

Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel Review of Environmental Policies

Minister for Planning and Environment's written submission to EHT Scrutiny Panel's questions of the 18.02.15

1.0 Background & Context

Before addressing each of the specific questions in turn I would like to add some background and context in the following sections that I feel would be helpful.

1.1 Jersey's existing environmental commitments

Jersey has demonstrated that it takes its' environmental commitments seriously and recognises that for the Island to be credible in all sectors of the international arena it must meet best environmental practice in line with other advanced jurisdictions. Appendix 1 outlines the International Commitments that Jersey is a signatory to. Appendix II outlines the environmental legislation which my Department administers which arises from policy needs (both local and international) and frameworks of best practice (for example EU and global standards).

The Department's ongoing activities that support the drivers outlined above form the basis of the Department's 'business as usual' as well as guiding new strategic directions. These are captured in the annual Business Plan.

There has been considerable amount of progress in environmental policy in the last two decades driven by our international obligations and recognised policy gaps. To date there are now a number of environmental policies and strategies that have been adopted by the State's Assembly, which endure and provide strategic direction through across political cycles. These include:

- The Island Plan (Led by the Minister for Planning and Environment)
- Pathway 2050: An Energy Plan for Jersey (Led by the Minister for Planning and Environment)
- The Rural Economy Strategy (Joint strategy between the Minister for Economic Development and the Minister for Planning and Environment)
- The Sustainable Travel and Transport Plan (Led by the Minister for Transport and Technical Services)
- The Solid Waste Strategy (Led by the Minister for Transport and Technical Services)
- The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy
- The Biodiversity Strategy (Led by the Minister for Planning and Environment)

Delivering these policies and strategies, or supporting other Ministers and their Departments, is the key work of my Department.

1.2 Monitoring Environmental Trends

In order to assess the environmental baseline, identify priorities and assess the success (or otherwise) of strategic, policy and regulatory interventions, environmental monitoring and reporting is carried out.

In Jersey, this process began in 1998 with the 'Jersey in the new Millennium' report from the Environmental Adviser. This important report for the first time brought together a number of environmental challenges and made recommendations for policy development which went on to guide the growing Department and its new policy function. In 2005 'State of the environment' reporting built on previous reports and the interim progress using the 'pressure-state-response framework'.

1.2.1 The State of Jersey Report 2005 – identifying the priorities based on an environmental baseline

The 2005 'State of Jersey' Report¹ was the first of its kind in Jersey. It examined the available environmental data (using historic data series where possible) in the context of the issues raised in a number of previous environmental reports particularly including 'Jersey in the new Millennium'. The State of Jersey report then identified the key challenges for Jersey for the next 5 to 6 years summarising these as:

1. Climate change
2. High levels of waste reduction
3. Pressure on the quantity and quality of our water resources
4. Transport
5. Changes in our countryside and natural history

Alongside each of these priorities, recommendations were made to address the issues raised. This continued to set the strategic direction for the work of the Department alongside business as usual.

1.2.2 The State of Jersey Report 2005-2010

A follow up to the first report was published in 2010² and continued to reflect on the environmental data as well as examining progress. The environmental indicators were presented in a new format, 'indicators at a glance', compiling them into an accessible table and assigning them 'red, amber or green' status making it easier to see in which areas environmental performance was declining, static or improving.

Again from the data, priority areas could be identified and actions recommended. In particular, the evidence was that progress needed to be focused on:

- Agree an Energy Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Develop a new liquid waste strategy and improving the Island's recycling targets;
- Ensuring the availability and quality of fresh water;
- Protecting our marine environment and ensuring sustainable existing and potential economic activity there;
- Meeting and surpassing the targets set in the Sustainable travel and Transport Plan supported by the new Island Plan
- Protect and enhance our biodiversity and heritage landscape through legislation, the 2011 Island Plan and incentives for the agricultural that purchase environmental goods and services.

The strategic direction and the work of the Department from 2010 to today, is guided by these challenges and priority areas.

1.3 The role of Strategic Plan

I have discussed the context for environmental policy making led by the Minister for Planning and Environment in conjunction with other relevant Ministers who hold responsibility for other 'environmental' areas e.g. waste and transport. However, I will turn to consideration of how that policy is reflected by the Council of Ministers (CoM) and in wider high level cross-departmental policy and strategy.

