

19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 3RR

Deputy Catherine Curtis
Chair, Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

BY EMAIL

22nd February 2024

Dear Chair,

Higher Education and Student Finance

Thank you for writing to me on 15th February requesting an update on plans to amend the Education (Grants and Allowances) (Jersey) Order 2018 (the Order). I trust you can appreciate that having been in office for just 18 days I am not yet fully briefed on all plans across such a diverse and large portfolio. I would be happy to provide a private briefing to the Panel on this topic in the coming weeks.

Please see the below answer to your other queries and do not hesitate to contact me again if you require further information.

Website “out of date or incomplete information”

How is the information on the website and forms for Student Finance reviewed, and how often does this happen?

The administration of Student Finance moved to the Customer and Local Services Department in June 2022. The website was reviewed and updated in Q4 of 2023 and will continue to be updated as and when there are any amendments made to the Order. Forms are continually being updated taking customer feedback into consideration to make it easier for applicants. Changes have already been implemented to forms this year and further changes will be made in the coming weeks/months.

How information available on the website for Student Finance is coordinated between relevant departments (for example, with Children’s Social Care)?

Gov.je has thousands of pages of information and the responsibility to keep it updated and accurate is delegated to the relevant departments for their own pages.

Corporate Parenting responsibility for children in care

I am aware that the maximum maintenance grant figure in the booklet is out of date and updates to this were requested by the Minister last year. Unfortunately, due to staff changes this package of work was not completed. I am pleased to advise the Panel that this work is now prioritised and will be completed very soon.

Four-year courses

The wording is not inconsistent with the Order but a small change has been requested to more closely match the Order. This change will be live this week.

Article 20

I am awaiting a briefing on the whole scheme with policy officers, after which I will be able to consider and approve further wording changes on the website.

Income Statement (HE2) form

These were references linked to comments in the working Word document whilst the form was being reviewed and updated and should have been removed when the form went live. The forms team have now removed them from the HE2 declaration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Ward', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Deputy Rob Ward
Assistant Minister for Children and Education