JERSEY FARMERS UNION

9th November 2026

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

Dear Deputy

Thank you for your letter of 26th October, inviting the JFU to comment on the Proposed Budget 2027 - 2030

We are pleased that agriculture is 'back' at Howard Davis Farm and that the budget transfer TR14 will be moved to the new Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

The recurring funding of £1.1 million per annum from 2027 for agriculture and fisheries support from the Better Business Support package which was approved by the States Assembly is most welcome. The industry is very grateful to the Assembly for ensuring this funding continues in perpetuity.

This recurring funding remaining part of the overall funding definitely supports the long-term sustainability and the resilience of the sector. Whilst not the most supportive when compared to other jurisdictions, it nonetheless a massive 1000% improvement from where we were in 2019 and helps the industry cope with rising costs more easily.

The dairy industry remains in a strong position thanks to excellent use of genetics, fantastic marketing of a growing range of products, all reinforced with renewed government support which is helping attract the next generation into the industry.

Having watched the success of the dairy industry closely, elements from within the potato industry, backed by government support, have pioneered new harvesting and packing systems and are proactively seeking out new export markets. These are already delivering positive outcomes and lighting the way to a brighter future. Encouraged by what they see, the next generation is keen to become involved. It may be that the budget is increased in future not from a survival aspect but rather the desire to accelerate growth into these and constantly added new markets.

All the support arrangements that are in place are generally right for their time but can and no doubt will be tweaked for both agriculture and fisheries going forward. This will be keenly monitored by the JFU in cooperation with the other stakeholders and the new Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

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The JFU would like to see the Better Business Productivity Grants scheme continue across all industries with special consideration for agriculture where increased support could be given by increasing the level of match funding to better reflect the needs of the industry.

One area of concern that we have with the budget is a proposal to increase LTC. This affects our seasonal workers unfairly as they will never benefit from this tax as they will not be living in Jersey permanently in later life. With the average working week of our workers being 49.5 hours at an hourly pay rate of £13.59, this equates to £393.00 of LTC tax paid in the maximum 9 months that they are in Jersey. With LTC rising to 2.5% this rises to £655.88, equal to £72.87 per month.

Putting things into an interesting context, the employer provides fully furnished accommodation at £152.60 per week, it is shameful that the government should demand a further £16.82 as LTC tax per week from each employee for providing absolutely nothing

Adding to this injustice the £26,235 that they actually earn is translated into the 12 month equivalent of £35,000 for the purpose of calculating their ITIS rate. The Jersey Farmers' Union would like to see migrant workers on seasonal permits paying no LTC and their ITIS spread over a 12 month period as they are forced by Immigration rules to leave the island for 3 months. Also, as the earning potential in the year is a maximum of 39 weeks with paid holidays taken when out of the island, the average hours worked by our migrant workers is actually equivalent to over 35 hours per week when spread over 52 weeks. They should therefore receive 12 months of tax allowances.

Yours sincerely



D A Richardson
President