JERSEY FARMERS UNION

9th November 2026

Deputy Lyndsay Feltham
Chair, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
States Greffe
Morier House
St Helier
JE1 1DD

Dear Deputy

Thank you for your letter of 9th October, inviting the JFU to comment on the Proposed Budget 2027 - 2030

Freezing fuel duty for 2027
The Jerey Farmers' Union welcomes the freezing of fuel duty for 2027 as the industry and all our supporting businesses will no doubt be enduring very high fuel prices for the foreseeable future.

Increasing Vehicle Emissions Duty in line with inflation
Increasing vehicle emissions duty in line with inflation is understood as a useful tool to encourage the use of less polluting vehicles on our roads.

Whilst it is appreciated that commercial vehicles will not be increased annually in line with inflation, VED, especially on important commercial vehicles, has the effect of delaying investment in new vehicles and in some cases has the opposite effect to what is trying to be achieved by keeping older, more polluting equipment operating. When the older equipment is moved down the chain it will generally be worked less, with the new recipient generally doing the same thing.

From the JFU perspective it would be very welcome not to have any VED on agricultural equipment due to the necessary use of that equipment in food production and what could soon be described as food security problem.

Update on tax reviews and potential future measures.
Reviews on tax are very welcome, and the Jersey Farmers' Union is very much opposed to our seasonal workers having to pay the LTC element on their tax bill. 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 tax paid in the maximum 9 months that they are in Jersey. With LTC rising to 2.5% this rises to £655.88pa, equal to £16.82 per week, equal to £0.42 per hour within a 40 hour week.

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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 per week from each employee for providing absolutely nothing

Therefore if 'the Long-Term Care Fund (LTCF) supports adults (18+) with long-term care needs' and it 'provides both universal (non-means-tested) and means-tested support, sharing costs between individuals and the Fund' how does this apply to a migrant worker who after coming to Jersey for 10 years having paid in £6500 into the fund then presumably should benefit back in their home country 30 years later?

Adding to this injustice the £26,235 that they actually earn is translated into the 12 month equivalent of £35,006.40 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.

We draw your attention to the following as stated in the Budget, 'tax policy principles established in previous Budgets continue to be used in this Budget.

1. Fair and sustainable
    1. Taxation must be necessary, justifiable, and sustainable
    2. Taxes should be low, broad, simple, and fair
    3. Everyone should make an appropriate contribution to the cost of providing services, while those on the lowest incomes should be protected.'

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on our submission.

Yours sincerely



D A Richardson
President