

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

Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel

BY EMAIL

22nd October 2025

Dear Chair,

RE: Budget Review 2026-2029

Thank you for your letter dated 10th October 2025 regarding the Panel's intention to review the proposed budget 2026-2029. Please find further details as requested.

Details of departmental expenditure to date from the approved 2025 allocation, including spend by individual projects where possible.

Environment Revenue Position as at September 2025

The table below shows the Department's position by type of income and expenditure:

ENV SoCNE	Year to Date			Full Year		
	Budget £'000	Actuals £'000	Variance £'000	Budget £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000
INCOME	(4,681)	(3,654)	(1,027)	(6,514)	(5,462)	(1,052)
EARNED THROUGH OPERATIONS	(4,681)	(3,654)	(1,027)	(6,514)	(5,462)	(1,052)
EXPENDITURE	13,648	13,257	391	18,335	18,118	217
FINANCE COSTS	2	0	1	2	2	0
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES PAYMENTS	24	42	(18)	40	52	(12)
IMPAIRMENTS	0	15	(15)	0	0	0
NET FOREIGN-EXCHANGE LOSSES	0	1	(1)	0	0	0
OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE	1,943	2,005	(62)	2,633	3,055	(422)
SOCIAL BENEFIT PAYMENTS	0	4	(4)	0	0	0
STAFF COSTS	11,679	11,189	490	15,659	15,008	651
TOTAL	8,968	9,603	(636)	11,821	12,656	(835)
PFAS LoC Budget transfer pending	0	0	0	300	0	300
TOTAL (after budget tsf)	8,968	9,603	(636)	12,121	12,656	(535)

Headlines: YTD VAR: (636k) | FYF VAR: (535k)

The forecast net overspend of £0.5 million is reflects a prudent position on the planning and building income forecast. A review is underway to ensure all income due is recognised, and this position will be adjusted accordingly.

Presently, the key drivers of the net overall position are:

- **£1.1m shortfall in income** – The risk on planning and building income achieving budget is on the downside. Although the volume of applications is similar to previous years, yield has fallen due to the downturn in the construction industry and large projects. The position is currently being investigated to ensure all income due is recognized accordingly.
- **£0.4m Other Operating Expenditure** – mainly consultancy services in relation to work on PFAS review. Up to £0.3 million of spend on PFAS review will be covered by a transfer in from Reserve at the end of the year as confirmed by the letter of comfort issued by the Minister for Treasury and Resources.
- **£0.7m underspend on staff costs** – Planned vacancy management and recruitment freeze to offset reduced income.

Project Detail

Project RIDA's final phase went live in September 2025. The project will move to closure in quarter 4 of 2025. The forecast spend from the 2025 allocation is £580,000.

Water Quality & Safety Programme is forecast to spend £300,000 in 2025. This programme was unfunded and was not able to be funded from the approved budget allocated in 2025. Access to up to £300,000 has been set aside in the General Reserve in 2025. This spend is principally to fund the consultancy costs of the work of the PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel, additional groundwater surveys and testing programme, and to support the public communications efforts.

The Offshore Wind project was allocated an additional £500k in 2025 from the Climate Emergency Fund as part of the 2025 budgetary process. Expenditure in 2025 (as of 22 September 2025) is £375,581. Budget will be allocated as necessary to bring the current phase of the project to completion by the end of 2025 with the intention of returning to the Assembly with conclusions by the last States sitting of 2025.

In July the [Carbon Neutral Roadmap progress report 2025](#), was published, providing details of delivery against the agreed phase 1 Carbon Neutral Roadmap policies. This includes an update on the Water Strategy workstream.

Building Resilience into Jersey Meteorological Team to improve services to Islanders.

In 2024 it was established that Jersey Met was at risk of not being able to continue the excellent 24/7 meteorological and climatological services the Channel Islands rely upon without putting additional strain on the already under-resourced, small team. Along with recruitment into a longstanding vacant position we continue to rebuild resilience into the team.

Over the last two years members of the team have left us, we have therefore, through recruitment along with progression of careers and skills from within the team responded to ensure we are able to provide the essential services we are responsible for. We have had to recruit from outside of the Island where required. Worldwide there is a shortage of qualified weather forecasters and other, larger national meteorological services are finding the same challenges when recruiting and in the resourcing challenge.

During 2025 Jersey Met have recruited an additional Trainee Weather Forecaster, from within the Government of Jersey workforce, to ensure that the team remains resilient and able to provide excellent weather forecasting and warning services. When a trainee joins the team, it is many months before they become operational and therefore careful planning takes place to ensure we are able to continue to deliver services and recruit appropriately ahead of the need.

We have also recruited a new Compliance and Facilities Manager, once again through the Government of Jersey workforce, into a vacant position within the team to ensure we continue to manage regulated services, particularly with respect to Aviation services, an increasing challenge for the small team. This role also covers facilities management with regard to various sites including the Maison St. Louis Observatory and Channel Island Weather Radar, both significant assets in climatological recording and weather forecasting, along with the more operationally significant functions these sites provide, as 24/7 contingency for our operational forecasting service.

While staff resources remains the largest and ongoing challenge for the small team we are also building resilience into data management and systems to support the work of the section and looking at efficiency and effectiveness of our services, including data management of the complex and large datasets we use within weather forecasting and the review of the Channel Islands weather warnings.

The small Jersey Met team work 24/7 to provide meteorological services across the Channel Islands, into aviation, marine, public and media, including the essential CI weather warnings that support our communities to make good decisions during periods of more extreme weather to ensure safety of life and resilience in the Islands.

Deliver the Marine Spatial Plan Priorities to comply with political obligations and benefit all users and inhabitants of our territorial waters

The Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) implementation phase started in November 2024. At this point there was circa £30,000 remaining in the initial budget of £150,000 allocated to the project. This was used in three roughly equal parts to deliver the three critical next phases:

- Work by Fiona Fyfe & Associates to finalise the MSP Actions and Priorities report and Marine Protected Area (MPA) Maps following the states debate.
- Commission an Economic Impact Assessment with the Economy Department including Peer review by Scottish Government.
- Deliver the field work program in the potential MPA areas identified for further research, specifically the purchase of underwater camera and video equipment to facilitate this study.

In addition to this the Marine Resources team have expended circa £10,000 in terms of vessel time using both FPV Norman Le Brocq and FPV Ecrehouse across the year.

In terms of staff time the MPA element of the MSP has taken up circa 30% of the Marine Scientist's role in research and reporting and 50% of the Data Officer's time in supporting delivery of the economic assessment in terms of data provision.

Both reports are due to be delivered over the winter of 25/26 following which the fine-tuning work and socialisation will take place ahead of MPA implementation in September 2026.

Other elements of the MSP not relating to the MPA network are on track with 21 different organisations 'owning' the 91 priorities. A progress report will be produced at the end of Q1 2026.

The Marine Resources team have also taken on co-supervision of a PhD candidate with Plymouth university who will spend the next 3 years looking at the island's MPA network and determining the impact on the marine environment. Funding for this PhD has been found externally.

Develop targeted baseline datasets on biodiversity, habitats, water and air, to provide the best available evidence to inform government policy and the next island plan.

Statutory Plant Health Surveys – Biosecurity Team

Over the past five years, the scale and complexity of Jersey's statutory plant health survey programme have increased significantly. This is largely due to evolving EU legislative requirements and the growing threat posed by invasive pests and pathogens. In line with obligations under *EU Plant Health Regime* and international standards, the Biosecurity Team now conducts surveillance for nearly 300 regulated organisms—including insects, pathogens, viruses, and other harmful agents, compared to less than 70 previously.

