

Deputy Victoria Li
Chair, Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel
BY EMAIL

23 July 2026

Dear Chair,

I write following your recent Written Question on the support provided to children at risk of exploitation. This is a matter on which I would like to work closely with you and your Panel to ensure a clear understanding of the current position.

In particular, I would like to provide further information and reassurance on the activities undertaken by Government departments and agencies, and to emphasise the high degree of seriousness with which we approach this issue.

In order to keep our young people safe, this area requires a carefully coordinated approach. Children at risk of exploitation are monitored through established multi-agency arrangements that provide oversight and coordinate safeguarding. Where it is safe and appropriate to do so, parents and carers are actively involved in assessments, planning and review meetings. The following are key participants:

- Children's Services
- Children and Families Hub Service
- States of Jersey Police
- Jersey Youth Service
- Education
- The Department for Health and Social Services
- The Probation Service
- Multiple third sector organisations

In response to your recent States Question, I confirmed that 63 children were receiving some level of support in relation to exploitation risks. I also made it clear that this does not reflect actual levels of exploitation. Our risk assessments take a cautious approach to these matters. The media have reported this faithfully, which is reassuring for such a sensitive issue.

I felt it might be useful to share the contact mechanisms that exist and would be grateful if you and your Panel could assist by sharing these details where there is an appropriate opportunity:

- If a member of the public has immediate concerns about a child's safety, they should call 999.

- For non-emergency police matters, contact the **States of Jersey Police** on **01534 612612**.
- To raise a safeguarding or child protection concern, the **Children and Families Hub** should be contacted as soon as possible on **01534 519000**.

In addition, support services can be accessed:

- **Youth Enquiry Service (YES)** provides confidential advice, mental health support and guidance for young people. Contact YES on **01534 280530**.
- **NSPCC Jersey** provides specialist support and therapeutic services for children and young people affected by sexual abuse, sexual harm, exploitation and grooming. Support is also available for children, young people and their families impacted by sexual abuse and sexual harm. Parents and carers can access advice and support through the **NSPCC Adult Helpline** on **0808 800 5000**. For local support, contact **NSPCC Jersey** on **01534 760800**.
- **Childline** is available 24 hours on 08001111 and online at [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)

In recognition of how seriously the Government takes the support, care and protection of vulnerable children, we have committed significant financial investment (£22m) over the next 5 years to support the delivery of the Children's Improvement Plan.

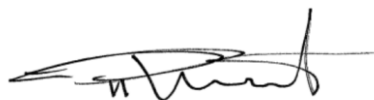
Overall operational responsibility for the coordination of services rests with the Director of Children's Services, Donna Marriott, who leads a team of dedicated and experienced professionals.

We recognise the Panel's concerns and the importance of ensuring that members are fully informed and able to effectively scrutinise the procedures and safeguards in place.

To that end, I would like to offer a personal, confidential briefing at your earliest opportunity, during which officers can provide further context, explain the operational processes involved and respond to any questions you may have.

Thank you for your support and your interest in this important subject.

Yours sincerely.



Constable Richard Vibert
Minister for Children and Families