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

18 November 2026

Dear Chair

Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel - Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

Thank you for your letter of 11 November following the Review Hearing on 5th November 2026 to discuss the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 and the funding allocated to Justice and Home Affairs.

Please find below answers to the questions posed.

Information requested during the hearing

1. Can you clarify what proportion of the £5 million allocation relates to one-off implementation costs and what proportion is intended for ongoing staffing and service delivery? In addition, are there any funding commitments arising from this allocation that are expected to continue beyond the current Budget period, such as the costs associated with implementing recommendations from the Family Court Review?

A total of £4,124,000 is allocated to the VAWG Budget for 2027.

Recipient	2027 Allocation
Health and Care Jersey	141,000
Justice and Home Affairs	372,000
States of Jersey Police	2,888,000
Judicial Greffe	208,000
Law Officers' Department	373,000
Official Analyst	105,000
Viscount's Department	37,000
Total	**£4,124,000**

From Proposed Budget Appendix 3: Supplementary Financial Tables.

Proportion of one-off implementation costs: 23.19%.

Recipient	One-off cost allocation
Justice and Home Affairs	£344,000
States of Jersey Police	£552,000
Law Officers' Department	£20,000
Judicial Greffe and Viscount's Department	£40,733
Official Analyst's Laboratory	-

Total	**£956,733 (23.19%)**

Proportion for ongoing staff and service delivery: 76.85%.

Recipient	**Ongoing cost allocation**
Justice and Home Affairs	£171,000
States of Jersey Police	£2,336,000
Law Officers' Department	£353,000
Judicial Greffe and Viscount's Department	£204,267
Official Analyst's Laboratory	£105,000
Total	**£3,169,267 (76.85%)**

Funding commitments that arise from the VAWG allocation that are expected to continue beyond the current budget period:

- All permanent roles and associated staff costs
- Vulnerable Witness Training for professionals working in the criminal justice system (to be repeated every 3 years)

With particular reference to ongoing funding commitments that arise from the Family Courts Review, this will include the 2 new permanent IDVA roles that will provide specialist risk assessment, safety planning and advocacy to victims of domestic abuse and provide support through the family court process. It is anticipated that there will also be ongoing funding commitment for the delivery of regular Vulnerable Witness Training for professionals working in the family court system.

2. With regards to Dewberry House - Sexual Assault Referral Centre can you confirm what ongoing operational costs are anticipated once it is opened, and have these costs been incorporated into your future financial planning?

The initial business case developed in 2021 was primarily for the capital costs for the build, from the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund (COCF) which does not include associated revenue costs. The new building is expected to be complete in December 2028. Whilst we expect to see efficiencies with new modern facility, the revenue position will require a review, as capacity will increase. The operating costs associated will be determined during 2027/28 and could result in a separate bid.

The VAWG allocation in the proposed 2027-30 Budget includes:

- Funding for 1 x FTE Clinical Director to provide clinical leadership, governance and quality assurance for trauma-informed forensic medical and crisis support to victims of sexual violence.
- Funding for 1 x FTE Victim Support to provide trauma-informed advocacy, practical support and guidance to victims, helping them understand and navigate the criminal justice process.

Further evidence requested by the Panel

1. You advised that Jersey previously produced regular reconviction studies in collaboration with Swansea University and that the underlying data still exists, but that specialist resource is required to analyse it. Given the importance of measuring the effectiveness of sentencing and rehabilitation programmes, what steps are being taken to restart the reconviction study programme, what specific funding has been allocated for this work from the VAWG funding, and when can the Panel expect updated reconviction data to be published?

£45,000 is allocated in 2028, which is a one-off cost for an external resource to support the specialist nature of this exercise. This will be further scoped in 2027 drawing on the expertise of those who have conducted similar exercises in the past. It is expected that the internal resource will be a combination of the new VAWG analyst provided in the business case and support from Statistics Jersey. Timing for publication will be confirmed once the exercise has been scoped.

2. Given the risks associated with recruiting and retaining suitably qualified Uniformed Services personnel, how does the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 support the expansion of training and career development opportunities, including partnerships with Highlands College and schemes that enable Islanders to undertake specialist training off-Island and return to work in Jersey?

