States Assembly

States Greffe

Connétable Richard Vibert
Minister for Children and Families

BY EMAIL

29th October 2026

Dear Minister,

Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

Thank you for attending the Children, Education and Home Affairs Panel's public hearing on 28th October 2026 as part of its review of the Proposed Budget 2027-30.

During the hearing, a number of matters were discussed where further information was either unavailable at the time or where it was agreed that additional information would be provided to the Panel. The Panel would therefore be grateful if you could provide responses to the following points.

Matters Arising from the Hearing

1. During the hearing reference was made to a budget movement of approximately £17 million into Children's Social Care and Safeguarding. The Panel would be grateful for a breakdown of:
    - the budgets that were transferred;
    - where those budgets were transferred from; and
    - the rationale for the transfer.
2. The Panel notes comments made regarding positive outcomes associated with service transformation, including reductions in children going missing from care, youth offending and anti-social behaviour. Please provide any available data, performance information or reporting that demonstrates these outcomes. At the hearing, a reduction of over 80% this year in children going missing from care was cited as evidence of the impact of investment in the Multidisciplinary Service. Please provide the monthly number of missing episodes, and of absent episodes, from January 2024 to date, and confirm whether the protocol or definitions for classifying a child as missing or absent have changed during that period.
3. During the hearing, reference was made to reports submitted to the Finance Board and/or Children's Services Improvement Board relating to the benefits and anticipated outcomes of the Loving Homes Programme. Please provide copies of these reports, in confidence if required.
4. The Panel would be grateful if you could provide the principal performance indicators and milestones that will be used to measure the success of the Children's Improvement Programme and the expenditure proposed within the Proposed Budget period.

Further Questions Relating to Budget Sufficiency

The Panel is also seeking to assess whether the proposed budget allocation will be sufficient to meet demand and deliver planned improvements over the Proposed Budget period. In this regard, the Panel would welcome responses to the following questions:

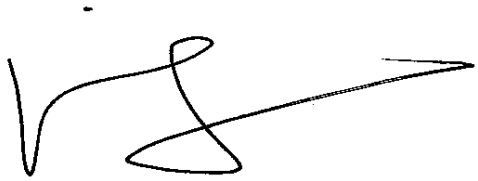
5. What evidence and demand forecasting underpin the assumption that demand for Children's Services will continue to increase throughout the period, and what assessment has been undertaken of the financial implications should demand exceed current forecasts?
6. What measurable outcomes and benefits are expected to arise from the proposed investment in:
    - the Children's Improvement Programme;
    - the Loving Homes Programme; and
    - early intervention and prevention services,

and over what timeframe does the Department expect those benefits to be realised?

7. Workforce expenditure represents a significant proportion of the Department's budget. Please outline:
    - the principal workforce risks facing the service;
    - current vacancy levels across Children's Services; and
    - the extent to which delivery of the Department's plans is dependent upon successful recruitment and retention of staff.
8. The hearing highlighted the continuing cost of off-Island placements. Please provide:
    - the Department's current estimate of the proportion of these costs that may be reduced through the implementation of the Loving Homes Programme; and
    - the extent to which off-Island placements are expected to remain a long-term requirement notwithstanding the proposed investment.

We would be grateful to receive this information by a formal response no later than **5th November 2026.** Please be advised that it is the Panel's intention to publish the response it receives on the States Assembly website.

Yours sincerely,



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