

States Greffe

Deputy Voisin
Minister for Sustainable Economic Development

BY EMAIL

28 July 2026

Dear Minister,

Re. Petition to amend restriction times for dogs on beaches

Following my election as Chair of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel (EHI), I would like to take this opportunity, to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister.

I am writing in relation to the recent petition to amend the restriction times for dogs on beaches.

The EHI Panel welcomes this approach as it progresses a recommendation made by the previous EHI Panel in its [Animal Welfare and Control Review Report](#) within which it called for a coordinated review of the Policing of Roads, Parks and Beaches Regulations to identify any areas requiring further alignment across the wider animal control framework.

Following the petition, you noted that you will be asking officials to prepare the necessary legislative changes to allow for amendments to restriction times for dogs on beaches to be debated by the States Assembly.

For context, it should be noted that your predecessor Deputy Kirsten Morel wrote a [letter](#) to the EHI Panel on 23rd January 2026 noting three options that he had put forward to the Comité des Connétables for their consideration:-

- a) Designate specific beaches to allow for dogs to be walked off the lead at any time.
- b) Changing the start time for dog walking restrictions from 10:30am to 11:30am.
- c) Remove the current restrictions on weekdays during May, leaving restrictions for weekends and public holidays.

Deputy Morel noted at the time that there was no support from the Comité for option a) and that there was very limited support for options b) or c). The Comité concluded that the status quo be maintained.

Furthermore, at an EHI public hearing on 29 January 2026, the Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police explicitly addressed the practical realities of enforcing dog regulations under the Policing of Beaches Regulations highlighting the primary operational issues and reasons for why these rules are essentially "impossible to enforce" including:

- **Resource Strain:** Because the Honorary Police are volunteers with regular jobs, they lack the persistent manpower required to police beach entry points during the restricted 10:30 am to 6:00 pm summer hours and hence, due to this policing deficit can only operate on a reactive basis, only responding when a specific member of the public calls to lodge a formal complaint.
- **Identification Issues:** Even when a complaint is made, identifying an anonymous dog owner on a shifting, expansive tidal beach area after they have moved on is highly impractical.

I consider it important to raise these points with you to ensure they are given due consideration before any necessary legislative changes are made and to help ensure that the issues outlined above are fully addressed.

I look forward to hearing from you and working alongside you in this space.

We would be grateful to receive an initial written update no later than 4th August 2026.

Please note it is our usual practice to publish all correspondence online on the States Assembly website. However, should there be any updates which are deemed Freedom of Information exempt, please do make this known in your response.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair, Environment, Housing, and Infrastructure Panel