

To: Deputy Feltham
Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
States Greffe: Scrutiny
Morier House
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23 October 2026

Dear Deputy Feltham

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
Proposed Budget 2027-2030 Review

Thank you for your letter to me of 12 October 2026, and the opportunity to provide you with answers to your questions. I have listed your questions below, along with my responses.

1. What consultation has been undertaken with the Chief Minister in respect of funding for Statistics Jersey as part of the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 process, as required under Article 4(4) of the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018?

Answer: I provided a submission to the Chief Minister on 4 September in line with the law requirements. The Chief Officer of the Cabinet Office wrote to me on 30 September in relation to the 2027 Budget for Statistics Jersey. The Statistics Jersey core budget (excluding the budget for the Living Costs and Household Income Survey) of £1.963m for each year 2027 -2030 is shown on pages 11 and 12 of the annex to the proposed government budget [Proposed Budget Annex 2027 to 2030.pdf](#) – see also below for more details.

2. Were any Business Cases for Revenue Expenditure Growth submitted by Statistics Jersey for consideration for the Proposed Budget 2027-2030, if so, what was the outcome?

Answer: No.

LCHIS

The Living Costs and Household Income Survey (LCHIS) is a survey of income and expenditure. As the costs for this periodic survey are not included within Statistics Jersey's core budget, a business case is required for each run of the survey. The survey has typically been run every five years and was last carried out in 2021-22. I first submitted a business case for the LCHIS in June 2023, into the 2024-27 government plan process. If the business case had been approved, the survey would have started in spring 2025; would have run for a year; and would have enabled publication of income distribution statistics in autumn 2026.

I updated the business case in 2024 for the 2025-28 government plan process, and again in 2025 for the 2026-29 government budget, for the survey to start in spring 2027. In his

September 2025 letter to me, the Chief Officer of the Cabinet Office included "The importance of this survey is fully acknowledged, particularly its role in supporting the Island's Outcome Indicators and the RPI. Funding is not required until 2027 and so the Chief Minister agreed that this should be funded under the Budget 2027-2030..... The survey will be treated as a cost pressure against the wider Cabinet Office budget until additional funding has been secured."

The business case was updated during 2026 to reflect latest salaries but was otherwise unchanged. It was confirmed in the letter to me of 30 September 2026 that the survey will be funded through underspends in the wider Cabinet Office Head of Expenditure budget. Statistics Jersey will start the LCHIS in spring 2027 and it will run for a year (to capture different spending patterns throughout the year), with Income Distribution Statistics expected to be published at the end of 2028.

Statistics Law amendment admin support business case

In 2025 I submitted a business case for additional administrative resources to comply with the additional requirements of the 2025 Statistics Law amendments. This business case was not supported by the Cabinet Office Chief Officer nor Chief Minister.

In his 5 September 2025 letter to me the Chief Officer of the Cabinet Office stated that "The Cabinet Office and Treasury and Resources will continue to support Statistics Jersey in meeting its new statutory obligations, including the production of the annual report and accounts. As demonstrated in 2024, this can be achieved without additional resources and while it is recognised that this may present some challenges, this decision reflects the difficult balancing act required in the current fiscal environment."

The then chair of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel lodged an amendment to the 2026-2029 budget [States Assembly | Amendments | Changes to Laws and Propositions](#) to provide Stats Jersey with the administrative support to fulfil the additional functions in the Stats Law. The vote on this was lost.

A review of business support across Cabinet Office is underway which may provide support from within Cabinet Office to enable Statistics Jersey to meet its new statutory obligations. I therefore chose not to submit a business case for these resources to the 2027-2030 budget process. As I explain in response to question 5 below, there are some new functions, such as reviews of Tier 1 statistics, that I am currently unable to complete.

3. Can you update us on funding requirements for delivery of the Living Costs and Household Income Survey (LCHIS) for which work was due to commence in March 2027, and whether the funds are made available in the Proposed Budget 2027-2030 for its delivery (The Business Case was rejected as part of the Budget 2026-2029 process)?

Answer: See my response to Q2 in respect of funding for the LCHIS. The survey will run for a year from spring 2027 and is expected to cost £401,000 in 2027; £288,000 in 2028; and

£22,000 in 2029 (for the production and publication of the Expenditure analyses). We may start the survey around a month later than originally planned to spread the costs more evenly between 2027 and 2028 to make it easier to fund from Cabinet Office underspends in 2027, but any delay in starting the survey will delay the results by the same amount.

- a. What actions were undertaken in 2026 to prepare for the LCHIS and how was this funded?

Answer: During 2026 the following preparations for the survey have been undertaken:

- Update the budget estimates to reflect current salaries
- Produced detailed plans for the 2027-2028 survey and outputs
- Review of the survey questions
- Review of the survey database to reflect question changes
- Review of and design changes to the spending diary
- Discovery work on the use of AI to capture and code data from spending diary receipts. 150,000 items had to be manually captured and coded when the survey was last run in 2021-2022

Still to be completed during 2026:

- Implement changes to survey databases
- Implement changes to spending diary
- Complete the proof of concept work for AI data processing of receipts
- Updating of recruitment material (including job descriptions) for survey field staff
- Obtain approvals to recruit fixed-term survey staff, with a view to being ready to start the recruitment process in January

Statistics Jersey has a small (two-person) development resource who have been leading on the initial development work for the LCHIS before full funding is available from 2027. They have been doing this alongside high-level consideration of options for the 2031 Census.

- b. Do you have any concerns regarding the delivery of the LCHIS?

