Private and Confidential 17 November 2025

Deputy Montford Tadier
Chair – Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
Morier House
St. Helier
Jersey
JE1 1DD
Sent electronically to: m.tadier@gov.je

Dear Chair

Re: Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Proposed Budget 2026-2029 Review - Private Aircraft Decarbonisation Charge

Thank you for your letter regarding the decarbonisation charge which applies to private and business aviation aircraft at Jersey Airport. The charge was introduced following a review process with the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and a stakeholder consultation process.

Background

In response to the 2023 Government plan amendment, and aligned to the Ports Policy Framework, Ports of Jersey has worked collaboratively with key stakeholders (including Ministers, States Members, Government of Jersey officials, local business aviation and charter management companies) to explore the best way for Ports of Jersey to use its tariff structures at Jersey Airport to support the decarbonisation of the airport operations.

Following public consultation and approval from the JCRA, Ports of Jersey introduced a decarbonisation charge structure from 1 May 2025, to incentivise sustainable behaviours and provide essential funding to support the implementation of the policy goals contained in the Ports Policy Framework relating to sustainability. Revenue generated by the charge is ring-fenced solely for the delivery of the decarbonisation of Ports of Jersey activity and publicly reported on in Ports of Jersey's Annual Report.

The Treasury Minister has endorsed the introduction of the charge by Ports of Jersey and recommended to the Council of Ministers that work on a new carbon tax is paused to allow time for the Ports charge to be introduced, monitored and evaluated.

Overview

All private and business aviation aircraft over 3 tonnes must pay a separately identifiable decarbonisation surcharge, which will be added to movement charges. The different charge levels are set out below.

This decarbonisation charge is applicable for all private and business aviation over 3 tonnes landing at, and taking off from, Jersey Airport.

It does not include:

- Commercial airline aviation
- Military aviation
- Medical evacuation flights
- Search and Rescue aircraft
- Aircraft under 3 tonnes

Those registered with a Ports of Jersey account are eligible to apply for a discount if they can demonstrate the sustainable behaviours outlined below.

Level of charge

The decarbonisation charge amount has been set to provide an incentive to encourage sustainable behaviours, without overly causing a negative economic impact to the Island.

As mentioned earlier, Ports of Jersey undertook a stakeholder consultation process before introduction of the charge. As part of the process, benchmarking was completed and the initial charge was set to ensure that Jersey Airport fees and charges for private aviation would remain in line or lower than the majority of UK airports.

Furthermore, Ports worked closely with the Local Economy and Treasury team within Government of Jersey to ensure the initial charge was set at a level that minimised the risk of negatively impacting the Island's aviation sector.

For comparison, the French Government have recently introduced a tax on private and business aviation, at a minimum of €420 per passenger, up to €2,100 per person for international flights. As outlined below, the Jersey Airport's decarbonisation charge is significantly lower than this, along with the additional benefit of income being ringfenced solely for decarbonisation initiatives.

Jersey Airport fees and charges are determined by the aircraft's Maximum Take Off Weight (MTOW); consequently, the amount for the decarbonisation charge is also contingent upon MTOW.

With the decarbonisation charge (150% of the movement fee plus the price increase in 2026 of RPI of 2.8% + 1.8%) an aircraft of 6 tonnes will pay a decarbonisation charge of £56 in 2026.

The purpose of the charge is to encourage more sustainable behaviours by private and business aviation operators. If the aircraft / operator submits evidence of sustainable behaviours before the end of the year, the decarbonisation charge will reduce to 100% of the movement fee.

An example of a 6-tonne aircraft that does not apply for a discount for sustainable behaviours is shown below:

	2024	2025	2026+
Movement fees	£34	£35.70	£37.34
Decarbonisation charge	£0	£35.70	£56
Total cost per movement	£34	£71.40	£93.34

An example of a 6-tonne aircraft that does apply for a discount for sustainable behaviours:

	2024	2025	2026+
Movement fees	£34	£35.70	£37.34
Decarbonisation charge	£0	£35.70	£37.34
Total cost per movement	£34	£71.40	£74.68

Administration logistics and monitoring process

The decarbonisation charge is added automatically to every movement (i.e. landing and take-off) at a set rate.

Those customers that have a Ports of Jersey account (available to all users) for private and business aviation services, are able to apply to provide supporting evidence of sustainable behaviours to keep the decarbonisation charge to 100%. Those who do not provide the required documentation will receive an increase in charges of 150% of their movement fees for the following year.

