States Assembly

States Greffe

Deputy Catherine Curtis
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

BY EMAIL

5th November 2026

Dear Minister,

Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

Thank you for your attendance during the Panel's Proposed Budget Review Hearing on 2nd November 2026 to discuss the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 and the funding allocated to Education and Lifelong Learning.

The Panel found the hearing helpful in understanding the priorities underpinning the Department's budget allocation, particularly in relation to inclusion, lifelong learning, childcare provision, skills development and the longer-term education estate.

During the hearing, a number of items were discussed which officers agreed to provide to the Panel. For ease of reference, the Panel would be grateful if the following information could be supplied:

Information requested during the hearing

1. Details of the measurable outcomes and performance indicators associated with the Department's priority areas and budget expenditure.
2. Information concerning school deficits.
3. Attendance, attainment and persistent absence data, including information relating to Jersey Premium pupils.
4. Information on the measures and indicators used to assess inclusion outcomes.
5. Pupil mobility data.
6. Skills shortage data and any supporting labour market analysis used to inform skills planning.
7. Current NEET figures, together with any associated targets or performance measures.
8. Information on progression and destination outcomes for Highlands students.
9. Data relating to uptake of the 2–3-year childcare funding scheme, future demand projections and available capacity within the allocated budget.
10. Information regarding school improvement funding allocations and planned expenditure, including plans to allocate funding in 2029 and 2030 which are currently blank.
11. Any available findings, proposals or timetable associated with the current review of student finance arrangements.

In addition, the Panel would welcome clarification on the following matters to assist its consideration of the Proposed Budget.

Further evidence requested by the Panel

1. **Outcomes and Budget Delivery**

The Panel heard evidence regarding several significant areas of investment but noted that quantified delivery targets were not always available. Could the Minister provide:

- The principal measurable outcomes which the Department expects to achieve by the end of the Proposed Budget period as a result of the Proposed Budget allocation.
- Any targets, key performance indicators or success measures that will be used to assess whether the additional funding has achieved its intended objectives.

2. **Inclusion and SEND**

The Panel notes that inclusion remains a key departmental priority and that further work is being undertaken through the Inclusion Review. Could the Minister provide:

- Current baseline measures relating to educational outcomes for children with additional needs, including attendance, attainment and exclusion data where available.
- Details of the specific improvements the Department expects to achieve through the proposed funding over the period of the Budget.

3. **Child Minders and the 2-3 Funding**

The Panel has received evidence regarding the implementation and practical delivery of the proposed funding scheme for children aged 2-3 years. In light of this evidence, could the Minister inform the Panel:

- What assessment has been undertaken of current childcare capacity to determine whether there are sufficient registered childminders and childcare places available to meet the additional demand expected from the scheme?
- How many additional childcare places does the Government anticipate will be required as a result of the scheme, and what evidence provides assurance that sufficient capacity will be available to meet that demand?
- What specific measures and funding are included within the Proposed Budget to recruit, train and retain childminders and childcare professionals needed to support the expansion of the scheme?
- The Panel has received evidence that the funding arrangements may not provide immediate financial relief where support is paid retrospectively. How will the scheme support families who may be unable to meet childcare costs upfront, and has the Department assessed whether this could present a barrier to access?
- What contingency plans are in place should demand for funded places exceed available childcare capacity, and how will the Department ensure that eligible families are able to access the support intended by the scheme?

4. **Lifelong Learning and Skills**

The Panel heard that addressing skills shortages and expanding lifelong learning opportunities are important components of the Department's strategy. Could the Minister provide:

- The evidence used to identify current and projected skills shortages across the Island.
- Details of how the Department will measure the success of its lifelong learning and skills initiatives, including any participation or workforce-related targets.

The Panel notes concerns raised through written submissions regarding the accessibility of student finance support, including the impact of income and asset thresholds and the extent to which current arrangements reflect the circumstances of some families. Could the Minister therefore provide:

- An estimate of the number of students who are currently ineligible for support due to income or asset thresholds.
- Details of any modelling undertaken regarding changes to these thresholds and the associated budget implications.
- The extent to which the proposed Budget makes provision for any reforms arising from the ongoing student finance review.

5. Education Estate and Future Capacity

The Panel discussed the importance of both the wider school estate and the proposed future campus development. Could the Minister provide:

- Any available assessment of the expected educational, skills or economic benefits arising from the proposed campus development.
- Details of any identified school estate investment requirements beyond the current Budget period and how future funding pressures are expected to be addressed.

Further, the Panel received evidence from stakeholders regarding challenges associated with workforce development, vocational training and skills provision in certain sectors.
Could the Minister provide details of:

- How employer feedback and industry demand are incorporated into education and skills planning; and
- How the Proposed Budget will contribute to addressing identified skills shortages through vocational education, apprenticeships and lifelong learning opportunities.

6. Value for Money and Budget Sufficiency

In considering whether the Proposed Budget is sufficient and appropriately targeted, the Panel would welcome further information on the Department's assessment of value for money. Could the Minister provide:

- Details of how the Department intends to evaluate whether the funding approved through the Budget has delivered the intended outcomes.
- Areas where the Department considers additional investment may be required in future years to achieve its stated objectives.

For each of the Department's principal areas of investment within the Government Plan, could the Minister identify:

- the level of funding allocated;
- the outcome the funding is intended to achieve; and

- the measure that will be used to determine whether the investment has been successful?

We would be grateful to receive this information by a formal response no later than **12th 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