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

Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair
Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel

BY EMAIL

28 October 2026

Dear Chair,

Re: Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

Thank you for your letter and for sharing the Terms of Reference for the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel's review of the Proposed Budget 2027–2030.

I welcome the opportunity to assist the Panel in its review and note the public hearing scheduled for 2 November 2026. My officers and I look forward to engaging constructively with the Panel throughout this process.

We appreciate being made aware of the review at this early stage and acknowledge the Panel's request for any updated or outstanding supporting documentation relating to my ministerial portfolio.

Please find below responses to the Panel's questions.

1.The Proposed Budget 2027-2030 establishes a standalone Environment Head of Expenditure. During previous discussions, the Panel noted that a number of functions and budgets have transferred into the Department as part of the revised Ministerial structure. The Panel wishes to understand how the Department's resources are allocated and how the proposed budget will support delivery of its responsibilities.

Please provide:

A breakdown of the Environment Department's principal functions and service areas.

Natural Environment's holistic principal workstreams are as follows and teams are formed within the directorate to administer these. A separate document is supplied to expand on the following section

- **Supporting domestic resilience** – This collection of workstreams and teams focus on helping Jersey prepare for, respond to and recover from environmental risks and emergencies, including climate change impacts, disease outbreaks and biosecurity threats. These are primarily delivered through:
    - the Climate Change Engagement Team,
    - Jersey Met,
    - The States Vet and Animal Health & Welfare Team, and the
    - Biosecurity Team

  The Biosecurity team, alongside the States Vets offices and Regulation colleagues responsible for plant health and food safety are also integral in the delivery of the legislative and operational changes required to ensure dynamic alignment with UK and European legislation now necessary due to the EU / UK reset and in particular the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreements.

- **Management of Jersey's Natural Capital** – This collection of workstreams manage and protect Jersey's natural assets including: air, land, water, biodiversity, soils and the marine environment. This ensures their sustainable use for current and future generations.

  Service areas:

  Air

  - Air quality monitoring, analysis and reporting.
  - Provision of environmental data to inform policy and public decision making.

  Land

  - Conservation and habitat management.
  - Management of protected sites and countryside access
  - Biodiversity monitoring and strategy development
  - Environmental legislation, licensing, and planning advice
  - Soil science, agronomy and agricultural environmental advice

  Water

  - Monitoring water quality and quantity
  - Fisheries regulation and licensing
  - Marine conservation and spatial planning
  - Fisheries enforcement and international fisheries relations
  - Ramsar site management and marine scientific monitoring

- **Scientific Research and Environmental Obligations**

  This function provides the scientific evidence, monitoring, reporting and specialist expertise required to support policy development and ensure compliance with Jersey's international environmental commitments.

Service areas:

- Environmental monitoring and data management
- Scientific research and analysis
- Environmental reporting
- Management of obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
- Development of partnerships with academic and research institutions
- Evidence based advice to Government and stakeholders

- **Directorate Service Delivery Teams**

  The Directorate delivers the above functions through the following specialist teams;

  - Climate Change Engagement Team
  - Jersey Meteorological Office (Jersey Met)
  - Animal Health and Welfare Team
  - Biosecurity Team
  - Land Resources Management Team
  - Marine Resources and Management Team
  - Natural Environment Directorate Administration Team

Together, these services help protect Jersey from environmental and biosecurity threats, ensuring the Island is better prepared for challenges such as climate change, severe weather events, animal disease outbreaks and the introduction of invasive species.

Please also refer to the table in the appendix with further details.

For completeness, it should be noted that the Minister is also supported by the Cabinet Office's Environment and Climate Team and Energy Policy Team. These functions sit within the HEP Directorate and are funded separately from the Environment Department budgets set out above. As such, they have not been included in this breakdown. However, they form an important part of the wider support structure for the Minister's portfolio.

a) *Details of functions and budgets transferred into or out of the Department as part of the departmental restructure.*

Please refer to the table in the appendix with further details.

- The Rural and Marine (R&M) Economy functions and budget are transferring into the Department on 1st Jan 2027. This team will continue to manage the Rural and Marine Economy budget which is ring-fenced and set to increase by RPI(X) annually as set out in P.54/2026, adopted by the States Assembly in March 2026. In 2027 this budget will be £8,674,000. This is a combination of TR14 from

Economic Development to Environment of £7,674,000 for Agriculture and Fisheries and £1,100,000 from Agriculture & Fisheries - Better business support.