Account holders are required to send in documentation on an annual basis, by the beginning of December retrospectively for the year, as supporting evidence of the sustainable behaviours, to receive the discount for the following year.

All submissions must be sent to sustainability@ports.je

Ports of Jersey does not anticipate incurring significant additional costs for administering the charge, which is one of the reasons why this charge was considered to be more favourable than a Government tax. The charge has been incorporated into the regular billing runs for Jersey Airport's fees and charges.

The only administrative area where the resource requirement is unclear relates to the analysis of any submissions for a "sustainable behaviour" discount. Applications for the discount in 2026 will be opened in November, at which point a better understanding of the resource requirement will be possible, although it is not anticipated to be overly onerous.

Discounted charge criteria

To be eligible for a discounted decarbonisation charge, demonstration of at least two of the following sustainable behaviours will be required:

- Mass balancing total annual fuel consumption through the local ATF scheme with at least a 5% blend of Sustainable Aviation Fuel, and/or providing evidence of Sustainable Aviation Fuel usage or mass balancing of total annual fuel consumption with at least a 5% blend of Sustainable Aviation Fuel across other jurisdictions.
- Reducing empty journeys year on year by at least 20% (across all operational jurisdictions), to reach a total of zero empty leg journeys.

It is important to note that the discount criteria will be reviewed on an annual basis to be applied the following year. Therefore, criteria may increase to include further measures, as future sustainable technology becomes available.

Allocation of funds raised through the decarbonisation charge

As agreed with Government and the JCRA, the revenue from the decarbonisation charge will solely be used to decarbonise Ports of Jersey's operations.

In line with Government's Carbon Neutral Roadmap, Ports of Jersey's sustainability strategy incorporates a goal of becoming Net Zero (Scope 1 and 2 emissions) by 2030. Ports of Jersey's Decarbonisation Roadmap, identifies the key areas of its operations that must be decarbonised to meet the Net Zero target, such as:

- Transitioning oil heating and diesel power generation (stationary combustion) to hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO)
- Transitioning vehicles and equipment (mobile combustion) to HVO or electric
- Ensuring efficient consumption of energy and increasing the generation of renewable energy
- Initiatives have also been identified to support the decarbonisation of the operations of key business partners that operate at Jersey Airport

To confirm, all of the money raised by the decarbonisation charge will solely be used to support decarbonisation initiatives and any funds raised by the charge will be publicly and transparently reported on annually as part of Ports of Jersey's annual reporting process.

For example, the amount raised in 2025 will be used to support:

- The transition to HVO for Jersey Airport heating and PoJ vehicles
- Introduction of SMART meters across the Airport, to provide data for energy reduction
- Two new electric vehicles for the Airport Rescue & Firefighting Service small vehicle fleet
- The transition to HVO of vehicles and equipment operating in the airfield at Jersey Airport.

Measuring resulting measurable carbon reduction

Ports of Jersey tracks and reports on the Scope 1 and 2 emissions in line with the Decarbonisation Roadmap, to ensure delivery against Net Zero targets. Ports of Jersey publishes its carbon footprint on an annual basis, which is audited externally on a biennial basis.

Ports of Jersey tracks the initiatives funded by the decarbonisation charge. In agreement with the JCRA and Government, the carbon savings from initiatives funded through the decarbonisation charge will be separately and transparently reported in Ports of Jersey's Annual Report.

Future plans

At this moment, there are no plans to extend the scope of the private aviation decarbonisation charge at Jersey Airport to include other classes of aircraft, as the risk of negatively impacting Jersey's air connectivity is considered high, which would impact other priorities in the Policy Framework for the Ports Sector. Ports of Jersey will however review and gather feedback on the governance around the charge on an annual basis, to ensure that it is achieving its intended purpose.

Any future consideration of extending the scope of the decarbonisation charge would be undertaken with Government and the JCRA, recognising the potential significant consequences on Jersey's air connectivity.

I trust the submission of information in this letter will assist the Committee in its ongoing review. Should any further clarification be required, we would be pleased to provide additional detail.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Thomas
CEO, Ports of Jersey

Email: matt.thomas@ports.je
www.ports.je

cc. Joseph Brannigan, Research and Project Officer (J.Brannigan@gov.je)