JERSEY CHARITY COMMISSIONER

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

BY E-MAIL

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26 October 2026

Dear Panel Members,

Proposed Budget 2027-2030: Response from the Charity Commissioner

Thank you for your letter inviting comments on the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 and the service level analysis information contained within the Financial Annex.

I welcome the opportunity to assist the Panel in its review and offer the following observations.

1. **Discussions regarding the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 allocations**

The Office of the Charity Commissioner has engaged with the Chief Executive Officer and relevant Government officers from the Cabinet Office throughout the budget preparation process. These discussions have focused primarily on ensuring that the funding provided is sufficient to enable the Commissioner to discharge his statutory responsibilities under the Charities (Jersey) Law 2014.

Unlike some public sector functions, a significant proportion of the Commissioner's workload is demand-led. The Office has limited ability to control the volume of applications for registration, annual returns, compliance enquiries, public complaints, investigations and requests for guidance. Consequently, resource requirements are driven largely by demand from the charitable sector and the public rather than by discretionary service choices.

Savings and efficiencies

The Office continually reviews its operating arrangements to ensure that public funds are used efficiently. Efficiencies have been achieved through:

- Increased use of digital systems and online processes.

- Streamlining of registration and annual return procedures.

- Greater use of published guidance to assist charities and reduce routine enquiries.

- Careful management of staffing and external professional costs.

Given the relatively small size of the organisation, opportunities for further savings are limited without affecting service delivery or the Commissioner's ability to fulfil statutory obligations.

2. **Impact of the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 allocations**

The allocations proposed within the Budget are intended to allow the Office to continue delivering its core statutory functions, including:

- Maintaining the Charities Register.

- Determining applications for charitable registration.

- Monitoring ongoing compliance.

- Providing guidance to charities and the public.

- Considering complaints and undertaking investigations where appropriate.

The Office's workload has grown alongside the development of Jersey's charitable sector and increasing public expectations regarding transparency, accountability and regulatory oversight.

While the proposed funding should enable the continuation of core services, the ability to respond to significant increases in demand, undertake substantial investigations, or progress further service improvements may remain constrained. As with many regulatory bodies, sustained pressures on resources can affect response times and the pace at which discretionary projects and enhancements can be delivered.

3. **Discussions regarding the role and functions of the organisation**

Discussions have taken place periodically with Government concerning the operation of the Charities (Jersey) Law 2014 and the evolving needs of the charitable sector.

The Office remains open to considering changes that could improve effectiveness, efficiency or public accessibility. However, any substantial changes to the Commissioner's role, powers or functions would ultimately require legislative and policy consideration and would need to preserve the independence of the regulatory framework.

At present, the Office's primary focus remains the effective delivery of its existing statutory responsibilities.

4. **Confidence in maintaining core service delivery**

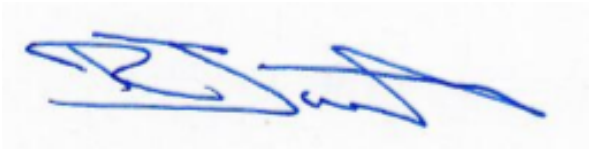
I am cautiously confident that core statutory services can be maintained within the allocations currently proposed.

That confidence is, however, subject to the important qualification that the Office's workload is largely demand-led and can fluctuate significantly. In particular, major investigations, complex registration applications, litigation, or increases in regulatory activity can place substantial pressure on a small organisation with limited flexibility to absorb additional work.

Accordingly, while the proposed allocations appear sufficient to support the continuation of core functions, the extent to which service levels can be enhanced or additional demands accommodated will remain dependent upon the volume and nature of work arising during the budget period.

I hope these comments assist the Panel in its consideration of the Proposed Budget 2027-2030. I would be pleased to provide any further information that may assist the Panel's review.

Yours faithfully,



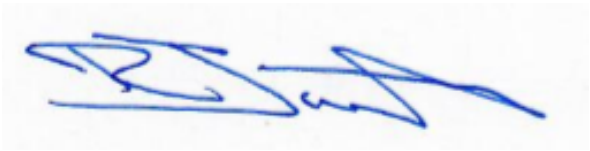
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Charity Commissioner

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Yours sincerely,



Interim Jersey Charity Commissioner