9 November 2026

Deputy Samantha Gleave
Chair
Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
Morier House
St Helier
Jersey JE1 1DD

Dear Deputy Gleave

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE (JAC) COMMENTS ON PROPOSED GOJ BUDGET 2027-2030**

Thank you for the invitation to provide comment on the Proposed Budget for 2027-2030. The comments below are broadly in line with our previous comments on the 2025-2028 budget from a similar invitation from Scrutiny in October 2024.

We welcomed from the outset the government commitment to set aside 1% of revenue expenditure to Arts, Culture & Heritage (ACH).

However, it is a concern that if the budget for, say, Jersey Music Service no longer sits within Education, but within ACH, then there will be a de facto cut within our sector because a significant new cost is being added. However, we fully appreciate the artistic, philosophical and practical benefits of Jersey Music Service sitting within the sector.

The current indication from our department suggests there might be a 2% inflationary increase in revenue grants but RPI for September 2026 is declared at 3%. If 2% is applied, then this is a cut in real terms.

While we understand the challenges presented by current financial restraints, we must express our continued deep disappointment that the funding of the critical works at JAC has continued to be excluded in capital projects. JAC is, and has been, a key cultural asset for Jersey since 1983, and after the lockdown of Covid, was the Island's only permanent performance venue for five years.

In 2021 a £2.9m fiscal stimulus award was allocated to JAC before being withdrawn and in 2022, there was another agreement to present our needs to the States.

Our premises face urgent issues, including structural decay, fire safety improvements, accessibility challenges, and outdated services as there has been no significant modernization since our inception. Our recent feasibility report, shared with government on 12 April 2024, confirms the need for these works as a matter of urgency.

It identifies essential repairs, notably to the roof (which is presumed to contain asbestos) and which is regularly failing, causing internal damage. It also proposes a comprehensive modernisation plan which will make the venue fit for purpose and future-proof it for many years including significant gains to our energy efficiency - currently far below acceptable levels, enhancing energy efficiency from a non-rated to a C EPC rating, and expansion to accommodate additional administrative staff.

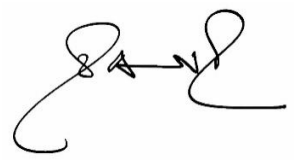
These changes required an estimated £9,855,230 in 2024. More than two and half years have now passed, and this cost will need revising due to inflation. We recognise that this is a significant sum, but failing to act now will inevitably result in further expense in the future, as well as impacting our ability to run the venue.

The improvements will future proof the JAC, and enhance its sustainability, making sure it remains a vibrant cultural and artistic hub. One of the 11 priorities of the Common Strategic Policy for 2026-2030 is to regenerate and invest in the town centre by improving community space and leisure facilities. Given the recent developments to the surroundings in Charles Park, the desired maintenance and visual enhancement of JAC would complete the impressive Public Realm revitalisation of the area and its further potential as a cultural district.

Jersey Arts Centre remains fully appreciative of the Government of Jersey's investment in the Association, through its historic revenue grant, occasional building grants and for its ***playdays*** Children's Festival grants.

We look forward to hearing the discussion on the proposed budget, and hope that the above is helpful in relation to Jersey's Arts Centre and in safeguarding the future of our Association. However, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information or clarification.

**Yours sincerely**



**DANIEL AUSTIN**
Director
Jersey Arts Centre Association

**Attachments:**

- JAC Letter - 5 October 2022 (in response to withdrawal of Fiscal Stimulus award)
- Deputy Morel's response - 12 October 2022 (with £150k award and commitments)
- JAC Letter - 10 April 2024 (presenting Feasibility Report findings)
- Deputy Morel's response - 29 May 2024