

Review: Proposed Budget 2026-2029

Submission: Asian Hornet Volunteer Group

Dated: 6th October 2025

I am a member of the Asian Hornet volunteer group, we trap and track hornets across the Island in order to manage their invasion here and protect bees, other pollinators and the environment.

This year, we have seen [record numbers of Queens](#) caught in the spring trapping: over 1300, and record numbers of nests found and destroyed: over 500 so far and we are still finding them.

Without the team of volunteers, the number of nests would quickly proliferate and Jersey is likely to see well over a thousand nests across the Island.

Volunteers have heard that there is a possibility that the Government is considering cutting the invasive species budget and stopping or reducing nest destruction. In the upcoming Budget, the Environment Department has been told to make a £500,000 cut next year. Dropping from £11,763m to 11,107m.

The work in trapping queens and hunting for the nests is done by a network of volunteers who put in thousands of hours each year, all unpaid.

If nests will no longer be destroyed then volunteers will stop their efforts as there will be little point.

If we allow the population of Asian Hornets to increase:

- There has been a record number of stings recorded this year and if Asian Hornet populations aren't controlled, then that will balloon. In France there have been several deaths from Asian Hornet nests being disturbed accidentally. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/news/man-dies-from-hornet-attack-while-gardening-in-north-of-france/745043> and <https://www.connexionfrance.com/news/hiker-dies-after-asian-hornet-attack-in-brittany/680017>
- We have already seen several bee keepers give up this year due to the bombardment of hornets attacking their hives and decimating their bee colonies. This will increase exponentially.
- Agriculture and the natural environment biodiversity will suffer due to the big reduction in pollinators. They cost the economies of Europe millions in lost revenue: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/jan/15/asian-hornets-killing-off-honey-bees-in-europe-say-meps>
- Tourism could be impacted if Jersey – which currently is praised globally as an Island that has been controlling the advance of Asian Hornets, gives up and

people will be unwilling to come to an Island that would have well over a thousand nests+ across it. We also play host to multiple bee keepers from several countries around the world who come here to learn our tracking techniques.

- Economically, besides tourism and agriculture being hit, there are many other small businesses who suffer losses. Tree surgeons and gardening firms, for example, have to stop work when a hornet nest is spotted and await its destruction. If we allow nests to proliferate then this will happen all the more frequently, along with accidents as people get badly stung after disturbing a nest.

The Jersey public are quite rightly, frightened of the threat posed by Asian Hornets. We have managed to keep their numbers under control. We will never eradicate them totally, but we can with the help of the team of volunteers and engaged public, prevent them from taking over the Island and threatening pollinators and Islanders.

Would the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel consider asking the Environment Minister to confirm that the Budget cuts will not impact in any way, the support provided for the Asian Hornet programme? That they will continue to support the destruction of nests as required?

Thanking you in advance.

Asian Hornet Volunteer Group Member