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<http://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Industry%20and%20finance/R%20Condition%20of%20Jersey%27s%20Environment%2020050101%20SW.pdf>

2

<http://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/R%20StateOfJersey200521015%2020121001%20LM.pdf>

Within four months of taking office, each new CoM must produce 'a statement of its common strategic policy' (generally referred to as the Strategic Plan) which is then approved by the States. The stated purpose of this Plan is twofold:

- To identify the new Council's key priorities for its term of office, focusing on the key areas where significant change will make the biggest difference to Jersey's future;
- To set the strategic direction for detailed delivery plans.

It is important to note that the each new Strategic Plan outlines the immediate priorities for the CoM but it does not supersede existing and agreed State's policies, international agreements or underpinning legislation. In developing this new Strategic Plan Ministers considered the 'burning platforms' that Jersey currently faces and has summarised these as follows:

- *Health* due to the demographic issues we face and because the issue is central to the Island's future funding challenge;
- *Maximising economic growth* to meet funding challenges particularly in the face of an aging society;
- *Improving educational outcomes* to ensure home-grown talent can compete with skills available elsewhere;
- The *regeneration of St Helier* to create a high quality urban environment for living, investing and working in.

These emergent challenges are clearly key priorities for Jersey and I believe where we must focus our efforts for this cycle of Council of Ministers. I am pleased that the Strategic Plan recognises the Improvement of St Helier as one of its four main priorities. As well as driving the local economy it is a centre of the community providing quality space to live and work. The focus of development here underpins the sustainable approach to growth in the Island as a whole, as we seek to meet our development needs up to 2020. I see substantial opportunities for the town's regeneration to improve the environmental performance of the built environment as well as good spatial planning to support sustainable transport such as cycling and walking. To embrace the full potential that the regeneration of St Helier provides I believe we have the opportunity to be innovative and we need to ensure that all development is future proofed and climate resilient.

The balance that has been struck with this Strategic Plan is to highlight the Island's most critical new challenges with an understanding that delivery of existing State's policies, and their supporting programmes of work, will continue. There is not an intention to abandon other work areas in favour of the Strategic Plan priorities. Instead the Strategic Plan crystallises the immediate issues for this Council of Ministers to address.

1.2 Long Term Planning – 'The Island Vision'

Recognising that the Strategic Plan is limited to immediate challenges and priority areas, a new work stream began in the last cycle of the CoM to develop a Long Term Planning Framework to improve Jersey's planning process beyond the relatively short timescale of each Council of Ministers and the Strategic Plan. This new approach will ensure that priorities identified within each electoral cycle sit within a broader vision of the Island's future that encompasses the full range of social, environmental and economic goals.

I am very supportive of this approach. Many of the environmental challenges we face are long term with corresponding long term solutions which transcend political cycles and immediate priorities even though these are certainly no less important.

It can be difficult to adequately represent long term challenges and their solutions and associated investment against short-term priorities such as health and education. For example, maintaining Jersey's internationally recognised biodiversity and habitats is intrinsically important from a global biodiversity perspective as well as to enhance the health and well-being of Jersey's residents who enjoy a high quality natural environment. Active enjoyment of Jersey's outstanding countryside and coastal waters leads to a physically and mentally healthier Island population and a more attractive place for people to live, work and do business. For example, returning highly skilled islanders frequently cite the 'high quality of life' as a reason for returning to Jersey after studying and working away. Furthermore, eco-system services such as clean air, water and productive soils are supported by appropriately regulated fit-for-purpose infrastructure the benefit of which is only often realised over decades.

It can be difficult to enumerate these evidentially multiple long-term benefits and compare them against short-term immediate priorities such as educational standards, the ageing demographic and economic diversity. Nevertheless there is substantial evidence that a high quality natural environment benefits the islands population and economy in many ways and we cannot afford to underinvest in these areas.

The Strategic Plan recognises this at the macro-scale in the following extract of the relevant environmental goals:

'Each new Council of Ministers has a collective responsibility to deliver better lives for Islanders and a better future for Jersey. Its social, environmental and economic goals are [inter alia] to:

Protect and enhance the Island's natural and built environment ...

Provide attractive and well maintained public spaces, protect the environment from the impact of waste products and develop public transport, road and cycle networks that meet the needs of the community.'

2.0 Responses to the EHT Scrutiny Panel's questions

2.1 Question 1 – 'How has consideration of environmental matters informed the Council of Ministers in its development of the draft Strategic Plan?'

a) All Members have been briefed used a presentation on the environmental challenges facing Jersey prepared by the Department of the Environment.

