09 November 2026
By email only

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

Dear Deputy Gleave,

Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel - Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (**the JCRA**) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel's review of the Proposed Budget 2027-2030.

The JCRA is Jersey's competition and economic regulator. It promotes competition in the supply of goods and services and regulates the ports, postal and telecommunications sectors for the benefit of the public, businesses and the local economy. Our response follows the questions raised by the Panel and focuses on those areas most relevant to the JCRA's responsibilities.

1. What are your overall views on the proposed Budget 2027-2030?

The JCRA welcomes the Budget's focus on financial discipline, economic growth, competitiveness, affordability and securing better outcomes for Islanders.

Effective competition can support these objectives by encouraging businesses to become more efficient, innovate and offer consumers better value and choice. However, Jersey's small size means that some markets may support relatively few suppliers. Where effective competition is limited, proportionate regulation or other policy intervention may be required to protect consumers and support well-functioning markets.

Government interventions should therefore be designed and implemented in a way that supports effective competition and avoids unnecessary market distortions.

2. Which budget proposals are most likely to affect competition in Jersey's markets, positively or negatively? Could any measures change barriers to entry or expansion or materially advantage some providers over others and what would this mean for consumer choice and prices?

Government decisions on expenditure, taxation, financial support and regulation can affect how markets operate. The impact will often depend on how individual measures are designed and implemented. When designing Government measures, it is important to consider whether they:

- treat businesses in comparable positions on an equivalent basis;
- create unnecessary barriers to entry or expansion;
- disproportionately benefit incumbent or selected providers; or
- restrict businesses' ability or incentive to compete and innovate.

There may therefore be merit in introducing a proportionate competition assessment for significant Government interventions. The UK Competition and Markets Authority already provides guidance for policymakers on assessing the competition effects of regulatory, policy and spending

proposals.[1] Its approach uses an initial assessment to determine whether more detailed analysis is needed.

For Jersey, any such approach could focus on significant measures where there is a reasonable prospect of affecting the number or range of suppliers, barriers to entry or expansion and/or businesses' ability to compete. Considering these issues early in policy development could help identify less distortive ways of achieving Government objectives without introducing unnecessary additional process.

3. What opportunities and risks should the Panel consider as part of its review of the Budget?

The Budget provides an opportunity to ensure that competition and market evidence are considered alongside financial and wider policy objectives when Government intervenes in markets. For example, effective competition in Government procurement and the delivery of major investment can support value for money while providing opportunities for businesses to compete.

A risk is that measures introduced for legitimate policy reasons have unintended effects on competition. For example, procurement requirements could unnecessarily limit the number of credible bidders, while financial support could give some businesses an advantage over others.

4. Are there any additional measures, priorities or areas of investment that you believe should be considered, and why?

The JCRA considers that further investment in Jersey's competition and regulatory capability could contribute to the Government's objectives for productivity, economic growth, affordability and value for money. The JCRA's business planning includes the further development of its market intelligence and surveillance capability, economic and competition analysis, and a programme of market studies and sector reviews.

Additional capability would allow the JCRA to understand more clearly how Jersey's markets are functioning, identify emerging competition or consumer issues earlier and examine markets where there may be scope to improve outcomes.

There is evidence that the JCRA's work delivers significant economic benefits. An independent impact assessment, undertaken by Frontier Economics, estimated direct economic benefits of £22.7 million to £41.6 million from seven selected JCRA activities between 2020-2025. This was equivalent to an estimated benefit of £5.60 to £10.20 for every £1 of relevant JCRA funding.[2]

The JCRA therefore considers that strengthening Jersey's competition and market-analysis capability represents a targeted investment that can support better policy, better-functioning markets and better outcomes for Islanders.

The JCRA would be pleased to provide the Panel with any further information that would assist its review.

Yours sincerely



Tim Ringsdore
Chief Executive Officer

[1] Competition assessment: guidelines for policymakers - GOV.UK
[2] See: A-007 - JCRA Impact Assessment 2020-2025 | JCRA