Royal College of Nursing
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Private and Confidential

Dear Deputy Feltham,

Proposed Budget 2027–2030 (P.73/2026): submission from the Royal College of Nursing

Thank you for your letter of 9 October 2026 inviting the the Royal College of Nursing's views on the Proposed Budget 2027–2030. We have reviewed the proposed budget and our response focusses on the impact of the budget on our membership as well as the wider impact on the health sector.

The Island's budget recognised the economic reality facing local people, that inflation as a result of geopolitical forces is set to be 4.1% RPI in 2027, following the allocation to departments. The latest forecasts from the Bank of England[1] predict CPI to rise to 5% in the middle of 2027.[1] We hope this is at the forefront in considerations when it comes to the pay uplift allocated to Jersey's nurses. Many of our members have to work extra shifts, just to make ends meet due to the increasing cost of living.

We welcome the additional investment, above the rate of RPI in healthcare on the island in 2027, recognising the increasing cost of healthcare, alongside money allocated to the New Healthcare Facilities programme.

Our budget proposals

At the end of this letter we have listed the key asks of the Jersey government in relation to nursing.

Whilst there are clear differences in the national and Jersey Governments approaches to healthcare, many of the same issues persist. Our members are struggling with the cost of living everywhere, and housing remains one of the largest contributors to that challenge, especially in Jersey. As well as being a major driver for concerns around cost of living amongst our members, housing also has an impact on healthcare delivery. We note from

the most recent Quality and Performance report from Health and Care Jersey that Housing is the largest contributor to Red Days in Emergency Care – we would welcome more action within the budget to address this issue.

To ensure the long term stability of the nursing workforce, the RCN have made calls to invest in nursing education and financial support the centrepiece of our submission to government ahead of the recent Autumn budget. More detail can be found in our latest report: *The Case for Investment in Nursing Education in England – October 2026 | Publications | Royal College of Nursing*.

The RCN's Budget submission key asks

- That the upcoming pay award must recognise the long-term pressures to retain nurses and the rise in the cost of living
- Ensure funding for student nurses is maintained and developed to address barriers to entry and support early career nurses' retention.
- A clear and funded workforce plan that should include a strong emphasis on growing, retaining, and strengthening the nursing and health visiting
- We welcome the plans for the new hospital build and encourage the Jersey government to take a more focused approach to adapting the healthcare estate to climate related stress.
- The government must set out a path for returning the UK's spending on Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI). We note that the budget proposed a spending freeze on international aid resulting in a reduction overtime to 0.25% GVA.
- Ensuring nurses have access to affordable housing is critical to sustaining a stable, resilient nursing workforce as well as impacting health outcome measures for patients. We would welcome more action in the budget to address this.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this budget review. We would be happy to discuss any of the points raised within this letter in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



Samuel Crooks
Senior RCN Officer