

Government of Jersey  
Union Street | St Helier | Jersey | JE2 3DN

Deputy Hilary Jeune  
Chair  
Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel

## **BY EMAIL**

30 July 2026

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter, dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026, with regard to setting out my Ministerial priorities, progress on current workstreams, the legislative programme and emerging issues. Please find the relevant information for the Panel below.

### **Ministerial priorities**

#### **a) What are your key priorities and objectives as Minister for the Environment over the next 12 months?**

At present, I am continuing to receive briefings across my portfolio and considering how best to align policy ambitions with available resources as Government priorities for 2027 development. My immediate focus is progressing Phase 2 of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap in a proportionate and affordable way, prioritising measures that support Jersey's journey to net zero while also delivering wider social and economic benefits. This includes helping Islanders transition from fossil fuels to lower carbon energy sources, improving energy resilience and reducing exposure to volatile global markets.

Water resource management is also a key priority, and I will review the extensive work already undertaken on Jersey's Water Strategy to determine the best way forward. Alongside this, I am committed to advancing waste management and circular economy initiatives in partnership with the Minister for Infrastructure.

The Water Quality and Safety Programme will also remain an important area of work. Following publication of Report 4 from the Independent PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel,

Ministers are considering the findings and the practical, evidence-based and proportionate way forward. Work will continue with relevant agencies and stakeholders on environmental investigation, monitoring and remediation, while maintaining a clear focus on public assurance and the interests of Islanders.

Protecting Jersey's natural environment remains central to my agenda. This includes maintaining strong biosecurity measures, updating the Biodiversity Strategy, progressing habitat mapping, and developing a comprehensive State of Nature Report to ensure policy and legislation are guided by robust scientific evidence. We will also continue implementing Jersey's Marine Protected Area network, with further measures planned through to 2030, and publish the first Marine Spatial Plan progress report on the 91 priorities agreed by the previous Assembly.

I am committed to ensuring economic development and environmental protection go hand in hand, with evidence based decision making informing areas such as the Rural and Marine Support Schemes. This includes the Future Fisheries project which is evaluating options for a sustainable capture fisheries industry. I also intend to work closely with UK counterparts and local stakeholders on UK-EU reset discussions and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreements to protect Jersey's interests.

I am committed to bringing under my political wing the currently separate workstreams delivered by the Natural Environment Directorate from I and E, and the Rural and Marine team from Economy. By working more closely together they can deliver an uprated service to the environment of the island and its surrounding waters as well as its occupants, be they human or animal, farmed or wild. I am similarly committed that in any subsequent operational restructuring, should that be required, an appropriate budget is afforded to the combined team to ensure optimal delivery.

As per my answer to a recent written question ([WQ.147/2026](#)) the energy strategy also remains under development in accordance with the decision of the States Assembly in 2005 ([P.11/2025 as amended](#)).

**b) Are there any areas that were outstanding from your predecessor that have been deprioritised or temporarily halted.**

You will understand that I am still being briefed across my wide-ranging portfolio and I will not be rushing to make decisions before I am in a position to fully understand issues and have met with key stakeholders and listened to what Islanders have to say.

**c) Are there any significant policy developments, reforms or strategic initiatives that you expect to focus on during this period**

The focus of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap workstream continues to be on increasing the market capacity of the heating industry to deliver low carbon heating, with particular consideration as to how businesses can be supported on their decarbonisation journey in a way that strengthens their competitiveness. I have asked officers to consider initiatives that can deliver both emissions reductions and climate adaptation benefits simultaneously, such as tree planting for shade creation and improving biodiversity and landscape or moving away from fossil fuel heating to a low carbon solution that can deliver both heating in the winter and cooling in the increasingly hotter summer months.

**d) Do you envisage key elements of your portfolio evolving into a Common Strategic**

The Council of Ministers is still discussing and developing the Common Strategic Policy, so it would be premature of me to comment on its likely content at this stage. The CSP will set out the shared vision and overarching themes for this Government, but it is not intended to be the only expression of ministerial priorities for the next four years, nor the sole route through which important portfolio work is progressed or resourced.

I will be advocating strongly for the protection and enhancement of Jersey's environment to be recognised as a key consideration during this term of Government. Whether through my own portfolio priorities or other routes, issues such as climate action, energy resilience, biodiversity, water resources, marine protection and sustainable resource management will remain central to my work as Minister for the Environment.

**Progress on current workstreams**

**a) Could you provide an update on the main workstreams and projects currently being progressed within your ministerial portfolio?**

Environment & Climate

- Low Carbon Heating Incentive continues – as at end of June 881 applications received
- Electric Vehicle Charger Incentive continues – as at end of June 239 applications received
- Home Energy Audit grant continues
- Offshore Renewable Energy - Ongoing work to clarify the basis upon which the UK and France would allow Jersey access to their energy markets.

## Future Fisheries

- Review of sustainable options for the capture fisheries industry and potential changes to the Marine Support Scheme for 2027

I will offer understanding and support to our Jersey Met colleagues who, with minimal resourcing are currently (and will continue to be) providing scientifically valid data to the blue light services, emergency planning colleagues, and health professionals in order that advice can be offered to citizens across the Channel Islands Bailiwicks for their and their island's health and environmental benefits

The Biosecurity team is responsible for delivering Jersey's statutory plant health monitoring and surveillance programme, providing early detection of regulated pests, diseases and invasive species that could threaten the Island's environment, agriculture and tree population. The team plans and undertakes a comprehensive annual programme of inspections and surveys, aligned with legislative requirements and national plant health priorities, covering trees, forestry, horticulture and the natural environment. My plan is to take further briefings from the team to better understand the prioritised needs and actions required, recognising that for example, while the most visible of these workstreams is the Asian Hornet, there are many other pests and particularly diseases in this area that deserve attention.

