PORTS OF JERSEY

Deputy Samantha Gleave
Chair
Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel
States Greffe
Morier House
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9th November 2026

Dear Deputy Gleave,

Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

Thank you for your letter of 26 October, inviting Ports of Jersey to contribute to the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel's review of the Proposed Budget 2027-2030.

Ports of Jersey values the emphasis on restoring competitiveness, investing in the Island and creating the conditions for sustainable economic growth, and welcomes the recognition of these priorities in the Proposed Budget and Common Strategic Policy. Maintaining competitiveness as a place to live, work, invest, and visit will be critical to achieving that ambition.

Stronger connectivity and investment in Jersey's gateways are practical ways to deliver these priorities. They provide critical support to the Common Strategic Policy's focus on financial and professional services, and wider economic competitiveness. Furthermore, they also support existing policies, notably: the Ports Policy Framework's priorities for air connectivity and investment; the Time to Win report's call for better connectivity and Island infrastructure; and the Visitor Economy Strategy's ambition to protect and grow high-value UK and European air links.

Connectivity

For Jersey's island economy, connectivity is fundamental to growth. Air and sea links connect businesses to customers, markets and investment; enable the movement of people and skills; support the visitor economy; and give Islanders access to opportunities and essential services elsewhere.

Recent economic impact analysis undertaken by Arup, demonstrates the scale of the economic and social impacts that Ports has on the island. This analysis estimates that the visitor economy facilitated through the Ports generated £216 million of GVA, while business travel facilitated by Jersey Airport

contributed an estimated £519 million. Together, business and leisure travel facilitated through the Ports represented approximately 11% of Jersey's GDP.

The study further showed that if Ports of Jersey delivers its projected growth by 2030 (12% passenger growth), it will have a positive impact of 3 percentage points growth in Jersey's GDP.

This evidence reinforces our view that connectivity should be explicitly recognised as an enabler of the Government's economic growth agenda, rather than viewed solely as a transport issue. Its value extends beyond the direct activity of the Airport and Harbour into tourism, the finance industry, international business and the wider Island economy – as well as providing vital connectivity for islanders.

The government has an opportunity to support this growth by providing additional funding for route development and destination marketing as complementary parts of a joined-up approach to connectivity. Working with Ports of Jersey, Visit Jersey, airlines, ferry operators and the wider industry, this additional funding can help retain and grow strategically important connections, develop commercially sustainable services and promote Jersey in the markets they serve. By supporting the visitor economy and strengthening access to markets for Jersey businesses, this investment can deliver wider economic value in line with the Common Strategic Policy's ambitions for sustainable growth and competitiveness.

Investment and enabling growth

Ports of Jersey also has an important role to provide and unlock investment, both in critical airport and harbour infrastructure, as well as unlocking significant investment opportunities, such as, in hotels and business aviation hangarage – a combined total of more than £250 million over the next five years.

Projects such as the Airport Departure Lounge, airport hangar development and the proposed redevelopment of La Folie demonstrate how investment in Jersey's gateways can go beyond maintaining essential infrastructure. They can improve the visitor experience, enable new commercial activity and create opportunities for wider economic development.

We therefore welcome the Government's focus on deregulation and creating better conditions for investment. The opportunity now is to ensure that viable projects capable of supporting economic growth can move from concept to delivery with less unnecessary friction.

Planning and regulatory processes have an important role in protecting Jersey's interests, and appropriate safeguards must remain. However, those processes should also be proportionate, co-ordinated and responsive. Greater certainty and more efficient decision-making for well-considered developments would help Ports of Jersey, Government and private investors turn investment intentions into economic activity more quickly.

Conclusion

Overall, Ports of Jersey supports the Government's focus on growth, competitiveness and investment. We encourage the Panel to consider two areas in particular. First, connectivity should be explicitly recognised as economic infrastructure, and an enabler of growth, with route development and destination marketing supporting that objective. Secondly, Jersey should continue to make it simpler and more attractive to invest, including through proportionate regulation and efficient planning and approval processes.

Ports of Jersey intends to continue playing its part by investing in our Airport and Harbour, strengthening Jersey's connectivity and developing commercially sustainable opportunities that support the wider economy.

We believe that the combination of strong connectivity, continued investment and a more enabling environment for growth can make an important contribution to delivering the ambitions set out in the Budget and Common Strategic Policy.

Yours sincerely,



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