



| States Assembly

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Justin Whitfield
Chief Information Officer
Government of Jersey
BY EMAIL

4th April 2025

Dear Justin,

Procurement Review

Thank you for attending the public hearing on Wednesday 26th March with the Public Accounts Committee as part of its review of procurement. As noted during the hearing, there were questions that the PAC was not able to ask, and it would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions in writing.

General Questions

1. Within the IT procurement process, how do you ensure that any systems purchased integrate with existing programmes (noting that Government uses over 1000 individual pieces of software).
2. What changes have been made to improve the IT procurement process over the last 12 months and what evidence do you have that this improvement is delivering benefits to government?
3. How will the IT strategy reduce the number of systems government is reliant upon and still deliver on the business needs of government?
4. How many IT programmes that were underway in 2023 were cancelled in 2024 and at what stage of procurement/delivery were they at?
5. What has been done to preserve investment in cancelled IT programmes?
6. What was the total value of the IT programmes that had gone into the procurement stage in 2023 that were cancelled in 2024?
7. What are the issues and risks integrating the many pieces of software and how will you take integration forward?
8. What is your approach to managing the demands and business needs of each department within government and how does this align with your plans for optimisation?
9. Will the Transform programme be able to integrate with other systems such as Tax, SAP and Hospital platforms?
10. Once the objectives have been achieved for the IT strategy what is the intention to broaden this strategic work to develop a Digital Strategy for government?

Cybersecurity and Risk Management

1. How is cybersecurity risk factored into IT procurement decisions and contract clauses?
2. What specialist cybersecurity expertise is embedded in the procurement cycle, and at what stage do they review contract terms?
3. Has the Government done any tabletop or live exercises with key digital suppliers to test incident response and business continuity?
4. What approaches (e.g. phased migration, parallel running) do you mandate in procurement to handle complex legacy systems without triggering major service disruptions?

Skills, Capacity, and Career Development

1. What is the plan to reduce dependence on external consultants by building in-house digital procurement expertise?
2. Who will be involved in helping achieve this objective and will further investment be needed?
3. In what areas is government working with Digital Jersey to improve skills, capacity and expertise in digital?
4. What are your workforce development plans? How are you collaborating with local educational institutions or offering placements to grow the government's future IT skill base?
5. Are there initiatives specifically aimed at retaining skilled IT staff, given the private sector's competitive salaries?
6. Could the Government create rotational programmes so that commercial, digital, and policy professionals gain cross-functional skills specifically for digital procurement?

We would be grateful of a response by **Wednesday 16th April**. We intend to publish all information received, with the exception of information which is identified by Government as being provided in confidence. Please could this be confirmed at the time of your response.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Inna Gardiner
Chair
Public Accounts Committee