

Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Review of the Proposed Budget 2027-2030

Written Submission – Jersey Police Authority

21.10.2026

Dear Deputy Li,

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2026 inviting the Jersey Police Authority ("JPA") to contribute to the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel's review of the Proposed Budget 2027 to 2030.

The Authority welcomes the opportunity to provide its observations and has responded to the questions raised as follows.

1. Does the Jersey Police Authority consider that the proposed Budget provides sufficient resources for the States of Jersey Police to meet its statutory responsibilities over the period 2027 to 2030?

On the information presently available to the Authority, it considers that the proposed Budget provides a reasonable basis upon which the States of Jersey Police can continue to discharge its statutory responsibilities.

The Authority would, however, be cautious about providing an unqualified assurance as to the sufficiency of resources throughout the period to 2030. Policing demand can change materially, both in volume and complexity. It will therefore be important that the adequacy of resources continues to be reviewed against actual and emerging demand and that sufficient flexibility is retained to respond to changing operational requirements.

2. Are there any significant funding pressures which the Authority believes are not fully reflected in the proposed Budget?

The Authority is not presently identifying a specific additional funding requirement beyond that proposed. There are, however, areas which will require continuing attention, including workforce resilience, specialist capability and the ability to respond to technological change and increasingly complex demands.

These are matters which the Authority will continue to monitor through its oversight arrangements. Should evidence emerge that operational requirements cannot reasonably be accommodated within available resources without adversely affecting policing capability or public protection, the Authority would expect those pressures to be identified and considered at that time.

3. Does the Authority believe the proposed Budget adequately reflects increasing demands associated with:

a. Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains an important and potentially resource intensive area of policing and frequently requires effective cooperation between the Police and other services. The Authority considers it important that sufficient capability is maintained to protect vulnerable individuals and respond appropriately as demand develops.

b. Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse similarly requires sustained attention and effective partnership working. The Authority considers it important that the Police retain the capability to respond effectively, whilst recognising that successful intervention and prevention also depend upon coordinated services beyond policing.

c. Online crime

Online and technology related crime presents an evolving challenge. The Authority considers that policing capability will need to continue to develop alongside technological change, including the maintenance of appropriate skills and specialist expertise. This is an area which should remain under close review as the nature and complexity of demand develops.

d. Serious and organised crime

The Authority considers it important that appropriate capability is maintained to address serious and organised crime. Such matters can be complex and may require specialist resources and cooperation with other agencies and jurisdictions. The Authority therefore supports continued monitoring to ensure that the resources and capabilities available remain proportionate to the risks faced.

e. Mental health related incidents

Mental health related incidents can place significant demands upon policing resources. The Police clearly have an important role where there is an immediate risk to an individual or the wider public. The Authority does not, however, consider that policing should become the default response where another service is better placed to address an individual's underlying needs.

Effective partnership working and appropriate provision across Government therefore remain important both for those requiring support and for the effective use of policing resources.

Taken together, the Authority considers that the proposed Budget provides a reasonable basis on which to address these areas of demand, although each should remain under review as its nature and complexity develop.

4. Are there areas where the Authority considers additional investment is required to maintain policing effectiveness?

At present, the Authority would characterise these as areas requiring continued and appropriate investment rather than identify a specific requirement for additional funding.

Maintaining workforce capability and resilience, developing specialist skills and ensuring that policing can respond effectively to technological change will remain important. Any case for additional investment should be supported by clear evidence of operational need and an understanding of the outcomes that investment is intended to achieve.

5. Does the Authority consider sufficient investment is being made across Government in early intervention and preventative services that reduce future demand on policing?

The Authority strongly supports effective investment in early intervention and preventative services. It is not, however, in a position to make a definitive judgement on the overall sufficiency of investment across Government.

From a policing perspective, effective early intervention has the potential to improve outcomes for Islanders and reduce avoidable demand upon the Police. The Authority therefore considers prevention to be an important part of the wider approach to managing future policing demand.

6. From the Authority's oversight role, are there areas where increased investment in services for children, young people or vulnerable individuals could reduce future policing demand?

The Authority considers that there are areas where effective investment could contribute to reducing future policing demand. In particular, effective safeguarding, mental health provision and early support for children, young people and vulnerable individuals have the potential to reduce harm and the likelihood of circumstances escalating to the point where police intervention becomes necessary.

The Authority also considers that investment alone is unlikely to be sufficient. Effective coordination between the Police and other agencies is equally important in ensuring that individuals receive appropriate support at the earliest opportunity.

7. Does the Authority believe the States of Jersey Police is achieving value for money from its current funding allocation?

From its oversight position, the Authority is satisfied that there is an appropriate focus on the effective use of the resources currently available to the States of Jersey Police.

The Authority does not, however, regard value for money as a static assessment and it remains an area requiring continuing scrutiny. Value for money should be considered more broadly than expenditure alone, taking account of the quality and effectiveness of

policing, the outcomes achieved for Islanders and whether resources are being directed appropriately towards areas of greatest need and risk.

The Authority will continue to provide appropriate challenge in this area as part of its oversight responsibilities.

8. Does the Authority consider that appropriate performance measures are in place to assess whether additional funding is delivering the intended benefits?

The Authority considers effective performance measurement to be important in demonstrating both policing effectiveness and value for money.

The Authority considers that performance measures should continue to develop to ensure that meaningful outcomes are assessed alongside levels of activity. Where additional funding is provided, there should be a clear relationship between the investment made, the improvement or capability it is intended to deliver and the resulting outcome. This will assist both the Authority and other stakeholders in assessing whether additional resources have achieved their intended purpose.

Overall, the Authority's position is one of cautious confidence. It recognises the wider pressures on public finances and the corresponding importance of ensuring that the States of Jersey Police continues to demonstrate that public money is being used effectively.

At the same time, policing must retain sufficient resilience and flexibility to respond to changes in demand, complexity and risk. The Authority will therefore continue to monitor the position carefully, supporting further investment where the evidence demonstrates that it is necessary, whilst maintaining appropriate scrutiny of the effective use of the resources already available.

The Authority trusts that these observations are helpful to the Panel in its review.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Harman

Simon Harman - Chairman

Jersey Police Authority