

Written submission – Review of the Proposed Budget 2026 – 2029
24th October 2025 – Jersey Student Loan Support Group

24/10/2025

Dear Deputy Curtis and panel members,

Having read the letter from the Ministers dated 16th October 2025 responding to the panel's budget review questions, I'm writing to express my concerns.

It was disappointing that Student Finance wasn't mentioned at all, aside from the changes effective from September 2025. These changes were largely the result of P12/2024 introduced by the previous Minister, Deputy Gardiner, and amended by the current Minister, Deputy Rob Ward.

However, there are still outstanding issues from that proposal. For example, the States Decision Tracker shows a review and report back to the assembly by December 2025 regarding the asset level used to determine student grants. There's also a review of courses currently omitted from the Clinical component grant, which weren't added for September 2025. We haven't seen any updates or been asked our views on these matters. Both of these sections of the student grant cause problems and questions every year, our members have a genuine interest in the outcome of any

P.12/2024 (as amended)	19/03/2024	Deputy Inna Gardiner	Update of Higher Education Student Funding (as amended)	ELL	Review and Legislation	research and consider introducing a sliding scale for the amount of tuition fees that may be awarded and bring forward the necessary legislative changes to the Education (Grants and Allowances) (Jersey) Order 2018 to implement any outcomes, subject to the necessary funding being allocated, with such changes to take effect from the start of the academic year in September 2025
P.12/2024 (as amended)	19/03/2024	Deputy Inna Gardiner	Update of Higher Education Student Funding (as amended)	ELL	Review	review the threshold for relevant assets detailed within Article 12A of the Education (Grants and Allowances) (Jersey) Order 2018, and to report back to the Assembly on the findings and recommendations of such review no later than December 2025
P.12/2024 (as amended)	19/03/2024	Deputy Inna Gardiner	Update of Higher Education Student Funding (as amended)	ELL	 Review	work with the Minister for Treasury and Resources to assess the long-term financial viability of any student loan scheme for Island students and undertake a consultation if appropriate
P.10/2024 (as amended)	19/03/2024	Deputy Lucy Stephenson	Cash Payment at Government Sports Facilities (as amended)	INF	Action	reintroduce the ability for members of the public to pay in cash at Government run sport facilities that have previously accepted cash payments
 P.72/2023 (Amd)(12)	12/12/2023	Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel	Proposed Government Plan 2024-2027 (P.72/2023); Twelfth Amendment Value for Money Savings	CoM	Action	all subsequent Government Plans will – (i) clearly distinguish the specific areas and projects to which Value for Money savings are attached; (ii) include a report on all Value for Money savings which were made during the duration of the previous Government Plan and (iii) identify and provide full details of the monitoring process that has been undertaken on the Value for Money programme

review of these areas.

P.12/2024 (as amended)	19/03/2024	Deputy Inna Gardiner	Education Student Funding (as amended)	ELL	Review and Legislation	enhanced targeted support and bring forward the necessary legislative changes to the Education (Grants and Allowances) (Jersey) Order 2018 to implement any outcomes, subject to the necessary funding being allocated, with such changes to take effect from the start of the academic year in September 2025
P.12/2024 (as amended)	19/03/2024	Deputy Inna Gardiner	Update of Higher Education Student Funding (as amended)	ELL	Review and Legislation	(c) consider the inclusion of 'related subjects' as eligible for a clinical component grant, if appropriate; (d) work with the Minister for Health and Social Services to review the scope for the clinical course allowance for 'related subjects', including consideration of the following areas, if appropriate – (i) Paramedic science; (ii) Pharmacy; (iii) Occupational Therapy; (iv) Podiatry; and (v) Physiotherapy/Chiropractic/Osteopathy; and bring forward the necessary legislative changes to the Education (Grants and Allowances) (Jersey) Order 2018 to implement any outcomes, subject to the necessary funding being allocated, with such changes to take effect from the start of the academic year in September 2025
P.12/2024 (as amended)	19/03/2024	Deputy Inna Gardiner	Update of Higher Education Student Funding (as amended)	ELL	Review and Legislation	update thresholds for means tested funding in line with inflation and relative earnings in a sustainable and affordable way, subject to the necessary funding being allocated and bring forward the necessary legislative changes to the Education (Grants and Allowances) (Jersey) Order 2018 to implement any outcomes, subject to the necessary funding being allocated, with such changes to take effect from the start of the academic year in September 2025
P.12/2024 (as amended)	19/03/2024	Deputy Inna Gardiner	Update of Higher Education Student Funding (as amended)	ELL	Review and Legislation	research and consider introducing a sliding scale for the amount of tuition fees that may be awarded and bring forward the necessary legislative changes to the Education (Grants and Allowances) (Jersey) Order 2018 to implement any outcomes, subject to the necessary funding being allocated, with such changes to take effect from the start of the academic year in September 2025

Similarly, we're unaware of any work done on student loans. Due to ring fencing our students are unable to access bank accounts that have an overdraft facility unlike UK students who do.

Given the lack of information in the budget document, we can only assume the maintenance grant for next academic year will be increased as it is now via AME. However, we don't know which index will be used or the date of that index.

We can only assume the Minister knows this, as he'll have included it in his budget.

The UK Secretary of State recently announced plans to increase the fee cap for English universities. Adopting a maintenance grant is also likely, but more details will be in the UK budget in November.

Our additional questions are: has the EDLL Minister made any provision for a possible increase in UK fees in his budget? Has he considered any catch-up for maintenance grants, which have seen some increases in recent years but haven't kept pace with years without any?

Kind Regards

Nicki Heath
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