- The functions of the team are split into 3 broad support areas with specific workstreams under each, all with the purpose of supporting the long-term sustainable economic growth and resilience of the Rural and Marine sectors. The forecast percentage of the R&M Economy budget is indicated next to each area:

    I. **Direct Support (83%)**
        a. **Approved Agriculture Businesses** – the application process to become a Bone Fide Agricultural Business or Smallholder which are allowed to occupy restricted agricultural land and access financial support.
        b. **Rural and Marine Support Schemes** – grants to farmers and fishers based on a credit matrix that rewards certain economic, environmental and community activity.
        c. **Agriculture and Fisheries Loans** – a separate £10 million pot that offers loans to eligible businesses for major investments.

    II. **Indirect Support (via Grant Funded Organisations) (13%)**
        a. **Jersey Product Promotion** (part of Jersey Business since January 2026) – responsible for the front-end of applications for Loans and Support Schemes; sector skill development; food system improvements (e.g. Farmers Markets); managing the Jersey Royal brand; Genuine Jersey; and other specific projects.
        b. **Jersey Island Genetics** (part of RJA&HS) – contracted to manage and develop the Jersey Herd Management System.
        c. **Jersey National Park** – funded to protect and enhance Jersey's biodiversity, heritage and natural environment while supporting sustainable economic development within the National Park.

    III. **Project Support (4%)**
        a. **Future Fisheries** – a joint project with Marine Resources to consider long-term options for the capture fisheries industry.
        b. **Airport Shop** – managing the Government funded fit-out of a new airport departures lounge shop to ensure Genuine Jersey and other local products are retailed competitively.
        c. **Ad hoc** – other targeted projects where required, such as Bluetongue vaccines.

- The R&M Economy team consists of 1.6 FTE currently staffed plus a 1 FTE vacancy since May 2026. The team currently operates from the Department for the Economy and will transfer under Group Director – Natural Environment on 1st January 2027. The budget for the team is separate from the ring-fenced budget and will transfer separately.

- A programme is underway to determine how to optimally integrate workstreams and derive most benefit for sustainable fisheries and farming alongside the wider environment and work that is currently undertaken by Natural Environment.

b) An explanation of the principal changes between the 2026 and 2027 budget allocations.

Please refer to the table in the appendix with further details.

d) How the proposed budget will support delivery of the Department's priorities during the period covered by the Proposed Budget 2027-2030.

2. During the quarterly hearing, concerns were raised regarding the impact of recruitment restrictions and the reliance on specialist staff within relatively small service areas. The Panel wishes to understand whether the Department has sufficient capacity to deliver its statutory responsibilities and planned work programme.

Please provide:

a) The number of posts currently vacant within the Department.

Please refer to the table in the appendix with further details.

b) The number of vacancies that are subject to recruitment restrictions.

Please refer to the table in the appendix with further details.

c) Details of any functions or service areas currently operating below intended staffing levels.

Some resources also exist within the Regulation Directorate where regulatory officer support is made available in relation to Agricultural Land Controls, Water and Plant Health. There are vacant posts within the teams and whilst resources are made available for these important regulatory functions, I do not believe there is a dedicated budget or officers that can be readily separated from the wider responsibilities undertaken by the same officers across different Ministerial portfolios.

c) Any significant workforce or resource risks identified by the Department.

The Department has identified a number of workforce and resource related risks that require ongoing management. These include capacity pressures within small specialist teams, particularly where services rely on highly skilled officers whose expertise take considerable time to develop. The Department also recognises the importance of retaining specialist staff to maintain service resilience and continuity. In addition, several service areas rely on close collaboration with external partners, volunteers and stakeholders to support the delivery of environmental and biosecurity outcomes. Resource pressures include the need for continued investment in specialist infrastructure, equipment, scientific capability and data management systems to

ensure the department can continue to meet its statutory obligations and environmental objectives effectively.

Whilst the Rural and Marine Economy team has yet to transfer formally into the Department, it is recognised that the team is currently operating below intended levels and this has created a delivery risk regarding the functions of that team.

