



Senator Lyndon Farnham
Chief Minister of Jersey

Deputy Lyndsay Feltham
Chair, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
By email

7th August 2026

Dear Chair,

Re: Work Programme and Working Practices

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 July and for the positive message from the Panel. I share your desire for a constructive and collaborative working relationship with the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, which plays a vital role within Jersey's system of government. My interactions with the previous Panel were characterised by openness and cooperation, and I look forward to continuing that approach with the newly constituted Panel.

Quarterly Hearings and Working Practices

The hearings scheduled for Friday 18th September and Friday 16th October have been diarised, and I am content to proceed on the basis of two-hour hearings. It is, however, sensible to retain some flexibility where discussions can be concluded effectively within a shorter period. In my experience, focused and purposeful discussions are often more productive than longer meetings.

Ministers' objective during public hearings is to provide the Panel with the fullest and most helpful information possible to support its scrutiny work. With that in mind, I believe the proposal regarding the role of officers during hearings would benefit from further consideration. Senior officials provide essential technical expertise as well as operational and procedural context, which significantly enhances the quality of discussion and assists the Panel in its examination of issues. Their contributions complement the policy perspective provided by Ministers and form an important part of the evidence-gathering process.

For these reasons, I do not believe it would be practical for officers to be called to the table repeatedly during hearings. I would therefore propose that officers continue to participate in the manner that has worked effectively in previous years, sitting alongside Ministers and contributing where appropriate.

Work Programme

Please find below the responses to specific queries raised in your letter.

1. Details of priorities, legislative programme and timeline

My priorities as Chief Minister were set out in the statement accompanying my nomination and further outlined during my nomination speech. They are:

- Increasing economic growth
- Improving affordability and housing
- Maintaining strong and sustainable public finances
- Implementing the Investing in Jersey programme
- Increasing opportunities for young Islanders

These priorities have informed the development of the draft Common Strategic Policy (CSP), which is being developed by the Council of Ministers.

It is currently the intention to lodge both the CSP and the Budget by 29th September 2026, a timetable which would be in line with the requirements of Article 18 of the States of Jersey Law 2005. If drafts are available earlier, they will be shared with the Panel.

Ministers will continue to work closely with departments and the Legislative Drafting Office to finalise the 2027 Legislative Programme, which is scheduled for publication in November and will be shared with Scrutiny once approved by the Council of Ministers.

The programme will include the highest-priority legislation that need to be lodged during 2027. Other lower-priority proposals will be categorised as either ongoing or future legislative and policy development, and progress will be managed by the Legislation Working Group.

2. Priorities and outcomes for the Government's first 100 days

During the early weeks of this term, Ministers have been reviewing their portfolios and establishing their priorities for action and reform. A significant focus of the Council of Ministers has been the development of both the Common Strategic Policy and the first Budget of this administration.

The Council has identified a number of longer-term structural challenges facing Jersey, particularly in relation to our competitiveness as a jurisdiction. To improve living standards sustainably, we must grow the economy while also restoring long-term discipline and resilience to the Island's public finances.

While some immediate action is required in certain areas, including aspects of planning policy and affordability, the Council believes these challenges are best addressed through a coherent strategic programme rather than through a series of short-term measures aimed at an arbitrary 100-day milestone.

3. Common Strategic Policy and Budget 2027-2030 timelines

The anticipated lodging date for both the proposed Common Strategic Policy and the proposed Budget 2027-2030 is Tuesday 29th September 2026. Further information, together with arrangements for member briefings, will be shared with States Members and Scrutiny Panels in due course.

4. Council of Ministers meetings

Formal meetings of the Council of Ministers are currently scheduled between 25th August and 15th December 2026. Meetings are generally arranged on Tuesdays when the States Assembly is not sitting. The Panel will, of course, be advised of any additional meetings or workshops that may be required.

5. Recruitment and succession planning for the Chief Executive Officer role

As announced on 5th August, Paul Wylie has been appointed as the Government's next Chief Executive Officer and Head of the Public Service, with effect from 1 October 2026. A news release has been circulated to all States Members and public service staff have been informed.

Mr Wylie's appointment reflects the Government's commitment to investing in the professional development of our existing public service workforce while maintaining a strong succession pipeline for senior leadership positions.

He brings a wealth of organisational knowledge, established stakeholder relationships, and a deep understanding of both the opportunities and challenges facing the Island. His familiarity with the Government's strategic priorities, operating environment and culture will help provide continuity and stability across key programmes and services.

I trust this letter provides the Panel with useful information and look forward to working with you over this term of office. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyndon Farnham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Lyndon Farnham
Chief Minister