Answer: Statistics Jersey have run the LCHIS several times; we are therefore confident in our ability to run this survey. Our main concerns relate to:

- Our ability to recruit sufficient field staff who can work on the survey for a year and are able to encourage and persuade randomly selected households to take part
- Response rates to household surveys are declining in many jurisdictions, so the main concern relates to achieving sufficient (over 1,000) responses to enable production of reliable results.

4. Can you provide an outline of Statistics Jersey's key priorities for delivery in 2027, and are you confident that you can maintain core service delivery with the allocations provided for in the Proposed Budget 2027-2030?

Answer:

The core budget for Statistics Jersey proposed in the government budget 2027-2030 [Proposed Budget Annex 2027 to 2030.pdf](#) is sufficient to carry out Statistics Jersey's core business as usual programme of statistical publications and small-scale developments.

Statistics Jersey's core deliverables in 2027 will be our regular statistical reports, including RPI; House Price Index; Business Tendency Survey; Labour Market/employment reports; all economy Gender Pay Gap; GDP/GVA; Public Spending; and Population estimates. In addition, in 2027 we will run the Jersey Opinion and Lifestyle Survey; Annual Business Survey and Average Earnings Survey. In addition, we will in March publish the results from the 2026 Jersey Children and Young People's Survey. Publication dates up to December 2027 are given in the [Release calendar | Statistics Jersey](#)

In addition, the key priorities are to:

- Launch the Living Costs and Household Income Survey in spring 2027
- Submit a business case for the 2031 Census by spring 2027
 - Depending on census options to be considered, early consultation with departments and with Islanders may be required during 2027

Statistics Jersey has been protected from a share of the £655,000 Cabinet Office budget reductions in 2027, partly because of the additional costs of running the LCHIS.

5. Are there any areas of concern or anticipated challenges in relation to service delivery and statistical outputs in 2027?

Answer:

5.1 Private rents make up 10 percent of the RPI. The only private rental data that Statistics Jersey has access to is for rents paid by Social Security direct to landlords for those on Income Support. It is known that the level of such rents is lower than the market average, but changes in these rent move roughly in line with the only other source of rents data, which is advertised private market rents.

The number of households for whom Social Security pay landlords directly has decreased from around 2,400 in March 2011 to about 955 in March 2026, partly due to an expansion of the eligibility to Andium social housing. This trend is expected to continue so that within a couple of years this source will not be suitable for use in the RPI.

Options to capture private rent data include:

- The housing minister making an order under the residential tenancy law to require landlords to notify government of their rents, as used to happen before the introduction of the 2012 Control of Housing and Work Law. Such administrative data could be shared with Statistics Jersey to enable production of high-quality private rents data at low cost to Statistics Jersey (but with a burden on all landlords)
- Statistics Jersey running a compulsory quarterly survey of landlords, using the Rented Dwelling Licencing scheme as a sampling frame. This would have a smaller burden on landlords, but we estimate that such a survey would cost Statistics Jersey around £100K a year and for which there is currently no budget. There may be additional costs falling on the Viscounts Office in terms of prosecutions.

5.2 The 2025 amendments to the Statistics Law require that I:

- Instigate a programme of reviews of Tier 1 statistics and establish and publish the criteria against which the reviews will be carried out
- Consult the Statistics Council on the programme of reviews and the criteria for the reviews (and any changes to them) before publishing the criteria

Without the business support to enable Statistics Jersey to meet this new statutory obligation, I have not been able to progress these activities.

5.3 Amendments to the Statistics Law require production of a Statistics Jersey Output Plan that covers the period of the Common Strategic Policy (2026-2030); this is in train with an aim to publish in Q1 2027. Due to the 2031 census, we're developing the output plan to cover the period 2026 – 2032.

Work to prepare for the 2031 Census has already started. If ministers wish to explore options other than an online-first traditional census, then development and consultation (with departments and Islanders) would need to start during 2027.

6. Is statistics Jersey facing or anticipating any resourcing or staffing challenges?

Answer:

- Including the Chief Statistician role, Statistics Jersey has 19 posts (18.5 FTE) and is fully staffed. We currently face no staffing challenges.
- Were any staff to leave, if there were restrictions on recruiting to replace them, then that would directly impact on statistical outputs.
- In 2027, 90% percent of Statistics Jersey's budget will be for staff costs, with a substantial part of the remainder on operational costs for running surveys including printing and postage etc. Our discretionary non-staff budget is tight but manageable for 2027, but is projected to decline to zero by 2030.

- If Statistics Jersey must fund a private rentals survey to provide data for the RPI, we currently don't have the budget for that.

7. Do you have any other comments regarding the service delivery for Statistics Jersey?

Answer: Decisions on the scope and funding of the 2031 Census will need to be made during the term of the 2026-2030 government. In this year's annual Statistics Jersey budget assessment, I have flagged to the Chief Minister that I will be submitting a census business case early in 2027 to feed into the government's 2028-2030 budget process.

As is outlined on page 26 of my 2025 Annual Report [Chief-Statistician-2025-Annual-Report.pdf](#), options for the next census include:

- An online first traditional census – which would provide the full range of census outputs and could allow addition of new questions (such as unpaid caring)
- Relying only on admin data – population and migration data, hours worked, and residential status could be produced reliably. This approach would not be able to provide reliable, detailed, statistics on topics such as ethnicity; long-term limiting illness; occupation; educational attainment; or sexual orientation. Statistics on very small groups (e.g. those with a gender identity different from their sex at birth) would not be possible at all
- A hybrid mix of admin data and a large compulsory survey of households – the topics/questions for which data could reliably be produced would depend on the size of the survey. This could range from no sample (the admin-data only option) up to every household (a full census) or somewhere in between.

I trust that the information above provides full responses to your questions.

Yours sincerely,



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