Minister for Education
and Lifelong Learning

Government of JERSEY

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Deputy Catherine Curtis
Chair – Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Sent by email only

09 November 2026

Dear Chair,

Follow up questions from Public Hearing held in October

Thank you for your email of 2nd November requesting further information following the public hearing held on 15th October 2026. The answers to your questions are provided below and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any more information.

1. **Online Harms: Confirmation of the anticipated timeline for publication of the legislative gap analysis relating to online harms.**

   The Jersey Law Commission will produce a legislative gap analysis report to the Legislative Advisory Panel by the end of December 2026.

2. **2-3 Year-Old Childcare Funding Pilot: The number of applications that were unsuccessful or rejected under the pilot scheme.**

   Applicants submitting claims that are declined are contacted by the childcare funding support team to help resubmit a valid application, corrections are typically straightforward. Average claim processing time from receipt of a valid application (to date submitted for payment) is 8 days against a service level of 20 days.

   547 applications received between Jan 1st 2026 and 31st October 2026 were initially declined due to errors made in the application (primarily invalid/insufficient receipts or errors in the child/claimant details). These claims were subsequently resubmitted correctly and approved. A further 18 applications were declined and not resubmitted as the claimant already receives Income Support, is on the JCCT list or a claim had already been received and approved for that child.

   Note: These figures include more than one invalid application received from some claimants and therefore the total does not correspond to 565 unique children.

3. **School Deficits:**

   - **The number of primary, secondary and special schools currently operating in deficit, together with the value of those deficits.**

The number of primary, secondary and special schools forecasting a deficit by the end of December this year is 13. The total deficit for those schools is £3.2m.

- **The number of schools that have entered deficit recovery plans since the previous quarterly hearing. (2nd Feb 2026)**

  There have been no schools that have entered deficit recovery plans since the previous quarterly hearing. In fact, the number and total value of those deficits has fallen since the last hearing by 5 schools and £2.1m. Furthermore, 9 schools are now within 1.5% of their budget allocation for 2026 (total deficit of £0.4m), with only 4 schools forecasting a deficit of greater than 5% of their budget allocation (total deficit of £2.7m).

4. **Jersey Premium Attendance Data: Information on the rate of persistent absence amongst Jersey Premium pupils compared with their peers.**

   For the most recent academic year (2025/26), the attendance rate for pupils in receipt of Jersey Premium was 89.0%, compared with 94.1% for their peers. This covers pupils in Reception up to Year 11, and includes both am and pm sessions. Study leave for Year 11 has been removed.

   The rate of authorised absence was 7.6% for pupils in receipt of Jersey Premium and 4.5% for their peers. The unauthorised absence rate was 3.4% for pupils in receipt of Jersey Premium, compared with 1.4% for their peers.

   In 2025/26, 34% of Jersey Premium pupils were persistently absent (ie missed 10% or more of available sessions), compared with 13.7% of their peers.

5. **SEND Inclusion Funding: A breakdown of the £6.1 million inclusion funding allocation, showing how the funding has been distributed and utilised.**

   The growth was secured in Government Plan 2023 to 2027 and was allocated out as follows:

Growth scheme 1-CYPES-GP23-001	£ Budget allocation
Inclusion Funding Formula – directly into school budgets	3,211,000
Central Inclusion team - school support services	727,000
New inclusion projects (assessment, therapies, period products)	180,000
Early Years Inclusion	967,000
Staff recruitment, development and support	1,020,000
Total	**6,105,000**

6. **Inclusion Staffing Funding: Information on the proportion of the £25.7 million inclusion staffing budget that is spent on staff working directly with children and young people, together with any available workforce breakdown.**

   The data used for WQ 119 2026 (which is where we believe the £25.7m figure has come from), has been reused for this response. The total budget has moved – note that inclusion budgets are allocated throughout the year depending on a child's need.

	Budgeted FTE	Budget FTE %	Budget	Budget Proportion
Administration	14.89	3.32%	824,005	3.02%
Front Line	369.20	82.34%	21,390,700	78.39%
Supervision & Monitoring	64.29	14.34%	5,072,108	18.59%
	448.38	**100.00%**	**27,286,813**	**100.00%**

Definitions of the categories remain as described in WQ 119 2026:

Administrative Staff:

This category includes inclusion administration support staff, attendance managers, secretaries, and other administrative roles.

Frontline:

This category includes all inclusion service frontline delivery teams, such as teachers, learning support assistants, emotional wellbeing officers, counsellors, and other frontline staff. It also includes operational support roles that directly enable service delivery, such as caretakers, drivers, and kitchen staff at Mont à l'Abbé School.

Supervision and Monitoring:

This category includes team leaders and managers, Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs), Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), and other staff with oversight, supervisory, or monitoring responsibilities. These posts will also have a significant amount of Frontline delivery.

Important Note:

Funding for staff is tracked and reported by post rather than by the categories requested above. Consequently, the categorisation presented is an estimate that has been prepared to the best of our knowledge based on the information available at a specific point in time. It is also important to note that inclusion features as a component of many, many roles and cannot be separately identified or extracted.

7. Higher Degree Apprenticeships: Data on the uptake and participation levels of higher degree apprenticeships.

Academic Year	No. of Higher apprentices in learning at Highlands
2022/23	40
2023/24	39
2024/25	29
2025/26	19
2026/27	43

Notes:
*2022/23 – 2025/26 Distinct learner count report (completers), exception in 2024/25 as this includes ‘continuing’ learners.
*2026/27 is based on existing enrolled learners.