3. The Water Strategy was identified as a key ministerial priority by the previous Minister for the Environment. Given the continued importance of water quality, water resource management and long-term water resilience, including ongoing work relating to PFAS contamination, the Panel wishes to understand how this work will be progressed during the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 period.

Please provide:

a) The current status of the Water Strategy.

The Water Strategy is currently in development with work focussed on five key strategic areas -water security/resilience, quality, governance, environment and extreme events.

b) The anticipated timetable for publication and implementation.

The current intention is the published the strategy by the end of Q2 2027.

c) The key objectives and proposed workstreams, including any measures relating to PFAS and water quality improvement.

The Water Strategy is being developed through a risk-based framework that is focused on five core areas: resilience of water supply and infrastructure, environmental sustainability (biodiversity, ecological risks, carbon emissions, etc.), risks to water quality, extreme events such as droughts and flooding, and governance.

The Strategy is intended to provide a whole system, cross-government approach to water management and will establish an adaptive planning pathway to support Jersey's long-term water resilience. While the final strategic objectives are still being refined through stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering.

d) The current status of the Government's consideration and implementation of recommendations arising from the Panel's PFAS review.

The Independent PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel's final Report 4 was published in July 2026, following an earlier interim Government response to its draft recommendations. The final report and its recommendations are being considered by the new Government, which will determine its formal response and any associated next steps. It would be premature to anticipate the outcome of that consideration and how that might be resourced.

e) How delivery of the Water Strategy, PFAS-related work and associated water quality initiatives will be funded during the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 period.

The Proposed Budget identifies Water Strategy policy development among activities supported by the Climate Emergency Fund. However, there is no specific funding allocation for PFAS-related work. Any associated expenditure will therefore likely need to be met from the existing budgets of the departments responsible for delivery, subject to prioritisation and available resources.

f) Whether the Minister considers the funding available within the Proposed Budget sufficient to deliver this work, and if so, how these priorities will be accommodated within the department's existing funding envelope.

Officer resource has been allocated to the development of the Water Strategy and no external support or funding for the strategy development on top of this is currently anticipated.

4. The Common Strategic Policy includes a commitment to deliver practical improvements to Jersey's countryside, coast and biodiversity. The Panel wishes to better understand the specific initiatives that are proposed and how success will be measured.

Please provide:

a) Details of the practical improvements intended during the period covered by the Proposed Budget 2027-2030.

- Deliver and enhance the annual Rural Support Scheme which rewards public realm and environmental improvements alongside delivery of the State of Nature and Biodiversity Strategy to secure a sustainable rural sector.
- Deliver the Marine Spatial Plan and continue to evolve the annual Marine Support Scheme to secure sustainable future fisheries.
- Increased public awareness and engagement in the stewardship of our natural environment through more local consumption of local produce, improved use of public land, volunteering initiatives and collaboration with key stakeholders such as Jersey National Park and National Trust for Jersey.

b) The funding allocated to support these initiatives.

- Met through existing Department for the Environment budget and the ring-fenced Rural and Marine Economy budget.

c) The outcomes and performance measures that will be used to assess success.

- Measures of delivery such as output, outcome and performance will be included within forthcoming specific documents, schemes and projects.

5. During the quarterly hearing, reference was made to a revised Carbon Neutral Roadmap delivery plan and an increased focus on adaptation measures. The Panel wishes to understand how this work will be progressed and funded during the budget period.

Please provide:

a) The anticipated timetable for publication of the revised Carbon Neutral Roadmap delivery plan.

The Carbon Neutral Roadmap delivery plan for 2027-2030 will be published by the end of Q1 2027.

b) The principal changes currently under consideration.

The strategic direction remains achieving Net Zero by 2050. The intention is that the second phase delivery plan will be simpler and focus on the practical transition away from fossil fuels, with a focus on heating system decarbonisation. The climate change engagement workstream will continue.

The announcement has already been made that the Low Carbon Heating Incentive will continue to the end of 2030 and that the electric vehicle charger incentive will come to close as planned at the end of 2026.

In addition, policy development will focus on reducing the emissions associated with the waste system.

c) How climate adaptation measures will be reflected within the revised delivery plan.

While reducing emissions remains the priority, initial work on climate adaptation will be progressed with a focus on establishing a better understanding of the impacts of a changing climate on all aspects of the local economy, society and natural environment and identifying what work is currently underway to prepare for these changes and the work that will be required going forward.

d) How funding available through the Climate Emergency Fund will be prioritised across the measures contained within the revised delivery plan, including the extent to which climate adaptation measures will be funded alongside decarbonisation initiatives.

Funding allocation decisions will be made considering both the direct carbon savings anticipated per pound of spend, the indirect carbon benefits (for example of education and awareness or green skills development workstreams) as well as the co-benefits of any proposed policy. Consideration will also be given to ensuring that the principle of achieving a Just Transition is met.

No funding allocation to delivering climate adaptation projects will be made until the initial research and policy development work has been completed and the adaptation priorities have been identified and agreed and all funding routes considered.

6. The Panel notes that the development of a Fuel Duty Replacement Policy has been referenced in successive Government Plans as a response to the expected long-term decline in fuel duty revenues associated with changes in vehicle usage and the transition to lower-emission transport. While the policy is primarily intended to address future revenue sustainability, the Panel wishes to understand whether environmental considerations have also informed its development, particularly in relation to the Island's carbon reduction ambitions and objectives to encourage more sustainable travel behaviours.

Please provide:

a) *Details of any assessment undertaken of how a future Fuel Duty Replacement Policy could support the Island's environmental and carbon reduction objectives, including encouraging the uptake of lower-emission vehicles and sustainable transport choices.*

The responsibility for revenue generating policies lies with the Minister for Treasury and Resources. Initial scoping for the proposed Fuel Duty Replacement Policy was paused in 2024 and has not yet recommenced. My officers were involved in this work. A number of different approaches to charging were considered, including charging based on environmental measures.

When the Minister for Treasury and Resources resumes this work, further consideration will be given to the scope for a charge to support wider environmental objectives including decarbonisation.

I hope this letter provides a comprehensive response to the Panel's questions. Should there be any areas where further detail would be helpful, the Minister and officers would be more than happy to provide a briefing on the relevant subject matter and discuss any outstanding points.

Yours sincerely



Senator Mary Le Hegarat
Minister for Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries

Minister for the Environment

Government of JERSEY

Answers to Questions

1a. Breakdown of the Environment Department's principal functions and service areas.

Service Area	2026 Budget '000's	2027 Budget '000's	Principal Function
Biosecurity	976	1,005	Manage invasive species risks, plant health and crop protection, including advice and preventative work.
Jersey Met	1,373	1,085	Provide weather forecasts, meteorological observations and climate information for Jersey and the Channel Islands.
Marine Resources	1,174	1,083	Monitor marine habitats and fish stocks; manage marine resources; undertake fisheries research, protection and enforcement.
Natural Environment Directorate*	132	468	Protects and manages Jersey's natural environment, delivering environmental regulation, conservation, agriculture and fisheries support, biodiversity management, and sustainable land and marine resource stewardship.
States Vet	858	888	Protect animal health and welfare; monitor and respond to animal disease risks.
Eco Active	121	125	Deliver public and sector education, engagement and behaviour-change programmes supporting sustainability and carbon reduction.
Agriculture & Fisheries	-	8,674	Supports and regulate the Island's rural and marine economy. The service works with farmers, fishers, and land managers to promote sustainable food production, environmental stewardship, animal and plant health, fisheries management, and economic development. It also administers grant and support schemes, monitors industry performance, and ensures compliance with relevant agricultural, marine, and environmental regulations.
Land Resource Management	2,648	2,932	Protect and enhance habitats, wildlife and biodiversity; manage and maintain natural open spaces, countryside and coastal pathways, and access infrastructure such as steps, fences and railings; monitor water and air quality.
Transfer out of Regulation Budget	4,690	-	To become new Head of Expenditure - Regulation & Planning
Transfer out of Regulation Budget (2027 Pension Adj)	(175)	-	To become new Head of Expenditure - Regulation & Planning
Net revenue expenditure (near-cash)	**11,797**	**16,260**	

*** Savings were initially allocated to the Natural Environment Directorate in B26, pending agreement on their management and distribution across the service areas.**

1(b) Details of functions and budgets transferred into or out & (c) an explanation of the principal changes between the 2026 and 2027 budget allocations .