These surveys are scheduled and reported to APHA, which in turn communicates findings to the European Commission. To meet these demands, the Biosecurity Team has reallocated most of its resources to this workstream and adopted digital tools to enhance efficiency. Full integration of Microsoft 365 has enabled structured planning, timetabling, and effort recording. Additionally, the use of GIS platforms alongside Alteryx for data analysis is beginning to show promise in delivering outputs that meet international standards.

However, the analytical component of this work is highly specialised and currently falls outside the existing skill set of both the Biosecurity Team and the wider Natural Environment Directorate. To bridge this gap, the Head of Service secured short-term funding to contract external expertise and develop a bespoke geospatial data system, which remains under active development.

While this modern approach is clearly the way forward for managing biological data, it is not sustainable under current budget constraints. Notably, data analysis functions are embedded in most departments, but not within Natural Environment. Therefore, the Head of Service intends to advocate for the recruitment of a dedicated data analyst in 2025 to embed these capabilities within the team and Directorate more broadly, improve operational efficiency, and ensure Jersey's statutory plant survey data provision meets statutory and strategic expectations.

Summary of 2025 environmental monitoring and activity - Land Resource Management team

Biodiversity monitoring and volunteer support

The team coordinates a wide network of volunteer recorders and provided training and support for reptile watch, amphibian watch, and butterfly monitoring. A key priority in 2025 was collating and conducting an initial analysis of biodiversity records from local and external contributors, expanding the dataset held by the Island's Biodiversity Records Centre. These data inform decision-making and reporting for organisations including the Société Jersiaise, the Ramsar group, the National Park, and resident associations at offshore reefs.

Water quality monitoring

Collection and analysis of water quality data from streams, groundwater, and inshore sites (including St Aubin's Bay and designated bathing waters) continued throughout 2025. Results are shared with the Action for Cleaner Water Group to support evidence-based improvement measures.

The continuing lowering of nitrates in streams is an example of the good work of the Action for Cleaner Water Group. Both surface water (streams) and groundwater average annual levels remain below the EU and local drinking water limit of 50mg/l.

Air quality monitoring

An established network of air quality sensors supplied results used by a cross-Government Air Quality Working Group that includes public health and sustainable transport representatives. An air quality station will shortly be installed in town for more accurate measurements of Nitrogen Dioxide NO₂ and Particulate Matter PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5} and calibration of sensors to ensure they remain as accurate as possible.

Results show that air quality is worst in the winter months and during school and commuter traffic. The data will be shared on a public platform once a solid base line of data has been established.

PFAS investigation

A major output in 2025 was the Arcadis report on PFAS. The Land Resource Management team conducted all sampling and collaborated with Arcadis to produce a comprehensive assessment of PFAS plumes, associated risks, and remediation options. The report incorporated evolving science in this fast-moving field.

Coordination, tools and governance

Monitoring activities across Natural Environment are now coordinated by a newly formed officer monitoring group. Increased use of MS Teams for training and data sharing is improving the efficiency of data coordination and reporting.

As well as informing Natural Environment and wider Government policy, the data collected is central in ensuring the Island's reporting commitments for MEA's and International Conventions.

Throughout the year, two key officers have retired, and more are planned for 2026. The current inability to recruit to these posts will impact delivery. For example, the biodiversity team will

effectively be halved, leaving just two part time officers to undertake this work. Equally the departure of a senior officer responsible implementing the new Wildlife Law and international reporting will have a large impact. One impact will be the delay in the publication of a State of Nature Report.

Successfully survey and protect the economy and environment from notifiable and statutory diseases

It is the role of both our States Vet / Animal welfare and our Biosecurity teams to horizon scan for potential threats from pests and disease which might affect the island, its crops, flora and fauna, and by extension it's human population. This is an ongoing and budgeted workstream which has been tested significantly throughout 2025.

Plant Health

From a plant health perspective, our Biosecurity team works in close coordination with the Regulatory Food and Plant Security team to ensure that all imported plant material is accompanied by the appropriate certification and is subject to physical inspection for a range of harmful organisms. In certain cases, follow-up inspections are conducted at final destination of the consignment to verify compliance and assess any emerging risks.

In 2025, this system operated effectively and notably identified an incursion of *Phytophthora ramorum* in the west of the Island, associated with Rhododendron plants—likely linked to imported stock. While Rhododendron holds limited biodiversity value, it is a known host for *P. ramorum*, which poses a serious threat to other species, including Oak.

Once it infects Oak, the disease is referred to as 'Sudden Oak Death', with potentially severe ecological consequences.

In response to such detections, existing contingency plans and standard operating procedures are activated in accordance with international standards and guidelines. This includes conducting perimeter surveys of the surrounding environment to determine the extent of the outbreak.

Where infection is confirmed, statutory notices are issued, and the outbreak is managed through the destruction of infected plant material. Given the statutory nature of this work, it is carried out in consultation with the UK Plant Health Risk Group, which reports both the detection and the outcome to the EU. This case remains under active management/eradication.

Although imported plant materials can be monitored and intercepted at points of entry, Jersey remains vulnerable to wind-borne infections originating from the Cotentin Peninsula. This has been evident over the past five years with the arrival and establishment of Ash dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) and Sweet Chestnut blight. Both diseases, now widespread across the EU and France, have reached Jersey and are likely to have a significant impact on the health and longevity of these tree species.

Our Biosecurity team are working with Forest Research/ UK Commission in the deployment of a 'hypovirus' biological control, which may have potential to 'slow the spread' of Sweet Chestnut Blight, allowing trees to develop resistance. This work is still underway.

The increasing prevalence of such pathogens, combined with more frequent and severe storm events linked to climate change, means Jersey is facing a growing risk of large-scale tree loss.

This will inevitably lead to more frequent and resource-intensive clean-up operations, as weakened trees succumb to disease and storm damage.

Animal Health

Our Veterinary team this year established an innovative and highly successful vaccination programme for cows, sheep and goats against the increasing threat of the Bluetongue virus, a midge borne disease which has a serious effect on productivity and life chances of the host thereby being an animal welfare concern as well as a potentially very serious blow to the economy of the agricultural sector. The increased threat was identified and discussed with industry late in 2024 and plans put in place with colleagues from Economic Development who sponsored an island wide vaccination programme throughout spring and summer this year. This was a resource heavy (in the context of our local budgets) but highly effective campaign reaching a vaccination coverage rate of 92% (target was 80%) and resulting, so far, in no reported cases of bluetongue on the island despite the abundance of circumstantial evidence showing it is a virtual certainty that infected midges were blown over from continental Europe to Jersey this Summer. The picture in France and the UK is very different as no such vaccination programme nor comparable vaccination coverage rates were established. It is also worth mentioning that the cost per animal of delivering this vaccination programme compares extremely well with other European jurisdictions where Bluetongue vaccination campaigns were successfully rolled out.

Educate Islanders and change their behaviour to meet Jersey's carbon reduction commitments

The Climate Change Engagement Team work generally with the public to educate Islanders with an aim to enabling behaviour to meet Jersey's carbon reduction commitments. This is done through our social media channels, campaigns, initiatives and support of other parts of Government. In 2025 we launched Plate to planet which looks at carbon labelling menus as a pilot in 2 businesses as well as across government catering. We have run a wide range of projects including CSP Carbon Neutral Roadmap month in May where we delivered a wide-range of public facing messages relating to behaviour change. This broader brush approach has not been our priority for 2025 and we are planning more of a sector specific focus for 2026.

Through 2025 the Climate Engagement Team have run a wide range of initiatives and campaigns to educate Islanders with an aim to enabling behaviour to meet Jersey's carbon reduction commitments. A large focus of activity has been on supporting the business network; this has primarily been through the eco active business network. This support has included monthly training sessions; Quarterly Carbon Literacy Training; Quarterly networking and knowledge sharing meetings; a monthly newsletter; regular emails; and the introduction of a portal to share knowledge, ideas or ask other businesses advice. The team are currently creating a number of blended and online courses for businesses to share as ongoing continual professional development (CPD), the first of which will be launched in 2025. We have focused more effort on sectors with higher emissions in 2025, continuing our work with the construction sector and that has included supporting the public engagement side of the building standards review. We are working with colleagues in Economy and Visit Jersey to develop support and strategies to reduce emissions from the Visitor Economy sector (including hospitality) as well as the retail sector.