As per my answer to a recent written question ([WQ.147/2026](#)) the energy strategy also remains under development in accordance with the decision of the States Assembly in 2005 ([P.11/2025 as amended](#)).

### **b) Are there any key milestones, decisions or consultations anticipated in the coming year?**

As per my answers above, I am continuing to receive briefings across my portfolio and considering how best to align policy ambitions with available resources as Government priorities for 2027 develop. I will not be rushing to make decisions or set any milestones before I am in a position to fully understand issues and have met with key stakeholders and listened to what Islanders have to say. I am keen to work closely with the panel and will ensure that you are updated as plans progress.

## Legislative programme

### **a) Could you outline any primary or secondary legislation, propositions or significant policy proposals that are expected to fall within your ministerial remit and are likely to be lodged over the next 12 months?**

Following the Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2026's Royal Assent on the 3 June and its subsequently registering at the Royal Court the following orders are planned to come into force at the same time as the law would be implemented, these are:

- **Animal Welfare (Prohibited Procedures – Exemptions) (Jersey) Order 202-** replacing provisions currently in the 2004 Law. Article 6 of the draft Law defines prohibited procedures as a procedure that involves interference with the sensitive tissues or bone structure of an animal. This order intends to define specific exemptions.
- **Animal Welfare (Prohibited Activities) (Jersey) Order 202–** the proposed Order will prohibit the administration of poisons, animals fighting (including recording and displaying), use of electronic collars, use of pinch and prong collars.
- **Animal Welfare (licensed Activities) (Jersey) Order 202-?-** replacing provisions currently in the 2004 Law. Relates to mandatory licensing of certain activities including cat and dog boarding and day care establishments, cat and dog groomers, sanctuaries, professional dog walkers, equine riding establishments, breeding of cats, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs, as well as other activities.

The intention is for the 3 orders above to be in force when the Animal Welfare Law (Jersey) 2026 comes into force. As per article 41 of the Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2026- the law comes into force on a day to be specified by the Minister by Order. We anticipate this happening end of 2026. Other Orders relating to animal welfare and animal health are being considered and will follow and my team will continue to update existing legislation, if any, as and when required.

In the Marine Resources arena, a regulation for the No Take Zone at Les Sauvage will be brought forward in 2027. The process will require EU notification to be timed alongside drafting and delivery of the Regulation. This work will begin following the introduction of the Marine Protected Area network this September.

As part of the Energy Strategy (see above) consideration is also being given to what changes, if any, may be necessary to energy legislation. It is too early to provide any further information at this stage.

**Agriculture and Fisheries Loans Scheme – Regulation.** Following the adoption of the updated [Law](#), the corresponding Regulations are being drafted currently with the expectation that they will be debated later this year.

**b) Where possible, could you provide an indicative timetable for their development and lodging?**

At this early stage, it would be premature to provide a detailed timetable for the development and lodging of specific initiatives. As I take the time to become fully acquainted with my portfolio, the department, and the various workstreams under my responsibility, it is important that any delivery timeframes are informed, realistic, and achievable. I would therefore appreciate the opportunity to “find my feet” and gain a thorough understanding of priorities before committing to indicative dates. In the

meantime, I am committed to maintaining open and constructive engagement with the Panel, and I look forward to sharing my emerging priorities, intentions, and proposed timelines through regular scrutiny briefings and ongoing communication as they become clearer.

## **Emerging issues and scrutiny engagement**

### **a) Are there any emerging challenges, risks or areas of policy development that you consider may merit early engagement with the Panel?**

I am conscious through the department's ongoing work with DEFRA and the UK Cabinet Office, alongside our colleagues at the Law Officers and External Relations that there is much work to be done in respect of the UK/EU Reset particularly regarding the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement. This will require many laws to be updated, these pertaining to the movement across national boundaries of animals, products of animal origin, and plant materials. Due to the incoming new UK Prime Minister and the summer recess we expect to re-enter discussions in September of this year. Prior to the delay caused by the change of UK government it was a UK target to have amendments in legislation completed by July 2027. This would then herald changes in operational practices in Jersey, like the UK, to ensure border practices remain aligned with European expectations. This will be a UK led process and I can keep the panel up to speed as our responses are discussed, agreed, and put into practice.

### **b) Are there particular areas where you anticipate scrutiny input could be beneficial during the course of the next year.**

I would welcome the chance to brief the panel on the plan for the second delivery phase of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap in the Autumn.

It is currently anticipated that there will be engagement with scrutiny on the draft Energy Strategy in Q4 of 2026. This will be confirmed closer to that time.

Thank you again for your letter and for the thoughtful questions raised by the Scrutiny Panel. I welcome the opportunity to engage constructively with the Panel and recognise the important role it plays in providing oversight, challenge, and support. My department and I are committed to fostering a strong and collaborative working relationship, underpinned by open communication, transparency, and mutual respect. By working closely together throughout the term, I hope to ensure that information is shared

effectively, issues are addressed proactively, and that our collective efforts contribute to a streamlined, productive, and successful term for the benefit of all Islanders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. R. Le Hegarat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Senator Mary Le Hegarat  
**Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries**