Government of JERSEY

Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel

1 October 2026

Dear Chair,

Public hearing follow-up topics: Regulation directorate and Food Law

During the recent public hearing your panel asked me about the Regulation directorate consultation and the commencement of the Food (Jersey) Law 2023.

Regulation directorate

The proposal to move the Regulation directorate into the Cabinet Office was initiated prior to my appointment as Minister for Planning and Regulation. In August 2025, the Chief Minister requested options to deliver a leaner and less complex public service. During this work, it was noted that international best practice standards stipulated that regulators must be protected from organisational and operational pressures. A move to the Cabinet Office, which does not have operational delivery functions, is a step towards addressing this. It is hoped that the move will result in better governance and oversight, with clear ministerial accountability while allowing the department's existing operational structure to continue. It is an interim measure providing opportunity for longer-term options to be thoroughly examined as part of a wider consideration of regulatory arrangements.

Given the high number of staff in the Regulation directorate, the decision was made to undertake a 30-day consultation. Staff will be able to voice any concerns they have about the move. The results of the consultation will be considered carefully. I must be clear that there are no other changes proposed at present. There will be a staff briefing following the consultation, after which I will update the panel.

During the public hearing, the panel asked questions about decision-making protocol in response to the recently departed Group Director. For the avoidance of doubt, the absence of a Group Director does not in practice change the practicalities of decisions made under the Infrastructure and Environment (I&E) protocol. Regulatory decisions are still being taken by delegated officers within the directorate who report to the Head of Development and Land and the Head of Environmental and Consumer Protection. These officers are still responsible for all regulation decisions. However, because the majority of decisions are not covered by the protocol, the Chief Officer still holds managerial responsibility for decisions made during the consultation. Any decision which covers other I&E operational areas is still made by the heads of services, without reference to the Chief Officer, due to the ethical wall that remains in place. There is no breach of any legislative requirements.

Food (Jersey) Law 2023

The panel also sought an update on the commencement of the Food (Jersey) Law 2023 and the proposed Food (Jersey) Regulations 202-. The regulations are structured around three key areas: food labelling, including allergen information; food hygiene requirements; and the licensing of food businesses.

During the debate on the commencement of the primary legislation, the panel emphasised the importance of continued engagement with food businesses to ensure they have a clear understanding of the new requirements and are given sufficient time to prepare for and achieve compliance under the new regulatory framework. In response to this feedback, officers will be inviting industry representatives to a series of briefing sessions in the coming months to explain the proposed changes and implementation arrangements.

It is intended that the regulations will come into force on 1 March 2027, providing businesses with a clear transition period to familiarise themselves with, and prepare for, the new requirements.

I hope the above clarifies the current position.

Yours sincerely



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