	Changes to Net Revenue Expenditure	£000's	£000's	
		2026	2027	
Ref No.	**Base net revenue expenditure budget**	**11,763**	**11,757**	**Details**
	Service transfers			
TR11	Transfer out of ODG	(543)	-	Moved to Infrastructure
B27-007	Transfer out of Regulation Budget		(4,690)	To become new Head of Expenditure - Regulation & Planning
B27-013	Transfer out of Car Park Maintenance Budget		(23)	Moved to Infrastructure
B27-014	Transfer in of Agriculture & Fisheries		7,574	Moved from CABO
	Total Service Transfers	**(543)**	**2,861**	
RES02	Inflation for non-staff costs 2027	-	64	Non-Pay Inflation GP27 - Natural Env. only
Pay Award	Inflation for staff costs 2025	601		2025 Pay Award Allocation - Natural Env. & Regulation
Pay Award	Inflation for staff costs 2026		295	2026 Pay Award Allocation - Natural Env. & Regulation
GP22-CSP5-R-04	Previous growth 2025	35		UK/EU TCA Biosecurity Border Controls
I-IHE-GP23-001	Previous growth 2026		349	Countryside, Biodiversity, Water and Air Quality
B26 Amnd 32 & 36	Proposed growth 2026	656		B26 Amendment 32 &36 - Natural Env. & Regulation
A&F - RPI uplift	Proposed growth 2027		1,100	Agriculture & Fisheries - Better business support
	Savings 2026	(755)		Role Savings - Natural Env. & Regulation
	Savings 2027		(166)	Role Savings - Natural Env. Only
	Net revenue expenditure (near-cash)	**11,757**	**16,260**	
	Depreciation and amortisation	155		
	Net revenue expenditure (after depreciation)	**11,912**	**16,260**	

2(a) The number of posts currently vacant within the Department & 2(b) the number of vacancies that are subject to recruitment restrictions.

Vacancies & Status as of 30th September 2026

Natural Environment

Service Area	Cost Centre	Position ID	Position Title	Grade	FTE	Current status
Land Resource Management	101312	11123	Senior Environmental Officer (Air)	CS11	1.00	Wear completed awaiting final approval to recruit 2027
Land Resource Management	101312	19507	Countryside Ranger	MW05	1.00	Wear approved. Recruitment to start 2026
Biosecurity	100067	9130	Scientific Officer Laboratory Monitoring	CS08	1.00	internal move to LRM September FTE 1.0. Wear awaiting final approval for replacement
States Vet	101100	15546	Assistant Animal Health Officer	CS08	1.00	Leaver September wear awaiting final approval
			Total		**4.00**	

Regulation

Service Area	Cost Centre	Position ID	Position Title	Grade	FTE	Current status
IHE-Admin - Regulatory Improvement	100006	14174	Head of Rgltry Improvement and Licencing	CS14	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Admin - Regulatory Improvement	100006	15554	Snr Reg Improvemt Off Legislatn Projects	CS12	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Admin - Regulatory Improvement	100006	12838	Group Director Regulation	TIER 20	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Admin - Regulatory Improvement	100006	17888	Snr Regulatory Improvement Off Licencing	CS12	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Trading Standards	100367	17903	Regulation Standards Tech Trdg Stds APP	CS08	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Trading Standards	100367	339	Reg Standard Snr Offic Trading Standards	CS12	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Building Standards	100950	17836	Regulation Standards Officer Building	CS10	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Pollution Control	100974	11124	Regulation Standards Snr Tech Poll Cntrl	CS10	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Food & Plant Security	101007	17886	Regulation Standards Snr Officer FandPS	CS12	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Food & Plant Security	101007	17474	Regulation Standards Snr Offcr F and PH	CS12	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Food & Plant Security	101007	17878	Regulation Standards Officer F and PH	CS10	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Housing & Nuisance	101054	15560	Regulation Standards Officer H and N	CS10	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Planning Applications	101059	2477	Planning Officer	CS10	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Planning Applications	101059	17824	Planning Officer Landscape	CS10	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Planning Applications	101059	17307	Planning Officer	CS10	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
IHE-Appeals & Compliance	101178	2452	Compliance Officer Land and Habitat	CS10	**1.0**	Under review as part of new Planning & Building Head of Expenditure
			Total		**16.0**	

Minister for the Environment

Government of JERSEY