During 2026 the States of Jersey Police developed a bespoke on island training programme for police officer trainees, removing the need to travel to the UK for 11 weeks. This was developed to improve recruitment and retention and offer an opportunity to improve the diversity of the force e.g. for individuals who had caring responsibilities and therefore could not commit to prolonged off island travel. This has been successful and training for new recruits will remain on island. This is delivered by locally existing staff and working with local partners, where appropriate.

For the States of Jersey Police, the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 includes an increase in staff headcount of 37 posts, including 25 police officers (2 Inspectors, 4 Sergeants and 19 Police Constables). The increase in police officer leadership positions offers career development opportunities for our existing force, not only in terms of promotion but also roles where new skills can be developed.

Where we cannot fulfil positions on Island, transferee officers will be considered. During previous recruitments transferring officers have been locally qualified, returning back to the island after embarking on a career in UK forces.

Career opportunities will also be provided for police staff, with the uplift in numbers. It is anticipated that at least 10 of the 12 police staff positions will be fulfilled by locally qualified individuals, however all roles will be advertised on island. The anticipated training requirements for these roles are currently being developed, but will be tailored to the role profile. One of these roles is for a Learning and Development trainer, who will deliver specialist training relating to VAWG locally.

The States of Jersey Police Learning and Development team review the force Training Needs Analysis (TNA) regularly, identifying gaps and developing a training plan with associated budget. Where the training cannot be sourced locally, we actively seek trainers who can come and offer training locally, so more officers can attend. Where this is not possible, police officers will attend accredited specialist UK training centres. The force aligns predominantly to the College of Policing, who set national standards and best practice.

In terms of Highlands College, our L&D Team work closely with their team, working collaboratively across multiple areas e.g. Uniform Services. Further work is planned to increase our partnership.

3. You advised that non-ministerial bodies can apply for additional funding if required, but also referred to future funding bids. If organisations such as the Probation Service, or the Viscount's Department face unforeseen financial pressures during the Budget period, can they access additional funding in-year, and what mechanisms exist to provide support before the next annual budget process?

Significant analytical work was undertaken to estimate the impact of introducing the new VAWG legislation. This was used to forecast the additional capacity and resourcing pressures that would likely be placed on different parts of the criminal justice system as a result of the new legislation.

This included forecasting demand on the non-Ministerial functions (including the Law Officers' Department, the Jersey Probation and Aftercare Service, the Judicial Greffe and the Viscount's Department). This forecast formed the basis of estimates for the funding required and resulted in the development of a demand-led funding model which was used to calculate the VAWG legislation funding requirements which were included in the Proposed Government Budget 2027-2030.

The demand-led funding model works by holding a proportion of funding in the Central Reserve which can then be released to match resources to demand, as required. It relies on agreed forecasts for recorded crimes under the new laws, with movement from the low estimate to the agreed central or high forecast ranges acting as the trigger for funding release.

Non-ministerial bodies such as the Judicial Greffe and the Viscounts Department are included in this, and have funding allocated in reserves as set out below, in the same way as the Ministerial areas.

On this basis, we would not expect there to be a need for funding above what is available under this model prior to the next annual budget process.

4. Reference was made during the hearing to an £800,000 reserve fund that may be drawn upon to address emerging pressures. Can the Minister clarify where this fund sits within Government, which departments and bodies are eligible to access it, and what governance, approval and oversight arrangements are in place for the allocation and use of these funds?

The demand-led funding model for VAWG relies on a reserve fund that can be drawn upon to match resources to demand, as required. The reserve fund sits within the Central Reserve. The proportion of funding held in the Central Reserve for each service (in relation to VAWG funding) is as follows:

Central Reserve allocation	**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**
Judicial Greffe	-	453,000	453,000	453,000
States of Jersey Police	702,000	933,000	937,000	937,000
States of Jersey Prison Service	-	333,000	703,000	1,056,000
Viscount's Dept	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Victim Services	180,000	270,000	270,000	270,000

From Proposed Budget Appendix 3: Supplementary Financial Tables.

The figure the Minister gave at the hearing was an approximation of the central reserve available, should it be needed, in 2027. As you will see from the table, there is significant further provision in future years, subject to need and demand.

Yours sincerely



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Assistant Minister for Justice and Home Affairs