The Climate Engagement Team made significant progress in supporting the delivery of 'high quality' climate education in schools through the COP26 education pledge. Climate Classrooms were launched at the start of 2025, these are a series of curriculum-based educational tools.

Additional resources are added to meet the requirements of educators. In November we will be holding the 2025 Youth Climate Summit, due to uptake from secondary schools this will be held on 4 separate days with over 300 secondary school young people receiving certified Carbon Literacy Training. We supported Highlands College with the development of their net zero roadmap and with their college wide student-led curriculum mapping project. We are currently working with 5 schools to pilot the development of Climate Action Plans. The schools include primary and a secondary school. Climate Action Plans exemplify good practice by embedding climate change education into national curricula, teacher training, and policy frameworks. These initiatives promote climate literacy, empowers learners to take informed action, and support systemic change aligned with global goals such as the Paris Agreement. Through delivery of inclusive, high-quality education, UNESCO framework for Climate Action plans helps build resilient school communities and young people who are equipped to address the climate crisis.

Transport accounts for 43% of Jersey's scope 1 emissions with cars being responsible for 25.5% of all scope 1 emissions (on-Island). Through the eco active business network we run the eco driver training, we currently have approximately 10 organisations scheduled to complete this training in 2025.

The [Sustainable Transport Next Steps](#) document set a target of 10% of commuter journeys being undertaken by cycling by 2030. The Climate Change Engagement team have a large focus on supporting active travel. This includes delivering initiatives such as Love to Ride (a cycling behaviour change programme). Since launch (Feb 2023) to end of September 2025, 2,690 Islanders have signed up (2.5% of population) to Love to Ride, and 2,008 islanders have engaged (logged a ride) on the platform. The platform is for Islanders aged 13+ To date 204 local workplaces have signed up to Love to Ride.

Supporting the modal shift, since Feb 2023, 263,586 trips were logged by riders, of which 143,943 were for transport (to/from work, from A to B, attending meetings). Over time the proportion of transport trips has risen. In 2023, transport trips made up 44% of rides logged and by end of September 2025 this was 67%.

The 2024 JOLS survey identified barriers to active travel. The focus of the Climate Change Engagement team is to address the behaviour change related barriers. Our service level agreement with Jersey Sport (since 2025) has allowed us to develop a comprehensive programme to address some of the barriers, for example 11% of respondents to the question 'What would prevent you from travelling to a destination using active modes of transport?' cited a lack of confidence or skills.

We have delivered a wide range of initiatives to support Islanders move to active travel from free cycle clinics through to trying e-bikes.

We have also worked to increase walking for transport. For children we have run the WOW living streets campaign. This project is now being linked to the schools participating in the Climate Action Plan pilot project where we will support active travel as part of this whole school approach. This is supporting our community focus work in St Clement where we are working through a multi-agency approach to see if combining efforts and messaging has a greater impact on modal shift.

This work is due to continue in 2026 and we will consider any relevant recommendations made by the independent Climate Council's following their review of the delivery of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap and Jersey's progress towards its emission reduction targets

The existing eco active BAU budget is c£18k per annum (excluding staff costs).

Funding for delivering work as part of policy delivery related to the Carbon Neutral Roadmap comes from the Climate Emergency Fund. Budget for this delivery including associated staffing costs is within the budget allocated through the policies in the Carbon Neutral Roadmap.

A full list of projects your Department intends to deliver in 2026.