- The environmental challenges presentation and climate change adaptation work along with other discussions and information provided has made it clear that environmental policy impacts are long term, the benefits and impacts will only be felt in the long term. Addressing these challenges, risks and vulnerabilities requires a strategic approach in the long term strategic planning process rather than expecting quick results in the short term.
- The presentation was originally made to the (new) CoM at their strategic priorities away day in December 2014 to help inform them prior to their workshop session. The presentation outlined the key environmental challenges facing Jersey and gave examples of some of the tensions created in attempting to address these challenges. This presentation was also provided to the Scrutiny panel. At the Panel's request, all States Members were invited to attend a lunchtime briefing session in February 2015, to assist them in preparing their thoughts for the in committee debate on the strategic plan. The presentation was attended by 16 Members.

- A copy of the presentation and speaking notes is also provided to the panel for this review as supporting information and evidence.

b) Cross thematic working to embed environmental issues across all areas

- The Energy Plan was adopted in 2014 (P.38/2014) and its' delivery mechanism is a cross-departmental Ministerial group, The Energy Executive, which was formed in August 2014, supported by a multi stakeholder Forum. The Energy Executive comprises the Ministers for Planning and Environment, Transport and Technical Services, Social Security and Economic Development and enables an inter-disciplinary approach to be taken to both carbon abatement and adaptation to a changing climate and extreme weather.
The first meeting in December 2014 of the new Government's political representatives addressed climate change adaptation. There was a briefing with expert input from the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) who have been working with the Department of the Environment on the early stages of preparing a climate change adaptation plan. The Ministers took part in a discussion on risks and vulnerabilities, providing them with information to assist in the process of developing strategic plan priorities both for the short and long term: this is already being considered as a key issue in the priority that is focussed on the regeneration of St. Helier.
The strategic plan document highlights the need for climate change adaptation to be included as a key risk in long term strategic planning. This will also be integrated into the review of other key policy documents, such as the next Island Plan.
- The Rural Executive is another cross-departmental group comprising the Minister for Economic Development and the Minister for Planning and Environment who work together to take into account both the economic drivers for the agricultural sector as well as the environmental impacts through the delivery of the Rural Economy Strategy.
- The Territorial Seas Working Group is an officer group whose remit is recognising and managing the many, sometimes conflicting demands placed on the marine environment, international issues and economic drivers through the process of Marine Spatial Planning. A Ministerial oversight group has been created to oversee this work and comprises the Minister for Planning and Environment, The Minister for Economic Development and the Minister for International Relations.

c) Improving St Helier

- The spatial strategy for the future growth of the Island is set out in the 2011 Island Plan: this focusses development in the existing built-up area, and St. Helier in particular, to ensure that we deliver the most sustainable pattern of development for Jersey. Environmental considerations are fundamental to this strategic approach which, amongst other things, ensures that the environmental quality of our coast and countryside can be protected and maintained; and enables more sustainable travel and transport choices.
- Environmental quality and climate resilience is intrinsic to the future of St Helier, which is one of the four priority areas in the Strategic Plan. A cross thematic approach to master planning is essential to success. Spatial planning policy and building standards have a critical role to play in shaping the future of St Helier, both in the short and long term. These are areas where we can make short term gains which link to the vision and goals in the long term strategic planning process e.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as a planning

condition (porous surfaces, greenspace etc.), not putting services in basements (electricity meters etc.), revised Building Bye Laws (BBLs) due in 2015 which will require significant energy efficiency improvements in new build and retrofit/ refurbishment schemes. These measures will start to build climate resilience into our existing and future built environment, as well as improving performance and efficiency of the building stock.

d) Leading by example

- The States must lead by example, there is much good work already taking place within the organisation, through the Eco- Active programme. All Departments, including each school, are participating in the programme to meet minimum environmental performance on energy saving, water use, transport, and procurement and ensuring their legal compliance with environmental legislation through for example the formulation of Pollution Prevention Plans.

2.2 Question 2 – ‘How has the current Council of Ministers struck the balance in its deliberations between the needs of the environment and those of the community and the economy? If such a balance has not yet been struck, what more in your view needs to be done?’

It has been a challenge to account for all the many environmental needs that will ensure we can all continue to enjoy the high quality of life offered by Jersey as well as fulfilling our International Environmental Commitments. This is why we have come to the pragmatic position whereby we have identified immediate opportunities that will benefit the Island whilst highlighting that many of the Islands needs can only be addressed in the longer term through the Island Vision.

We are committed to an integrated approach, rather than viewing it as a balancing act. There are many cross overs and interactions between these areas which need to be recognised and reconciled, not played off against each other. This holistic approach is fundamental to the development of the long term strategic plan.