8. **Adult and Community Education Funding: Details of funding trends over the last three years, including any increases or decreases in expenditure.**

Funding requirements for Adult and Community Education have fluctuated over the last three years, reflecting changes in both income levels and operational staffing requirements.

Year	Income £	Staffing £	Non-staffing £	Net Expenditure £
2024	236,000	255,500	23,750	**43,250**
2025	183,000	272,750	13,700	**103,450**
2026	186,000	167,000	9,000	**-10,000**

In 2024, the programme recorded net expenditure of £43,250, with an income of £236,000 largely offsetting delivery costs.

In 2025, net expenditure increased to £103,450. This was primarily due to a reduction in income, together with higher staffing costs arising from temporary measures required to maintain continuity of provision for Islanders during periods of long-term staff absence and leadership transition within the service.

The 2026 forecast position shows a significant improvement, with net expenditure reducing to £14,000. This reflects the service, a modest increase in income, and reduced staffing costs.

Overall, despite short-term variances, Adult and Community Education has continued to maintain service delivery and community access to learning opportunities, with the forecast position for 2026 indicating a positive return.

9. **Support for Adult Learners: Information on the support available to adults on low incomes and those with caring responsibilities to enable access to courses and lifelong learning opportunities.**

Highlands College

Generally, where an adult does not hold a full Level 3 qualification (e.g. 3 x A Levels, Access to HE Diploma or BTEC National Extended Diploma) Highlands College will subsidise the tuition costs. For example: Foundation Diploma in Creative Arts. This consideration is made within a fee waiver process which is administered by the college's Registry department. Island skills need sector areas will also be considered. For example: a learner wishing to study an Access to HE programme with a health career goal (e.g. Adult Nursing) may be considered for a fee waiver.

The Highlands Foundation is also an independent non-profit charity, dedicated to helping students access the resources, opportunities, and guidance they need to reach their full potential.

Foundation support may include:

- Student Bursaries: Helping with the costs of studying, discover the student bursary options below.
- Extra-Curricular Learning: Funding trips and learning opportunities outside the classroom.
- Essential Equipment: Laptops, tools, uniforms, and other resources to support course progress.

Students can apply through the website for bursary and support this is then reviewed by the Foundation Committee.

Funding Support for Education and Training

There is no separate education funding allocation specifically for people with caring responsibilities. However, they and adults on low incomes can apply for support through existing financial support schemes, subject to each scheme's requirements.

For eligible higher education courses, financial support is available through the Education (Grants and Allowances) (Jersey) Order 2018. [1] Funding under the Order is means-tested, with greater support offered to those on lower incomes.
Applicants must also meet the relevant course and other eligibility requirements. Caring responsibilities do not determine eligibility or the amount of grant awarded.

The Order mainly provides funding for courses at Level 4 and above, including both degree and non-degree courses. This includes higher-level apprenticeships, including degree apprenticeships. It also covers certain postgraduate courses preparing students for professional examinations, while funding is also available for a full-time Level 3 arts-related course undertaken in the British Islands.

For other postgraduate study, the Jersey Bursary offers funding for master's and doctoral courses.[2] Both the Bursary and the Order support part-time and distance learning, subject to different rules for each funding route and course type. These options can help people study alongside caring responsibilities.

Funding is also available through the apprenticeship subsidy for apprentices undertaking qualifications at Level 3 and below.[3] This support is available to apprentices of all ages.

The Skills Development Scheme provides a further route for supporting training in areas where skills shortages have been identified. Depending on the need identified, funding can include subsidising training costs for individuals, as well as supporting the costs of setting up or delivering training. This can help reduce the cost of training for individuals and make relevant skills development opportunities more accessible

Educational trusts and bursaries also offer financial assistance independently of government. Each sets its own criteria and awards though Student Finance maintains and publishes a list of these.[4]

Support for Jobseekers

Adults registered with Back to Work can access a broad programme of training and development support free of charge, helping to reduce financial barriers to participation in learning. This includes employability support such as CV writing and interview skills, digital skills training including use of AI tools, City & Guilds qualifications, sector-based training, and personal development programmes focused on confidence and resilience.

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[1] https://www.jerseylaw.je/laws/current/ro_86_2018
[2] https://www.gov.je/Working/SkillsCareersHigherEducation/StudentFinance/pages/postgraduatecourses.aspx
[3] https://www.gov.je/Working/SkillsCareersHigherEducation/TrainingLearning/pages/skillsshortages.aspx
[4] https://www.gov.je/Working/SkillsCareersHigherEducation/StudentFinance/pages/trustsbursariesgiftfunds.aspx

For eligible Income Support recipients, additional support includes paid training opportunities, including 12-week work placements which provide opportunities to learn new skills, as well as employment incentives which can lead to a guaranteed full-time employment contract at the end of a placement. In 2025, 934 clients attended training courses and workshops across the Back to Work curriculum.

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

Alongside the financial, training and other support outlined above, Skills Jersey provides free careers guidance for adults at any stage of their working lives, including older adults considering a career change or returning to work. [5] The department helps people identify their strengths, interests and options, navigate available funding and explore local training and education options that could fit around work or caring responsibilities.

Practical support includes career-matching tools, information on courses, job-search planning, help with CVs, applications and interview preparation, and support to arrange work experience and placements.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Catherine Curtis
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

[5] https://www.gov.je/Working/SkillsCareersHigherEducation/CareersGuidance/Pages/GuidanceAppointments.aspx