue expenditure growth, capital and other projects align with the Common Strategic Policy to deliver on the priorities, and in line with the Departments' Business Plans.
    d) Whether the resources allocated to revenue expenditure growth and capital and other projects are sufficient, ensure value for money and demonstrate the best use of public funds.

2. To assess the impact of the Budget proposals on the States Fund relevant to the Economic and International Affairs Panel including technology Accelerator Fund, Agricultural Loans Fund, Dormant Bank Accounts Fund, Tourism Development Fund, CI Lottery (Jersey) Fund and the Jersey Innovation Fund.