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Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair
Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

BY EMAIL

18 August 2026

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter of 23rd July 2026. I am pleased to respond to the matters you have raised.

I am similarly looking forward to a productive and constructive working relationship with the panel. Scrutiny has a vital role to play in being a critical friend to Ministers, and I intend to engage the panel on the key issues that will face my portfolio in the coming years in order that you are able to fulfil your roles effectively.

Ministerial priorities

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

We have a number of long-term challenges to address as a Government. We are currently developing our Common Strategic Policy and preparing the next Budget, which will be lodged concurrently. It is crucial that Ministers work together and in an aligned manner. My priorities therefore need to be agreed with the Council of Ministers before being shared in detail with Scrutiny and States members. Having said that, in my nomination statement I mentioned liquid waste capacity and funding, sustainable transport, recycling, and improvements to the public realm as areas of particular focus. I also emphasised that I am keen to work closely with the Connétable of St Helier in particular on a range of issues that could improve town and the island generally.

We also need to think about how we manage our property portfolio, disposing of property we don't need, driving a more commercial approach to ensure the public are receiving the best value, maintaining social value where appropriate, and developing a plan for investment and maintenance in our core property. This will include work to look at JPH's strategic direction.

In a shorter timeframe, the department is preparing for the take-over of the AquaSplash operations, scheduled for 1 October, a move which it is hoped will both provide a saving to Government and an enhanced product offering through the Active portfolio of facilities. There is also a wider need to upgrade sports facilities. If the Island is to confirm its intention to host the Island Games in 2035, commitments will have to be made within this term of office.

Funding of, or charging for, waste services in the Island is a strategic policy choice that will need to be considered by this Council of Ministers. As well as providing policy levers for user / polluter pays, charging could address some significant cost challenges that are facing the department in the face of escalating external costs including transport, fuel, process chemicals, maintenance and recycling services in general. This is a policy that will need to be considered by the Council of Ministers, but it is important that a decision is taken early in the political cycle.

In addition, work on a new Solid Waste Strategy is something that needs to be progressed in this term of Government.

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

My predecessor left a busy in-tray. To date, I have not seen a need to deprioritise any ongoing work. On the contrary, we need to press ahead as much as possible with the investment that we need to make in public infrastructure across the island. Having said that, I have no doubt that there will need to be some ongoing difficult conversations about how we prioritise finite government resources.

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

I expect these to form part of the new Government's programme, which will be reflected in the Common Strategic Policy and the Budget.

d) Do you envisage key elements of your portfolio evolving into a Common Strategic Policy priority?

Public infrastructure is the foundation that makes Jersey work, underpinning safe communities, economic competitiveness and the quality of life that enables the Island to thrive. With the creation of the Investing in Jersey programme and the Capital Investment Fund, we have the potential to make a step change in the way that infrastructure investment is delivered. Whether or in what form this ambition makes its way into the CSP is something that is still under active discussion within the Council of Ministers.

Progress on current workstreams

a) Could you provide an update on the main workstreams and projects currently being progressed within your ministerial portfolio? b) Are there any key milestones, decisions or consultations anticipated in the coming year?

We have a number of ongoing projects and workstreams, including the Northern Sewer Network Upgrades, the St Peter drainage network upgrades and strategic storage, road surface maintenance and improvements. We will make sure to keep the Panel updated on these workstreams and if there are any particularly projects that the Panel would like information about, we can provide further information and/or briefings.

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?

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

Road Law Project:

Work is progressing on the Road Law Project to produce a new Law to replace most of Jersey's Laws on roads and vehicles with consolidated, updated legislation as set out in the Ministerial Decision MD-T-2021-0024 dated 7th April 2021.

- Lodging is expected in 2028.
- There will be engagement with interested parties, including Scrutiny, the parishes, as the drafting progresses.

Prosecution of illegal taxi services (P.52/2026):

As requested by the States Assembly work with the Council of Ministers (as opposed to just the Minister for Infrastructure) to consider either:

- updating the Motor Traffic (Jersey) Law 1935, or
- creating new statutory offences in separate legislation,

to better support the investigation of illegal taxi services by the States of Jersey Police, with the aim of increasing the likelihood of successful prosecutions for unlawfully carrying passengers for reward, and to bring forward the necessary legislation by 30 June 2027.

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?

Funding issues are likely to remain a challenge and I will welcome engaging with Scrutiny as plans develop to realise the full potential of the Infrastructure Investment Fund. If we get this right it has the potential to be transformative for islanders and for businesses.

Similarly, work on the public realm will benefit from engagement with all stakeholders.

More generally, as I said at the start of this letter, I am looking forward to a constructive relationship with a Scrutiny Panel whose members bring considerable experience and expertise to their roles.

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

Liquid and Solid Waste charging is likely to come to the fore as a potential funding mechanism for the issues the department is facing in both revenue and capital over the coming period. In addition, constraints on funding are also likely to impact the capital programme, and prioritisation of projects will no doubt be a discussion topic prior to the 2028 Budget.

As part of this debate, I would also welcome engagement with Scrutiny on a new Solid Waste strategy for the Island.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Renouf", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Deputy Jonathan Renouf
Minister for Infrastructure