The **Water Quality & Safety Programme** will require continued work into 2026, with a significant portion of the necessary activity currently remaining unfunded. The estimated cost for the technical scientific expertise and environmental and food safety surveys is approximately £200,000. This funding is essential to support the next phase of the programme, which builds on the findings of the Independent Scientific Advisory Panel.

Report 4, the final output from the Panel, will consolidate the work undertaken in both Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 focused on drinking water standards and treatment options, while Phase 2 expanded the scope to include environmental and food-related exposure pathways. The report will present the results and interpretation of the 2025 testing programme, which covered a wide range of matrices. These included food items such as milk, eggs, meat, fish and shellfish, and seasonal vegetables, as well as environmental samples from soils (including fields treated with biosolids and control sites), sewage and water-treatment sludges and effluents, groundwater and surface water, and coastal indicators such as seawater, seaweed, sea lettuce, and sea foam.

Drawing on these results, the Panel will set out its conclusions regarding non-drinking-water exposure pathways and their implications for future monitoring and management. This will be a critical component in shaping policy and operational responses to environmental contamination and public health risks.

In parallel, a Remediation Options Appraisal is being developed by the Steering Group. This will present a prioritised shortlist of feasible remediation strategies for key locations, including the Fire Training Ground and Pont Marquet. The appraisal will include indicative costs, sequencing, and dependencies, providing a clear framework to inform decision-making and the next steps in remediation planning.

To support the finalisation and public understanding of Report 4, a programme of public engagement is planned. This will include online meetings with subject-matter experts, offering opportunities for public input and clarification. Additionally, public meetings will be held in Jersey around the time of the report's launch, with Q&A sessions to ensure transparency and community involvement.

Changes could be made to the legal framework for planning in Jersey following review of the outcome from public consultation on **planning service reform** including permitted development rights and the need for planning permission for some forms of development; the planning appeals system and the ability to challenge planning decisions; and the way in which the island plan is prepared and reviewed. This will involve change to primary and secondary legislation. Clearly, changes to primary legislation remains at the discretion of the States Assembly.

Delivery of the **Carbon Neutral Roadmap** Phase 1 policies will proceed into the agreed continuation year of 2026, including the continuation of the Low Carbon Heating Incentive and policy development to support the phase out of petrol and diesel vehicles and fossil fuel heating systems. While the project to complete a high-level review of Jersey Water's Water Resource

Management Plan is due to be completed by the end of 2025, broader work on the Water Strategy will continue into 2026.

In the first half of 2026 we will receive the final report and recommendations made by the independent Climate Council's following their review of the delivery of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap and Jersey's progress towards its emission reduction targets.

The Climate Council's report will be lodged as a States Report and will inform the development of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap Phase 2 delivery plan 2027-2030 which will be taken to the incoming government in 2026 for approval. The Phase 2 delivery plan will be accompanied by funding proposals, forming the first phase of the Net Zero Financing Strategy, to address the projected expenditure profile for 2027-2030.

Work on developing an **Energy Policy** will continue in line with the timeframe and parameters set out in [P.11/2025](#). It is intended that a draft policy will be ready for the incoming minister to consider following the elections.

We will be reporting back to the Assembly on the **offshore wind project** by the end of 2025, including the next steps for 2026 and beyond. The Offshore Wind Review Panel will be briefed in advance. Drafting primary legislation for offshore renewable energy installations

has been re-scheduled to early 2026, due to other Assembly priorities taking precedence over this legislation. This is not believed to materially impact the progress of the project.

The Minister has previously provided the Panel with updates about the progress in **implementing proposals set out in the Bridging Island Plan**. As stated, work to commence the West of Island planning framework (Strategic proposal 4) is to be commenced during 2025. The review of some supplementary planning guidance, also identified in the BIP, will be delivered in 2026, including Percent for Art (Proposal 11). It is also proposed to deliver the designation of a conservation area in St Aubin (Proposal 15).

As part of the evidence base preparation for the next island plan, the Minister will continue to work to assess and appraise options for Jersey's supply of water.

