



Deputy Inna Gardiner
Chair - Public Accounts Committee

In reply to your letter attached to an email of 6th August 2025 regarding the **Arm's Length Bodies, Grants, and Subsidies Review**. The questions you posed are set out in bold below, and answers provided, in italics, thereto:

1) Please can you provide a brief overview of your organisation, including its purpose, structure, and main areas of activity:

The Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society (RJA&HS or Society) was founded in 1833, as a private organisation of subscribing members, and incorporated by an Act of the States of Jersey in 1884. It is registered with the Jersey Financial Services Commission as a 'Not for Profit' organisation. The Society is governed by a Council, and General Committees, comprising of honorary positions elected by general meeting of the membership.

The RJA&HS has evolved considerably since its foundation to reflect changes in society, science and industry, and works in a broad range of activity that elsewhere would be undertaken by a variety of separate organisations. The Society is made up of two departments;

The Agricultural Department has developed a focus on the breeding of Jersey cattle, through administration of the Jersey Herd Book, and promotion of Jersey agriculture, it also;

- *provides a range of professional services to the dairy industry through a subsidiary company, Jersey Island Genetics Ltd (JIG),*
- *runs commercial property, the Royal Jersey Showground, and*
- *undertakes charitable overseas development programmes, under the banner of Dairy for Development, supported by Jersey Overseas Aid.*

The Horticultural Department has a focus on the amenity horticulture sector through;

- *shows and competitions,*
- *visits and lectures, and*
- *provision of allotments to provide practical opportunities.*

Further details of our work can be found on our website www.royaljersey.co.uk where there are links to our annual reports.

2) What formal governance arrangements are in place within your organisation to oversee the use of Government funding (e.g. board oversight, financial controls, risk management, external audit)?

The Society receives government funding in two areas:

- *JIG is contracted by the Government of Jersey (GoJ) Department for the Economy to provide operational management of the Jersey Herd Management Scheme (JHMS) in support of the Jersey dairy industry.*
- *Dairy for Development receives grant funding for programmes in Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia and Nepal from Jersey Overseas Aid.*

The Society Council meets quarterly and monitors actual performance to an annual operations plan, receives quarterly actual to budget financial reports, annually reviews a risk register, and publishes externally audited annual accounts. The Board of JIG also receives quarterly financial reports, along with service delivery reviews, and is also externally audited.

3) What documentation are you required to submit when applying for or renewing funding (e.g. business plans, budgets, service delivery plans)?

JIG produces an annual JHMS service delivery plan which is reviewed by the relevant GoJ department on a quarterly basis, along with actual to budget financials and key performance indicators.

Dairy for Development programmes are under regular reporting procedures, on a project-by-project basis, and as required by Jersey Overseas Aid, including financials and relevant programme delivery targets.

4) How does your organisation demonstrate value for money in the use of Government funds (e.g. efficiency, outcomes delivered, community impact)?

JIG was given responsibility for JHMS after States of Jersey Department of Agriculture & Fisheries withdrew from frontline provision in 2004. Tenders for service provision were invited, and none were received. These services are considered essential and form part of the GoJ Rural Economy Strategy.

Jersey Overseas Aid promote the Dairy for Development initiatives as their 'flagship' programmes.

5) In your view, are there any areas where your organisation's role, services, or funding appear to duplicate or overlap with the activities of:

- a. Government departments;**
- b. Other Arm's Length Bodies; or**
- c. Other grant-funded organisations**
- d. Have you been asked to co-ordinate or align your work with any other Government-funded bodies to avoid duplication?**
- e. Are there aspects of the current grant management or oversight system that you believe could be improved?**

Not in any significant way, although as we undertake such a broad range of activities it is inevitable that there will be some areas of synergy. We remain alert to any potential for duplication and will raise such as it arises. We are always open to discussion as to how services can be improved and evolved to align with changing circumstances, and enjoy a practical working relationship with government departments

J Godfrey
CEO – RJA&HS
10th September 2025