In order to ensure good governance and consistency of approach we are keen to develop a *sustainability assessment framework* for decision making and policy development that will be applied across all areas. Currently Council of Ministers reports include both economic impacts and resource requirements, but does not require social or environmental assessment of impacts and costs. I believe that the introduction of a sustainability assessment framework will provide a methodology to ensure all aspects are considered when making recommendations and taking decisions. I would like to see this framework applied to all emerging policies/decisions to ensure that the relevant environmental considerations are recognised which would ensure that all policies are future proofed.

2.3 Question 3 – ‘What are the most significant environmental issues facing Jersey, both in the medium term (i.e. 2015 to 2019) and the longer term?’

I will address each issue in turn outlining the medium and longer term steps I believe need to be made making reference to significant milestones

Climate change

Although the effects of extreme weather as a result of climate change are already being experienced, much of the adaptation needs to be developed over the medium to long term. It is

important to recognise the impacts of a changing climate as arguably the highest risk and challenge facing Jersey, in respect of the environmental, social and economic impacts that it brings. However, we have a real opportunity to make Jersey a secure, safe destination. By making Jersey climate-resilient and future proofing our Island against sea level rise and the impact of more severe and frequent severe weather, we can provide confidence for people to live and for businesses to invest and establish their organisations. As recently reported by our Jersey Metrological office, climate change trends are being experienced now and we must recognise this challenge and the potential impacts on all sectors, economy, community and environment.

A medium term action is to consider a programme of revision of our spatial planning policies and building standards in response to this challenge for the immediate future and for the long term resilience of the Island. Over the longer term we need to make decisions that ensure that the island is 'future-proofed', for example where we locate critical infrastructure and development. We must use technology and engineering to maintain confidence and security in our homes and workplaces, whilst maintaining the important heritage, countryside and other elements that characterise Jersey. My Department has already begun this process and is working with both internal and external stakeholders to begin the development of a climate change adaptation plan that will co-ordinate and assist long term decision making.

We have to recognise that climate change is bringing changes in agricultural markets and will impact on farming practises and livestock husbandry, crops, management practises and to some extent could alter the appearance of the countryside. We are experiencing the indirect effects of climate change through changing practises elsewhere in the world which impact on global markets and prices. The revision of the Rural Economy Strategy in 2015 is a real and immediate opportunity for us to ensure the sustainability of the Island both locally and within the international and global marketplace.

Resource demand and population

Modern living can be resource hungry with increasing demand on water and energy, the production of increased amounts of waste. Resource impacts are clearly also a function of population with an increased population placing further demands on critical resources. We can manage demand using many policy levers:

- *Outreach to effect behaviour change* – My Department's Eco-Active programme continues to expand and provide advice and structured assistance in environmental improvement across all the sectors.
- *Fiscal levers* – Environmental taxation can (see also answer to Question 4) drive behaviour change and also raise income to fund environmental improvement. I believe we need to review the impacts of Vehicle Emissions Duty and investigate the feasibility of other regimes to regulate demand.
- *Incentives* – Incentivising good behaviour - my Department is currently working up a pilot programme to encourage energy efficiency into the 'able-to-pay' sector using low-cost incentives for example low-cost loans or subsidised home energy audits (see Energy Plan Action Statement 3)

Inevitably an increased population will further impact our resource availability and if we accept that an increased population is required to drive economic growth, then we will need to prepare for the environmental impacts. This is a debate we need to have and we need to consider the implications

of different population scenarios on resources and consider what is acceptable in terms of cost and service delivery. Demand management will be critical in managing resources for any population scenario that we consider. Government has an important role to play in setting standards, ensuring efficiency, regulation and management.

Energy Security

Currently our energy mix is relatively secure with the local suppliers successfully managing the logistics of delivering energy to a small offshore jurisdiction. However, Government needs to work more proactively with our energy companies to give careful consideration to the energy security of the Island into the future.

Jersey has real opportunities in terms of harnessing offshore wind energy with a harvestable resource to be found far in excess of Island demand. With the potential to export energy comes the prospect of economic diversification and inward investment into the Island. It is important to investigate the feasibility of a local project focussing on the following area: access to export markets; the potential environmental impacts; the level of acceptability of offshore wind turbines in terms of visibility, environmental impact, cost vs security, the possibility of French offshore wind farms up to the median line without any direct benefit to Jersey.