Work continues to be undertaken to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the regime for the protection of trees and this will be progressed in to 2026.

The work of the **Natural Environment** directorate for 2026 is anticipated to continue in the delivery of the 2025 objectives given that they are long term and ongoing in nature. It is proposed to discuss workstreams with incoming or continuing political representation to establish their ongoing validity and prioritisation given potential differences in political viewpoints and the ongoing reductions in budget which in 2026 see the directorate budget reduced by just over £500,000.

Identification of any projects or workstreams previously scheduled for delivery in 2026, under earlier Government Plans, that have been deferred or withdrawn.

Work on the circular economy strategy, carbon offset purchasing strategy, climate finance strategy and Energy Performance Certificate legislation which fall under the wider Carbon Neutral Roadmap programme, will remain on pause in the first half of 2026.

Work on the St Brelades Bay Improvement Plan will remain paused pending the completion of the strategic west of island planning framework workstream (which will likely include St Brelade's

Bay), and considered relative to the prioritisation of the need for area-specific improvements that arise from it.

Exploration of the introduction of a development levy also remains paused. A viability and charging mechanism assessment would need to be commissioned to undertake all aspects of this work to ensure that any proposal is first of all viable and that it is soundly based to ensure that Jersey can learn from the experiences of other places in developing policy options that are appropriate for the island.

Work on updating various legislation remains paused such as Statutory Nuisance Law, Prevention of Pollution from Construction Sites, Waste Carriers certificate changes, Environmental Impact Assessments.

Impact of the Budget proposals on the States Funds relevant to the Environment, Housing & Infrastructure Panel including the Climate Emergency Fund

In respect of Environment, further budget savings can only be made to essential services and people. Our team has only recently been rebuilt to a functional level, and the proposed savings for 2026 will severely undermine service delivery across the board. The impact will extend beyond local implications, jeopardising Jersey's compliance with international legislation and obligations, as well as our reputation and standing in external trade relationships such as the ongoing negotiations in respect of the UK / EU reset, in which we are heavily involved.

The current inability to recruit into vacant posts due to retirements, which is part due to the proposed savings targets impacts the following;

1. Inability to fully administer the new Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021
2. Reduced protection to biodiversity/habits through less input during the planning process
3. Reduced required reporting on MEA's
4. The need to reduce biodiversity monitoring and reporting, being that the team will be reduced by half (to two part-time FTEs)
5. Regulatory services are significantly weakened by a reduction in qualified and experienced staff. This undermines Jersey's ability to enforce a portfolio of environmental laws, meet treaty obligations, and maintain confidence in its governance.

Climate Emergency Fund

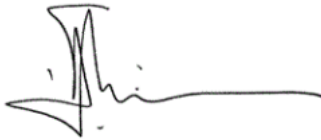
Under the Budget 2029-2029 proposals all fuel duty rates, other than HVO, will be increased by RPI. This increase will not benefit the Climate Emergency Fund, which will continue to receive nine pence per litre from fuel duty. This rate has been maintained since the last increase in 2022 and crucially represents the Fund's most important source of revenue. However, this is now noticeably declining; the recent fuel duty transfer for Q3 2025 was 7.2% lower than that for the equivalent period in 2024, in part due to the success of Carbon Neutral Roadmap and Sustainable Transport policies.

The Budget proposals also include above RPI increases to non-commercial Vehicle Emissions Duty bands ranging from 5% to 25%, in line with Carbon Neutral Roadmap policy TR4. These

increases are estimated to raise an additional £520k for the Climate Emergency Fund in 2026 and will offset the decline in fuel duty income in the short term.

There are no new sources of Climate Emergency Fund income identified in the Budget proposals. Development of a fuel duty replacement policy remains on hold. Annual Climate Emergency Fund income for the Budget period 2026-2029 is estimated to fall year-on-year. New and increased sources of funding will be needed to maintain delivery of the Roadmap and attainment of the Island's emissions reduction targets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Luce', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Deputy Steve Luce
Minister for the Environment