Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Review of the Proposed Budget 2027-2030

Written Submission – Victoria Queree, Founder of NEON Salon & School

25.10.2026

Dear Members of the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel,

I hope this email finds you all well. Ahead of this week's scrutiny meeting I wanted to write in my capacity as the founder of NEON, the Channel Islands only private hairdressing training provider to share some constructive considerations regarding the reported proposal for Highlands College to establish a town centre facility for its hair and beauty provision.

I welcome the continued focus on vocational education and the importance of ensuring that learners in Jersey have access to high-quality training and meaningful career opportunities. As the founder of a business committed to developing skills and supporting the local hairdressing industry, I believe it is important that decisions about the future of our industry are informed by a clear understanding of existing provision and industry needs.

NEON currently delivers all hairdressing apprenticeships in Jersey (academic year 2026/2027), at beginner and advanced levels, with learners developing their skills within a real salon environment. We have been trading for ten years and in that time have delivered the majority of Hairdressing apprenticeships as outlined by data already held by government.

With any proposed new facility potentially involving public investment, I believe it would be beneficial for the Panel to establish how the proposal has been assessed in the context of the provision already available in Jersey, and what additional benefits it is expected to deliver for learners, employers and the wider community.

I would welcome consideration of the following questions as part of the Panel's scrutiny work:

1. What specific gaps in training opportunities is the proposed town centre facility intended to address?
2. How has consideration been given to ensuring that the proposed facility complements existing provision and makes the best possible use of the training opportunities and facilities already available within the island?
3. Has the Government explored opportunities for collaboration between Highlands College and established training providers, including models that could support learners while making effective use of existing resources and industry expertise?
4. What financial assessment has been undertaken to compare the costs and anticipated benefits of establishing and operating a new facility with alternative approaches, including potential collaborative arrangements?
5. What measurable outcomes will be used to assess the proposal's educational value, benefits to local employers and overall value for money for Jersey taxpayers?

I fully recognise the importance of Highlands College and the valuable role it plays in Jersey's education and skills landscape. My intention in raising these points is not to challenge that

role, but to encourage a considered and evidence led approach that recognises the contribution of all providers involved in developing the island's future workforce.

As founder of NEON, I want to highlight the importance between education, apprenticeships and sustainable salon businesses. The long term health of our industry depends on clear training pathways, high standards of practical education and positive opportunities for learners. I believe that understanding the existing landscape and exploring opportunities for collaboration will be important in achieving these shared objectives.

I would therefore be grateful if the Panel could take these considerations into account ahead of its meeting on Thursday 29 October and the forthcoming budget scrutiny hearing with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning on 2 November.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Many thanks,

Victoria Queree

Founder, NEON Salon & School