Nitrates in water

Jersey has a legacy issue of elevated nitrates in groundwater due to the application of fertilizers to agricultural land. There has been ongoing work to address this diffuse pollution through the Nitrate Working Group and working with multiple farmers at the scale of the whole water catchment. Recent successes include, for the first time, a decoupling of nitrate levels in water from the area of agricultural farmed under potato crops. Nevertheless, on occasion, Jersey Water are unable to provide drinking water that meets World Health Organisation maximum nitrate standards of 50mg/l. We need to continue our work with the industry to advise and signpost best practice. The Rural Economy Strategy will further investigate opportunities to use cross-compliance to ensure improved practices and ultimately a continued reduction of nitrates in water supplies (see also answer to Question 4).

Supporting information and evidence in relation to these environmental challenges is also provided in the Environmental Challenges presentation.

2.4 Question 4 - 'Which issues, if any, have in your view received insufficient attention to date from the Council of Ministers and / or States Assembly? What further actions might therefore be required in respect of environmental matters?'

I will work to ensure that the range of environmental challenges will be recognised in the Island Vision and in particular I wish to focus on the following areas.

Climate change

In particular there needs to be full appreciation of the impacts, risks and vulnerabilities of climate change, this area requires further examination and appreciation. I believe that there are significant economic opportunities that a resilient Island could realise, e.g. market differentiation of finance services sector, providing a safe, secure location to invest for the future.

Eco-system services

An area where I would like to see more attention is in the recognition of the ecosystems services that are provided by the environment of Jersey. Eco-system services are underpinned by fit-for-purpose well regulated infrastructure that is appropriately regulated and receives sufficient investment to meet best environmental practice operational guidelines.

Whilst interactions and interrelationships are complex, eco-system services underpin the high quality environment that we all enjoy; clean air, water, land, biodiversity and green space are all elements that are highly valued in terms of what makes Jersey special. All these aspects are recognised as important in attracting inward investment and the relocation of high productivity individuals to the Island.

As well as providing a stable basis for future diversification of the economy, we need to reconsider our models for assessing success and for evaluating ecosystems services contribution to the economy. As outlined previously, the introduction of a sustainability appraisal framework will provide a consistent and robust methodology to ensure environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions and policies are taken into full consideration in the decision making process.

An example of the type of factors such an appraisal would need to take into account is the provision of financial incentives to farmers who buy environmental goods and services for the island as a whole. Jersey's dairy industry is small compared to far larger and more economic units elsewhere. The intervention of Government through subsidies supports the longevity of industry which would be vulnerable if it needed to compete purely on cost with milk imports. This subsidy buys environmental goods and services in the form of protecting the Island's agricultural landscape as well as specifically the iconic Jersey cow which produces a number of niche dairy products. The provision of a subsidy allows cross-compliance i.e. ensuring that those receiving the subsidy are abiding by best practise and achieving minimum standards.

Resource availability and demand management

Currently government is has focussed its efforts at encouraging positive environmental behaviour through gentle encouragement in the form of 'carrots'. For example, encouraging recycling through the provision of bring-banks and some kerbside collection and the uptake of sustainable transport through outreach campaigns like the annual cycle challenge, the provision of an improved bus service and associated infrastructure like bus shelters. However, we have shied away from more punitive measures that often go hand-in-hand with the 'carrots' which in the two examples given could include waste charging for unsorted waste or significantly higher car parking charges.

I recognise that 'carrots' and 'sticks' work best when applied together and we can expect there to be continued resource constraints and funding for environmental expenditure will be limited. Jersey's only environmental tax, Vehicle Emissions Duty has demonstrated that as long as the charging regime is well designed and not regressive, fiscal levers can bring about behaviour change and reduce environmental impacts. Vehicle Emissions Duty uses revenue raised from those engaging in a negative environmental behaviour (purchasing cars that emit high levels of carbon dioxide) to fund environmental initiatives (recycling, sustainable transport and energy efficiency programmes). Since its introduction we have seen a move towards smaller more fuel efficient vehicles in the Jersey fleet.

With the potential for an increased population on the Island to sustain economic growth, it will become increasingly imperative that individuals live more sustainably minimising their resource demands. A combination of 'sticks' as well as 'carrots' are likely to be required to incentivise and even fund lower impact living.

2.5 Question 5 – 'Beyond the Strategic Plan, how will you ensure that sufficient attention is paid to environmental policy and strategy, both by the current Council of Ministers and the current States Assembly?'

