

Correspondence via email: L.Feltham2@gov.je

Dear Deputy Feltham,

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel - Proposed Budget 2027–2030

Thank you for inviting the Jersey Care Commission (the Commission) to contribute to the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel's review of the Proposed Budget 2027–2030. The Commission recognises the challenging financial environment and remains committed to delivering its statutory functions efficiently, effectively and in the public interest. Our responses are set out below.

1. Please can you outline the discussions that have taken place regarding your Proposed Budget 2027–2030 allocations?

The Jersey Care Commission's Strategic Plan for 2027 was submitted to our accountable officer and minister on the 14th September 2026 and published on our website on the 17th September 2026. The Strategic Plan sets out the Commission's strategic context, regulatory approach, priorities and planned outcomes for 2027, together with the resources required to discharge its statutory functions under the Regulation of Care (Jersey) Law 2014. [DOC Jersey-Care-Commission-Strategic-Plan-2027_20260615.pdf](#)

The Strategic Plan stated that the Commission did not consider that additional funding is required beyond the provision already identified within the Government of Jersey's current budget assumptions for 2027. The funding assumptions underpinning the Strategic Plan included Government funding of £1,693,000 for 2027, supplemented by expected fee income and funding associated with changes to professional registration.



Subject to the continuation of existing Government funding commitments, including provision for agreed pay awards, inflationary pressures and funding associated with professional registration changes, the Commission assessed that it would have sufficient resources to discharge its statutory functions and deliver the strategic priorities set out in the Plan during 2027.

The Strategic Plan raised the more significant financial challenge for the sustainability of funding beyond 2027 as regulatory responsibilities continue to expand and major inspection programmes enter periods of peak activity which will require additional resource.

The Commission was advised by the Cabinet Office on 24 September 2026 that its government funding would be reduced by £84,000 from 2027. This was not identified during budget discussions or known before the Board approved and published their Strategic Plan. This was based upon funding levels discussed in our regular meetings with our accountable officer and the Government of Jersey finance team. Since becoming aware of the reduction, the Commission has begun considering the implications for its operating model, statutory responsibilities and service delivery, and remains committed to constructive engagement with Government on the rationale and practical effects.

a. Where have any savings been achieved within your organisation?

The Commission has delivered recurring savings of approximately £270,000 a year, equivalent to around 13.5% of its historic funding baseline, while its statutory remit and regulatory responsibilities have significantly expanded.

Through careful financial management and service redesign (including reducing the pharmacist role to 0.5 full-time equivalent and inspections in social care taking place in grouped 'blocks'), it has protected frontline regulation and public assurance. The Commission now operates with a lean structure and small workforce, and much of its remaining expenditure is fixed, supports statutory infrastructure or directly funds regulatory activity.



The Commission has also begun several redesign projects to support its continued development as an effective, efficient and modern regulator. If successful, these approaches could be shared with other regulatory bodies to support improvements in their own operations.

2. How will the Proposed Budget 2027–2030 allocations impact your organisation, including any impacts on service delivery?

The proposed budget reduction if applied will affect the Commission's ability to maintain current regulatory activity, organisational capacity and public assurance. The impact is therefore being considered by the Cabinet Office.

This assessment is being viewed in the context of a significantly expanded and increasingly complex remit. The Commission has taken on responsibility for the regulation of assisted dying, hospital, ambulance and mental health services, while continuing to regulate children's social care services, where increased investment supports an ongoing journey of improvement. Wider social care services across Jersey are also responding to increasing demand alongside sustained staffing pressures. Effective independent oversight across these areas is fundamental to public confidence, the quality and safety of care, and the Island's reputation.

At this stage, the Commission is not in a position to provide assurance that a recurring, cashable reduction of £84,000 can be achieved in 2027 and sustained thereafter without affecting regulatory activity, capacity or assurance. Given the efficiencies already delivered and limited discretionary expenditure, further efficiency measures alone would not be sufficient to absorb the reduction. Savings of this scale are likely to involve reducing, deferring or ceasing some activities, with potential implications for the volume, frequency or scope of regulation and resilience within an already lean model. The Commission is therefore working with the Cabinet Office to begin to consider how existing activity can be assured within the proposed allocation, recognising the challenges of maintaining current levels with fewer resources.



3. Have discussions taken place with Government about the role and functions of your organisation, and whether there is any scope for change?

The Commission continues to engage constructively with Government on its role, functions and future operating arrangements. These discussions take place within the legislative framework that establishes its functions and its role in Jersey's independent regulatory arrangements.

A substantive resource reduction therefore calls for a shared understanding of priorities, expected outcomes and the regulatory activity that can reasonably be delivered within the available funding.

The Commission will continue to explore organisational efficiencies, while recognising that operational change alone is unlikely to deliver savings of this scale. The Commission will work with the Cabinet Office to consider:

- whether any statutory activities should be reduced, deferred or discontinued;
- the resulting impact on regulatory assurance and oversight;
- whether legislative changes would be required;
- potential redesign of regulatory arrangements; and
- the level of organisational capacity required to discharge changes in statutory responsibilities.

4. Overall, are you confident that you can maintain core service delivery with the allocations provided for in the Proposed Budget 2027–2030?

The Commission's Strategic Plan concluded that the Commission could discharge its statutory functions from 2027 on the funding assumptions then available. The proposed reduction means that the assessment will need to be revisited. It follows substantial recurring efficiencies and comes at a time when the Commission is overseeing a broader range of services, several of which are experiencing increasing complexity, demand and workforce pressure.

The Commission will continue to use its resources effectively and explore options to minimise the impact of the proposed reduction. At present, it is not in a position to provide assurance that a recurring, cashable reduction of £84,000 can be sustained without considering reducing regulatory activity.



In addressing the budget cuts, the Commission has asked that the Cabinet Office carefully consider the capacity and potentially the scope of statutory activity, including whether legislative changes may be needed.

Accordingly, the Commission remains committed to constructive engagement with Government and the States Assembly, so that funding decisions are informed by the consequences for independent regulation, high-quality care and Jersey's reputation.

Yours sincerely

Dr Nigel Acheson and Becky Sherrington

Chairperson and Chief Inspector