



Deputy Gardiner
Chair Public Accounts Committee
States Greffe
States of Jersey

16 December 2025

Dear Deputy Gardiner

Arm's Length Bodies, Grants and Subsidies Review

Thank you for your letter of 02 December 2025 regarding the Arms-Length Bodies, Grants and Subsidies Review. I have responded to each of the questions below, which I understand are in relation to any grants or subsidies made to States established delivery entities, States established independent bodies and office holders under my remit, or indeed any other grants or subsidies to third parties made under my responsibility. In answering the queries, my response below relates to services delivered on-island which are funded through a grant or subsidy, rather than services that are commissioned or individual packages of care.

As at December 2025, Health & Care Jersey have one Grant agreement - a one-off grant of £10,000 for Super Smiles, to operate its programme of Oral Health Education for children and carers in Jersey.

1. *Clarify if you have a set budget for grant or commission allocation each year, and if so, how is this set and altered?*

All budget lines, including those pertaining to grant related activity, are initially estimated for the following year during the preparation of the Budget Plan.

This is finalised after the government Budget is approved by the Assembly.

2. *Confirm what direction has been given by the Government of Jersey to those receiving grants, commissioning or subsidies within your remit to work collaboratively and deconflict actions with each other and the Government of Jersey?*

We are mindful of the benefits of working together and ensuring services that are delivered through Grant funding support and enhance those delivered by other partners and by the Government of Jersey. The programme of Oral Health Education provided by Super Smiles supports the development of good oral health habits. This contributes to oral health promotion, which can help reduce the demand for children's dentistry due to a reduction in oral health problems.

- a. *One specific area that the PAC has identified during the course of this review is that of the social responsibility actions of some commissions of nongovernmental organisations. Accordingly, can you please identify how much has been allocated in the last three years to health assessment, referral and any treatment costs relating to gambling addiction?*

There is no specific allocation of funding for the assessment and treatment of gambling addiction - most of this is delivered from our mainstream mental health services (particularly when this exists in parallel with other mental health concerns, such as depression / low mood or harm to

self) and is not separately coded. Since 2022, if an individual needs a specialist treatment programme for gambling addiction, we refer to one of the national NHS Gambling services in the UK. This is funded from the mental health off-island budget; the current cost is £4,980 for a treatment package. There are currently two people progressing through the referral process, and one Islander has successfully completed the programme in the last 3 years.

b. *Noting the social responsibility of the Gambling Commission in this regard, do you have any comment as to how the Government of Jersey utilises such bodies to fulfil public services?*

The Gambling Commission has previously commissioned treatment programmes for people with gambling addiction, separately from Government services. The Commission is now aware of the ability to refer people back to mental health services with a view to assessment for the NHS Gambling Service, as our preferred treatment provider. In recent years we have had a number of discussions with the Commission in relation to the potential to develop a local service offer jointly; this work has not yet reached a conclusion, but it is hoped this will do so within the coming months.

3. *Identify what direction has been given by the Government of Jersey to grant recipients within your remit to increase productivity and become more efficient?*

While the term 'direction' may perhaps convey a more prescriptive tone than intended, we prefer to frame this as being mindful of the public purse and the need to increase productivity and become more efficient in order to continue to deliver their services with increased costs and reducing budgets.

The £10,000 Grant for Super Smiles is one-off and supports their programme of Oral Health Education for children and carers in Jersey, along with purchasing equipment, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, which will be given to Jersey children, families and carers. There are no Grant-related productivity or efficiency opportunities as we move into 2026 as the Grant was a one-off. Public Health is considering how best to support dental public health moving forward.

4. *How does the department determine when to commission services and when to provide funding to organisations through grants?*

Commissioning is the process for deciding how to use the available resources (people, funds, estates etc) in order to deliver the outcomes required to meet identified health and care needs in the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way. Once needs have been established and plans made on how to meet the need, the procuring of services can follow a number of different routes, such as contracts for services or grants. Therefore, grants or commercial market procurement are only elements of the commissioning process: commissioning is not a way of funding services in itself.

Work across the Government of Jersey to embed a commissioning approach will lead to a methodical and consistent method to making decisions on procurement routes and funding arrangements, as recommended by the C&AG in last year's review of government commissioning. In addition, as part of the agreed activity in response to the 2025 C&AG report on Grants and Subsidies, we are currently developing more detailed decision support in respect of different funding arrangements. It is likely that this information will be included in the PFM to strengthen current guidance.

The decision to commission a service via a grant or a contract depends on the complexity and nature of the initiative:

- Grants are typically used for initiatives requiring proportionate funding at a smaller scale, often supporting charities or organisations that contribute to wider island outcomes. Monitoring focuses on the initiative itself and allows for a more flexible understanding of the organisation.
- Contracts provide a more comprehensive governance framework. They are generally longer-term, higher in value, and involve greater complexity and risk. For example, clinical services must meet defined quality standards and regulatory requirements. These services are subject to robust contract management, with providers required to report regularly on activity and outcomes.

I hope this additional information is of assistance to the Committee. I am content for this letter to be published on the States Assembly website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Walker'.

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Health and Care Jersey

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