



# Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

## Records of Meetings

2025

The following records of meetings have been approved by the Panel.

Signed

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Chair

Deputy Catherine Curtis

États de Jersey



L's États d'Jèrri

# Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

## Record of Meeting

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Present	Deputy Catherine Curtis, Chair Connétable Mark Labey, Vice-Chair
Apologies	Deputy Helen Miles, Member Deputy Beatriz Porée, Member
In attendance	Katherine de Carteret, Committee and Panel Officer Joseph Brannigan, Research and Project Officer Charlotte Curry, Communications Officer (Matters 1-3 only) Michael Morris, Communications Officer

Agenda matter	Action
<p><b>1. Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>The Chair provided a brief welcome to the Panel's first meeting of 2025.</p>	
<p><b>2. Records of Meetings</b></p> <p>The Panel approved the records of the meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</p>	
<p><b>3. Work Programme</b></p> <p>The Panel discussed its planned work programme for January to June 2025.</p> <p>The main focus for the Panel's work programme in the first half of 2025 was the proposed review: 'What protection do children in Jersey have from online harms?' (discussed further under agenda item 6).</p> <p>There were two matters that required legislative scrutiny required before the States Assembly sitting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (P.87/2024 and P.89/2024, referenced in later agenda items). Also, timing for lodging of amendments to the Police Complaints Regulations had not been confirmed, but this was also expected to require scrutiny time during the first quarter of 2025.</p> <p>The Panel discussed other matters that it wished to explore during the whole calendar year, but agreed to discuss again at its next meeting, when other members of the Panel had the opportunity to contribute.</p> <p>The Panel recalled that, in October 2024, the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs had offered a briefing to the Panel about the Ambulance, Fire and Rescue Headquarters and requested that officers make arrangements for the briefing.</p> <p>The Panel had previously agreed to arrange a primary school visit in the new year, but agreed to defer this as it was not directly related to its immediate work programme.</p> <p>Officers advised the Panel that during both January and April 2025 there were weeks where the Panel would hold three public hearings. This was due to scheduling and availability, and was highlighted as part of the work programme as it was recognised</p>	<b>KdC</b>

<p>that it would create higher concentrations of scrutiny work for members. It was confirmed that the quarterly hearings were more evenly spread in Q3 and Q4 of 2025.</p>	
<p><b>4. Scrutiny Briefings</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that it was due to receive the following briefings from Government officials in January 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025: Draft Children and Civil Status (Consequential Amendments) (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 202- [P.89/2024]. The Panel noted that it would be a tight turnaround to draft and agree a comments paper, if the proposition remained on the Order Paper on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025; and</li> <li>• 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025: Draft Police Complaints Regulations.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Scrutiny Review: Draft Children and Young People (Independent Advocates) (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 202- [P.87/2024] (the ‘draft Regulations’)</b></p> <p>The Panel had received a briefing on the draft Regulations on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and prepared a draft comments paper accordingly.</p> <p>During the meeting the Panel raised additional queries about the Government’s consultation on the draft Regulations and the draft code of practice. The Panel considered whether it should write to the Minister for Children and Families (MCF) for clarification on the queried points or, alternatively, if it should highlight these points in its comments paper and ask the MCF to address them in the Assembly debate.</p> <p>The Panel assigned responsibility to the Chair to review the queries and instruct Panel officers on the most appropriate course of action. It was agreed that any changes made to the draft comments would be circulated to the whole Panel for its formal approval.</p>	
<p><b>6. Scrutiny Review: ‘What protection do children in Jersey have from online harms?’</b></p> <p>The Panel approved the draft terms of reference, draft scoping document and draft communications plan for its proposed review, which had been circulated on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The Panel asked officers to send the documents to the Scrutiny Liaison Committee for budget approval.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that it would prepare to launch the review in the week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.</p>	<p><b>KdC</b></p>
<p><b>7. Scrutiny Review: Feedback on the Secondary Education Review [S.R.10/2024]</b></p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 from Policy Centre Jersey, in relation to the submission that it provided to the Panel’s review.</p> <p>The Panel noted that it was due to receive the response to the review from the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025. The Panel agreed that it would discuss the response, together with reflections and feedback about the review at its next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.</p>	

<p><b>8. States Business</b></p> <p>The Panel considered items of business for forthcoming States Assembly meetings and noted recent Ministerial decisions by the Minister for Children and Families and Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.</p>	
<p><b>9. Public Hearing: Foster Care in Jersey</b></p> <p>The Panel discussed its upcoming standalone public hearing on the subject of 'Fostering in Jersey', which would be held with the Minister for Children and Families on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The Panel reviewed and agreed the draft question plan, subject to a few additions and minor amendments. The Panel asked the officer to make the necessary updates.</p>	<p><b>JB</b></p>
<p><b>10. Quarterly Hearings</b></p> <p>The Panel discussed its upcoming quarterly public hearing with the Minister for Children and Families on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and tabled a draft question plan for approval. The Panel agreed the draft question plan, subject to a few additions and minor amendments. The Panel asked the officer to make the necessary updates.</p> <p>The Panel discussed its upcoming quarterly public hearing with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and tabled a draft question plan for approval. The Panel agreed the question plan, subject to a few additions and minor amendments. The Panel asked the officer to make the necessary updates.</p> <p>The Panel discussed its upcoming quarterly public hearing with the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and discussed the questions and areas of interest it wanted to focus on for that hearing. The Panel asked officers to draft a question plan for the Panel to review at its meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.</p>	<p><b>JB</b></p> <p><b>KdC</b></p> <p><b>KdC / JB</b></p>
<p><b>11. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>The following items of other business were discussed by the Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Panel noted receipt of correspondence dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 from the Minister for Children and Families, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs which provided responses to the Panel's findings and recommendations from its review of the Proposed Budget 2025-2028. The Panel noted that there were a number of matters that would require further follow up through quarterly hearings or separate correspondence in due course.</li> <li>• The Chair asked officers to request copies of independent inspection reports that had been conducted in 2024 in relation to off-Island placements. The reports had been promised to the Panel in its hearing with the Minister for Children and Families on 19th June 2024.</li> <li>• The Chair advised the Panel that she had met with the President of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee and had discussed whether a proposed review by the Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel (HSS SP) relating to family friendly legislation included matters within the Panel's remit. The Chair confirmed her understanding that any proposed review by HSS SP would focus on Social Security elements.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KdC</b></p> <p><b>JB</b></p>

<b>12. Future Meetings</b>	
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The Panel noted that its next scheduled private meeting would take place at 9:00am on Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2025 in the Le Capelain Room of the States Building.	
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