



Deputy I Gardiner  
Chair of Public Accounts Committee

***Via Email***

12 March 2026

Dear Deputy Gardiner

**Public Accounts Committee – follow up request**

Please find responses below following the request by email for further information following my recent quarterly hearing with the Public Accounts Committee.

**Clarification of the roles of Emergency Council and Competent Authorities, especially during non-emergency situations**

The functions of the Emergencies Council and Competent Authorities differ. Their statutory basis and functions are outlined below.

The Emergency Powers and Planning (Jersey) Law 1990 establishes the **Emergencies Council** as a standing body with responsibilities that operate continuously, not only in an emergency situation but also to prevent an emergency occurring (i.e. to prevent or mitigate the escalation of an emerging event). Even in normal conditions, the Council can be convened by the Chief Minister to:

- Provide strategic oversight of preparedness
- Ensure risks to life, health, essential services and community welfare are being actively managed, and
- Coordinate the maintenance of emergency and continuity plans across government.

Decisions are made by simple majority. A key part of this nonemergency role is ensuring that planning activity is informed by the Jersey Emergency Risk Register (JERR), which summarises the island's highest priority risks and is maintained through the emergency planning function to support islandwide preparedness and planning.

**Competent Authorities** are specific Ministers prescribed powers in the Emergency Powers and Planning (Jersey) Law 1990 Ministers designated under the Law with responsibility for essential service areas, including outside major incidents. These areas include:

- Food
- Water

- Fuel, electricity and gas
- Telecommunications
- Postal services and ports

Competent Authorities are all part of the Emergency Council and do not normally need to be convened separately unless specifically requested.

In both emergencies and non-emergency situations, the Emergencies Council have previously made recommendations to the Council of Ministers for ratification to take certain courses of actions that are appropriate to the situation.

### **Achieving value for money in procurement during emergency situations**

Procurement during emergency situations often needs to take place at pace, and in order to do so, some element of value for money may be compromised. However, it is always the intention to minimise this risk wherever possible. In addition, in emergency situations, value for money relating to the procurement of goods and services is largely dependent on the situation and the nature of the goods/services to be procured.

Where situations can be effectively controlled and planned for, the Government of Jersey will consider using contracted suppliers in the first instance. For example, the Government will use corporate contracts, frameworks and specialist services to deliver support such as both on- and off-island emergency accommodation by using hotels who have contracted rates with the organisation.

However, in a situation where the Government does not have direct control, such as in a pandemic scenario where multiple jurisdictions may be competing for the same goods and services, for example personal protective equipment, the Government would first turn to contracted suppliers. However, market forces may mean that swift procurement from other suppliers might be necessary and require conceding some element of value for money in order to meet objectives in a timely way. Treasury and Exchequer is undertaking activity to identify critical suppliers and to put in place frameworks to achieve best value for money possible in all scenarios.

### **Information on the size of the public sector and impact of controls that have been introduced**

The latest information that was produced for the States Employment Board is shared with the Committee in confidence.

Yours sincerely



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