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Deputy Beatriz Porée
Chair, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel

Sent by email

26 October 2026

Dear Chair

Re: Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

Thank you for your letter of the 13 October relating to the Panel's review into the Proposed Budget. I have responded to each of the questions raised in turn:

- **A detailed list of the projects and/or workstreams that you will be undertaking in 2027.**

These will be set out in the Draft Business Plan 2027 which is due to be published in November 2026.

- **An outline of your legislative programme for 2027.**

A detailed update on the Legislative Programme will be provided to Scrutiny shortly, once it has been approved by the Council of Ministers. This is a 'live document' and variations to individual legislative projects are to be expected throughout the year, as priorities change and the complexity of the subject becomes more apparent. A commitment has been made to share with Scrutiny the list of items within the 'Development Pool', as these could be actively progressed during any periods of reduced activity.

- **A progress update in respect of any projects and/or workstreams agreed by the States Assembly as part of the Government Plan 2026 - 2029 including where these:**
    - **are continuing in 2027**
    - **have been delayed and the rationale for this**
    - **have been cancelled and the rationale for this.**

<u>Revenue</u>
ESSH received additional funding under the heading of "Supporting islanders and strengthening communities". This funding continues in 2027, and will continue to deliver against the same objectives (set out in the Annex to the Budget 2026-2029):

- Supporting parents
- Developing secondary pensions
- Improving inclusion
- Expanding pensioner healthcare support

In respect of supporting parents – the 2026 “Back to School Bonus” pilot has been expanded and subsumed into the 2027 Family Support Payment announced in the Budget.

Capital
The Transform programme will continue in 2027 and 2028. The programme is being rigorously managed, to support the efficient delivery of the programme on time, and on budget.

- **A detailed breakdown of how the proposed £117m allocated for ESSH will be spent.**

A breakdown of the spend is included in the Annex to the Budget 2027 and is broadly similar to allocations in previous years. If the Panel requires more specific information in particular areas then we would be happy to discuss how best to meet these requirements, for example via a briefing.

- **An outline of any changes in policy direction or delivery for 2027 and the impact thereof.**

As set out in the Budget and the CSP documents, the Council of Ministers has identified as one of its priorities to “Take targeted action to ease cost of living pressures”. This priority builds on existing social security policies and direction with extra support proposed to be provided in 2027 with a one-off expansion of the existing community cost bonus scheme, a remodelling of the back-to-school bonus into a family support payment and a doubling of the value of the Social Security parental grant.

The 2026 budget document identified a need for additional funding into the Long-Term Care Fund and included an increase of one percentage point in the long-term care contribution rate from 1 January 2027. The 2027 budget confirms the need for additional funding but sets out a phased approach to the increase, with no change in 2027 and then increases of 0.3pp in 2028, 0.4 pp in 2029 and 0.3pp in 2030. To support the Fund during 2027 a transfer of £5 million will be made into the Fund from central revenues.

- **An outline of any changes to staff posts and restructuring within your department and the anticipated resultant savings and impact on service delivery.**

The department has been allocated savings as part of wider government allocations. The Chief Officer is currently working with his senior team to determine how savings will be made.

I hope that the above is helpful to the Panel’s review and look forward to discussing these topics further at our forthcoming Public Hearing.

Yours sincerely



Senator Elaine Millar
Minister for Social Security