States Assembly

Deputy Lyndsay Feltham
Minister for Social Security

BY EMAIL
19th November 2025

Dear Minister,

Health and Social Security Panel
Proposed Budget 2026-29: Actuary Advice

The Panel has reviewed the recent correspondence from the Actuary regarding the assumptions underpinning investment return projections. While the letter provides useful insights, it does not address the most critical point on which we sought advice—namely, the reasonableness of assuming a 1% higher investment return.

Within your letter to us dated 7th November 2025, you have stated that *the actuaries are now specifically analysing the Budget proposal to temporarily reduce the States grant into the Social Security Fund until 2029. Building on their work so far, the actuaries will provide projections of the Social Security Fund's reserves for the same net migration scenarios, and for investment returns of Jersey earnings growth + 1%, + 2% and + 3%.*

The Actuary's letter explicitly states that it "does not consider what a current recommendation for a best estimate assumption for investment growth would be." This omission is concerning, as our request to you specifically included obtaining such advice and we had understood that you intended to act accordingly.

Having asked for this information specifically, could you please provide the results of this work from the Actuaries and if not undertaken, could you please provide an explanation as to why considering it was requested as part of our evidence gathering for our review of the Proposed Budget 2026 – 2029.

Given the importance of this assumption to policy and financial planning, we believe it is essential that the Actuary provide a clear recommendation on what would constitute a reasonable best estimate for investment growth under current conditions.

We would be grateful if you could provide your response in writing by 21st November 2025. Please note the Panel intends to publish the response on the States Assembly website.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Deputy Louise Doublet
Chair, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel

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