I believe it is my role as Minister for Planning and Environment to play an active role working with both Council of Ministers and the States Assembly to champion the needs of the environment both in areas of obvious environmental impact but also to consider the impacts on the environment of wider decisions.

a) The development of the Island Vision and the delivery of environmental work streams

I fully support the long term strategic planning process and the Island Vision document provides a great opportunity to integrate environmental, social and economic outcomes. It is already recognised that the Island Vision will be supported by the development and implementation of significant new strategies, policies and legislation including:

- New climate change adaptation strategy
- New water strategy
- New housing strategy

I believe these are critical to address the challenges posed to Jersey by extreme weather, improved water quality and the quality and affordability of housing respectively and they will be brought before the Assembly in due course.

In addition, there are significant other work streams that will address critical environmental issues and as they are brought forward the States will have further opportunities to input and make consideration to these. An example is the new Rural Economy Strategy (which is led by the Minister for Economic Development) which will highlight the many challenges and opportunities that the agricultural sector face and will lead to a debate on how we address these especially in a potentially more financially constricted future. CoM and the Assembly will be debating the rural economy Strategy later this year.

Marine Spatial Planning is another key work stream that my Department will be undertaking in 2015. It is a vital tool to ensure we balance the sometimes competing pressures on the marine environment from economic drivers. These include fisheries and aquaculture and the potential for offshore renewable exploitation alongside navigational and safety at sea requirements and the crucial protection of marine resources and biodiversity.

b) Continued thematic working

The Energy Executive, comprising Ministers of Planning and Environment, Transport and Technical Services, Economic Development and Social Security, provides a Ministerial oversight on energy issues including actions addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Energy Executive will be reporting progress on the Pathway 2050 Energy Plan to both Council of Ministers and to the EHT Scrutiny Panel later in the year.

c) Fifty years of planning and building

In 2015 we will be marking 50 years of planning and building in Jersey, using the opportunity to reflect on how our system has protected our coast and countryside and heritage, whilst meeting the community's development needs. We will also be engaging the community to look at how we might shape the planning and building system to best deliver our future environmental, social and economic objectives.

16.03.15

Appendix I MEAs for which ratification has been extended to Jersey

The Department administers various European Union Directives and International Conventions (known as Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs))

- Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic concerning Fishing in the Bay of Granville with Exchanges of Notes and Declaration
- Agreement on the Conservation of European Bats (EUROBATS)
- Agreement on the Conservation of small cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
- African-Eurasian Water bird Agreement (AEWA)
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn)
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern)
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo)
- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter 1972
- 1996 Protocol to the above Convention
- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR)
- Decision of the Council of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) concerning the control of transfrontier movements of wastes destined for recovery operations
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta)
- Fisheries Management Agreement between the United Kingdom and Jersey
- International Plant Protection Convention
- Memorandum of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia
- Montreal Protocol to above Convention
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as a Waterfowl Habitat
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Kyoto Protocol to above Convention
- UN Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone layer
- UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution and Associated Protocols (CLRTAP)

Appendix II Environmental legislation which the Department administers all or parts of

- Agricultural Land (Control of Sales and Leases) (Jersey) Law 1974
- Agricultural Marketing (Jersey) Law 1953
- Aquatic Resources (Jersey) Law 2014
- Animals (Trapping)(Jersey) Law 1961
- Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004
- Artificial Insemination of Domestic Animals (Jersey) Law 1952

- Building Bye-Laws (Jersey) 2007, as amended
- Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000
- Dangerous Wild Animals (Jersey) Law 1999
- Diseases of Animals (Jersey) Law 1956
- Diseases of Animals (Rabies) (Jersey) Law 1976
- Endangered Species (CITES) (JERSEY) Law 2012
- Relevant Regulations made in accordance with European Communities Legislation (Implementation) (Jersey) Law 1996
- Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Jersey) Law 1950
- Fish Health (Jersey) Regulations 1999
- Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 (Jersey)
- Loi (1894) sur la coupe et la pêche des vrais
- Loi (1919) sur la Location de Biens-Fonds
- Pesticides (Jersey) Law 1991
- Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002, as amended
- Plant Health (Jersey) Law 2003
- Protection of Agricultural Land (Jersey) Law 1964
- Sea Fisheries (Jersey) Law 1994
- Sea Fisheries (Channel Islands) Order 1973
- Sea Beaches (Removal of sand and stone) (Jersey) Law 1963
- Slaughter of Animals (Jersey) Law 1962
- Waste Management (Jersey) Law 2005
- Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000
- Water Resources (Jersey) Law 2007
- Water (Jersey) Law 1972, as amended
- Weeds (Jersey) Law 1961