

Government of Jersey
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Deputy Victoria Li
Chair – Children, Education and Home Affairs Panel
Via email

9 September 2026

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter of 13 August, I look forward to working with you and your fellow panel members.

You have asked about key initiatives, legislative proposals and policy developments that I intend to progress in the coming year. I am pleased to set out below some of the priorities I have identified to date, noting that we are still relatively early in our term of office, and this is likely to develop over time.

Legislative priorities

- **Hate crime consultation**

There is an outstanding commitment, dating back to the previous States Assembly term, for the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs to launch a consultation on proposals for a hate crime law.

I will be launching a consultation before the end of the year, and the Panel have been briefed on this already.

It is anticipated that the consultation will run for twelve weeks and feedback will be collated and reported on in the early new year.

- **Fireworks consultation**

Earlier this year, the States Assembly adopted a proposition requiring the Minister to undertake a public consultation to gather:

- Views on the impact of fireworks and pyrotechnics (both positive and negative) including the effects of noise and disturbance on pets, livestock and individuals
- Views on whether current laws and administrative practices require reform on sale, possession and private use
- Feedback on potential measures to mitigate the negative impact of fireworks and other pyrotechnics

This work is underway, and I would be pleased to offer a briefing to the Panel in due course.

- **Fire Precautions (Jersey) Law 1977 reform**

Consulting and working with experts in the States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service, policy officers are undertaking research and development for the reform and replacement of the Fire Precautions (Jersey) Law 1977. This is Jersey's primary law for ensuring fire safety standards are maintained within selected Jersey buildings throughout their lifetime. This work includes detailed ongoing consultation with building owners, businesses, insurers and other stakeholders involved in building management.

The 1977 law creates a regulatory system which is out of step with other countries and modern practice in fire risk management. The system creates a high and sometimes un-necessary workload in every regulated building for the fire and rescue service. It also does not align with the way many buildings and businesses are choosing to manage their fire risk proactively, creating duplication and wasted cost.

- **Modern slavery – scoping and developing**

Officers are currently scoping legislative options to address modern slavery in Jersey, most likely to be patterned on the UK legislation but modified to address our unique immigration arrangements. Legislation of this type in Jersey is significantly more complex due to the incompatibility of the established UK model with Jersey's employment and immigration arrangements.

- **Post custodial supervision**

Jersey currently has no universal arrangements for the mandatory supervision of adult offenders after their release from prison, and offenders are unconditionally released after serving two-thirds of their sentence. In comparison, all other jurisdictions in the British Isles operate post-release schemes with the powers to impose conditions on release and powers to recall offenders to custody in the event of reoffending or non-compliance.

Whilst there is no universal mandatory post release supervision, the law does provide some monitoring and protection for some prisoners, if subject to a Restraining Order or arrangements under the sex offenders law. Additionally, ex-prisoners can gain support from the Probation Service on a voluntary basis.

The government recognises there is a need for post-release supervision to improve rehabilitation and strengthen public protection, especially in the case of more serious offenders.

- **Resilience**

Jersey's response to emergencies is currently underpinned by the Emergency Powers and Planning (Jersey) Law 1990, which falls short of the modern requirements for emergencies legislation to facilitate a swift and flexible response, utilising pre-established resources, to be deployed in advance of an emergency occurring.

A number of assessments of Jersey's preparedness have been made since 2020, in some cases drawing to a degree on lessons from the pandemic but also taking a wider view of our resilience in general.

The intention is to develop a single new piece of legislation to bring together the necessary powers, obligations and other provisions associated with emergency preparedness and response.

Some provisions will be of such strategic importance that they should be captured in the Resilience Law itself, but by their nature, resilience arrangements must be kept fresh and relevant, and so many of the precise requirements will be determined by subordinate Regulations.

Operational priorities

In addition to the legislative work programme, there are a number of identified operational issues which have emerged as priorities to be addressed.

- **Resolution of travel issues experienced by those with Jersey immigration permissions**

The Panel may be aware of the challenges islanders have faced with travel issues, which in some cases has caused significant hardship to islanders seeking to return to their homes.

This is clearly unacceptable and needs to be addressed. We are engaging with the UK Home Office, consuls and carriers to try and resolve the issue – and this is a significant priority both for myself as Minister, and for the Jersey Customs and Immigration Service (JCIS) and we are seeking to utilise all levers available in order to alleviate these issues in the short and long term.

I would be happy to attend on the Panel, alongside the JCIS Head of Service, to provide a briefing on this if it would be helpful for the Panel.

- **ESCC improvement plan**

Officers continue to progress the ESCC Improvement Plan. Work to date has strengthened leadership, governance, staffing resilience, training, supervision and quality assurance, helping to stabilise the current control room model.

Further work is required to maintain this progress and continue the phased transformation of emergency call handling for Fire & Rescue. The current model has improved, but further work is needed to address operational risk, meet evolving professional and regulatory standards, and determine the long-term evidence-based operating model for the ESCC.

- **Fire and rescue service investment**

I have sought the support of the Council of Ministers for additional investment in the States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service as a commitment to invest in public safety.

Funds were allocated in Budget 2026 which enabled the service to begin working towards the objectives of strengthening frontline capacity and capability, specialist support, and emergency planning. The next phase of that programme will enable completion, over time, of remaining elements of the original business case that were only partially funded.

It will help reduce avoidable risk to the public and firefighters, improve compliance with Fire Standards and National Operational Guidance, and ensure the Service is better equipped to meet

the current and changing risk environment. If approved, the investment will be reflected in the service's next Community Risk Management Plan, for the period 2027-2030, which I anticipate will be published very early in 2027.

- **Implementation of the Fire Safety (Tall Residential Buildings) (Jersey) Regulations 2026 (comes into force on 1 April 2027)**

The previous assembly passed these regulations in February 2026, which contribute to improved safety for residents and firefighters and are part of a much wider set of goals in relation to building safety this year. Significant work is required to support building owners and managers to meet the requirements in an efficient and cost-effective manner, so their benefits can begin to be delivered. Policy officers and the fire and rescue service are working collaboratively with building owners and managers and service providers to support this aim.

- **VAWG implementation**

Further to the approval of a package of legislation related to crimes associated with violence against women and girls, it has been identified that investment will be needed to ensure Jersey's prison service, police, victim support services, health services and community partners have the capacity and capability to implement the new VAWG legislation effectively, manage increasing demand, improve outcomes for victims, and strengthen public safety through a coordinated whole-system response. This will be dealt with via the 2027-30 Budget.

An independent review of the family court system in relation to the management of cases involving domestic abuse is ongoing as part of the wider work to implement the recommendations of the VAWG Taskforce. A report detailing the findings and subsequent recommendations of the review is anticipated to be published in Autumn 2026. A proposal for funding for the implementation of the review recommendations has been included in a wider VAWG Business Case which has been submitted for inclusion into the 2027-2030 Budget.

Work to implement the outstanding VAWG Taskforce recommendations will continue to be coordinated through the BASC framework and Domestic Abuse and Sexual Harms (DASH) Partnership, Officers Group and related working groups.

Yours sincerely



Senator Helen Miles
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs