States Assembly

States Greffe

Senator Serena Kersten
Assistant Minister with Responsibility for Sport

BY EMAIL

18th November 2026

Dear Assistant Minister,

Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Proposed Budget 2027 to 2030 Review Hearing Follow-up

Firstly, thank you for your attendance at our recent review hearing of 18th November 2026. The Panel found the discussion most useful and was pleased to hear about the progression you are making in Sports and Arts Culture and Heritage. As highlighted during proceedings we have a number of questions which we were not able to ask and would be grateful to receive further information on, in order to aid in consideration of our scrutiny work,

1. Minister during the hearing you mentioned Gap analysis for sport would be taking place. Could you advise the Panel when you expect to receive this analysis and what role you expect it to play in budgeting process round sports going forwards?

2. Your letter of 5th November identifies a net operating budget of £4.745 million for sport in 2027. What priorities and objectives will you achieve with this budget?

3. Sport Business Development is expected to generate income of £3.386 million in 2027. Could you outline the principal sources of this income and explain any significant changes from previous years?

4. When will you have a fully costed infrastructure plan for hosting the 2035 Island Games and how will you distinguish investment needed for everyday community sport from additional investment required specifically to host the Games?

    a) The Government has approved £150,000 for Jersey's Island Games team to support Jersey athletes with travel and accommodation costs for the 2027 Island Games. Do you think this level of support will be required for future Island Games teams?

5. What do you expect Jersey Sport Limited to achieve with its anticipated core funding of £1.9 million in 2027, and the longer Budget period, and how will you assess whether the funding has delivered the intended benefits for sport and physical activity in Jersey?

6. The Proposed Budget mentions a “transition to three-year budgeting intended for Budget 2028” could you advise how the proposed move to a three-year budget could affect the grant recipients under your remit?

7. Can you please provide further detail on the proposed Transfer of School Swimming from Economic department to Infrastructure department, for example was the transfer purely administrative or does it reflect a change in policy responsibility, budget accountability or service delivery?

8. Given that 2027 marks the European year of the Normans and that Jèrriais is a living form of the Norman language, what opportunities are being explored to capitalise on this significant anniversary to raise Jersey’s international profile, attract cultural tourism and importantly create a lasting legacy for the preservation and wider use of Jèrriais.

9. Submissions made to the Panel outline concern as to the proportion that is split between Arts Heritage and Culture. Is there a formal policy on distribution of the 1% and if not, how do you make decision on the allocation?

10. The Arts, Culture and Heritage allocation includes £175k for sports travel. Can you explain the policy basis for including this within the 1% cultural funding commitment?

    a. Is there a policy as to what constitutes expenditure in these areas?

    b. A number of submissions have identified the need for further funding, or continued erosion though non inflation matching. (Jersey Heritage, Jersey Arts Centre). What actions are undertaken to mitigate these pressures?

    c. Can you advise if the overall 1% is being maintained why is Jersey Heritage reporting an 11% reduction in the real value of its grant since 2022?

    d. There is an anticipated of £170,000 for ACH events, can you confirm how this will be impacted by, and deconflict with, the events support funding of £400,000 which is being transferred to Visit Jersey in 2027?

    e. There is an indicated £1 million budget for the Jersey Opera House. Can you confirm the purpose of this funding and that this is not expected to be used for maintenance or rent?

    f. Assistant Minister during the hearing Jersey Opera House maintenance fund was mentioned would you be able to provide the Panel any more details around this?

    g. A budget of £216,000 is held in reserve as discretionary spend or yet to be allocated, in what situations would you anticipate this being used?

    h. The Panel noted your answers on the Art Centre funding and difficulties concerning further grant, are there any capital plans for the 2028 three year budget to factor in budget for long term viability of the Arts Centre?

11. The Minister for Economic Development has indicated that he will be looking to reprioritise spending wherever possible for additional funding for Visit Jersey. Will this impact upon your allocated budget for sport, arts, heritage or culture?

12. Assistant Minister, can you advise if there are any proposed savings relating to sport, arts, heritage or culture for 2027 if so, can you advise the Panel by how much and in what areas?

We would greatly appreciate receiving this information by 25th November 2026, however anything you can do to provide an earlier response would be greatly appreciated, noting the short timeframe until debate of the proposed budget. Please be advised that it is the Panel's intention to publish responses it receives on the States Assembly website.

Yours Sincerely,



Deputy Samantha Gleave
Chair, Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel