

# STATES OF JERSEY



## SUPPORT SCHEME FOR INDIVIDUALS QUALIFYING TO REPRESENT JERSEY IN OFF-ISLAND COMPETITIONS

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Lodged au Greffe on 19th November 2024  
by Deputy R.S. Kovacs of St. Saviour  
Earliest date for debate: 10th December 2024

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STATES GREFFE

## **PROPOSITION**

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –**

to request the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development –

- (a) to establish a permanent support scheme, funded through the Arts, Heritage, and Culture budget, or other relevant sources, to a maximum of £500,000 per annum, to provide subsidies of up to £2,000 per individual per year for costs related to off-Island participation in sports, arts, academic or other similar competitions for which a qualification or selection process is required for those representing Jersey, with such subsidies to be accessible to fund relevant travel, accommodation, related uniform or equipment, competition fees, and associated costs for a responsible carer to accompany a participating minor or an adult with care and support needs; and
- (b) to commence the subsidy scheme in the first quarter of 2025, according to feasibility and existing resources, with a view to full development and implementation of the scheme before the end of 2025.

DEPUTY R.S. KOVACS OF ST. SAVIOUR

## **REPORT**

This proposal seeks Assembly’s approval for a permanent financial support scheme offering grants of up to £2,000 to assist talented performers representing Jersey in off-island competitions across sports, arts, and academics. The grants will cover essential travel-related expenses, including competition fees, accommodation, uniforms, equipment and costs for a responsible carer to accompany a minor or an adult with care needs.

By supporting Jersey’s talented ambassadors—whether in sports, arts, or academics—we are investing in a brighter, more inspiring future for our island. It doesn’t matter whether they shine with their minds or their muscles; what matters is celebrating the talent at the heart of our identity and showcasing our rich cultural heritage.

### **The up to £2,000 Grant**

The £2,000 figure is based on feedback to the media from participants in various off-island competitions, who indicated that this amount typically covers their expenses when competing abroad. While some may require less and others more, this figure provides a reasonable average.

It is important to note, that for some disciplines, individuals may need to qualify through multiple smaller competitions—often in the UK—to accumulate the necessary points to progress to higher levels, such as competing for Team GB or representing Jersey in global competitions like Olympics in different disciplines. This progression path should also be taken into account and the proposed annual support capped amount per individual should be flexible enough to allow for multiple qualifying competitions, whether closer to home off-island or for more distant international events, ensuring fairness and flexibility in supporting all types of representation.

### **Current Funding Gaps**

At present, there are a number of fragmented grants—both public and private—focused on supporting in some form some performing talent in sports and the arts. However, these funds often fall short of what is needed and it’s sufficient for very few.

Some grants are also only available if participants are part of a club or association, but everyone should have the opportunity to apply directly, ensuring fairness and avoiding discrimination. Coaches, teachers, or trainers should also be able to apply on behalf of a team, for a lump sum based on the individual number of participants, with each participant’s approval, helping to reduce costs by sharing them.

Existing grants also often fail to provide the certainty, consistency or the level of reasonable funding that participants need when entering any qualifying level and representing Jersey abroad. This lack of support can lead to stress and demotivation, particularly for those working hard to compete at a higher and higher level. This proposal seeks to change that. If you qualify to represent Jersey, you should be automatically eligible for funding to cover related costs, provided the necessary safeguards and evidence are in place.

## Scope of the Support Scheme

The scheme would encompass individuals across a wide range of disciplines, including:

- **Sports and Athletics:** Individual and team sports such as athletics, football, rugby, swimming, and many more.
- **Arts and Culture:** Performing arts like dance, theatre, music, and visual arts such as painting and sculpture.
- **Academics and Intellectual Competitions:** Participants in maths and STEM competitions, chess tournaments, and other intellectual fields.

Each grant, capped at £2,000 per person/per year, would support expenses related to competition participation, including:

- **Travel and Transportation:** Essential travel costs for national and international events.
- **Competition Fees:** Entry fees or registration costs for events.
- **Accommodation:** Lodging expenses during the competition.
- **Uniforms and Kits:** Team jersey uniform, performance uniforms, and required equipment.
- **Related Chaperones costs:** necessary associated costs for a responsible carer to accompany a participating minor or an adult with care and support needs

It should be noted that the intent of the scheme is to provide support for those representing the Island in an uncontracted capacity<sup>1</sup> (that is, are not paid or otherwise contracted for these activities).

## Administrative Safeguards and Accountability

To ensure responsible use of funds and maintain financial accountability grant recipients would be required to:

- **Declare any other support:** Applicants must declare any additional funding from other associations, ensuring that Jersey's support complements rather than duplicates existing resources.
- **Submit a post-competition expense validation:** Upon return, recipients must provide proof of expenditure (receipts and invoices). Any unutilised or excess funds will be returned to the scheme for redistribution to future applicants.

These safeguards would protect public funds and ensure grants are allocated appropriately, maximizing impact.

## There are a range of important reasons for supporting Island representatives:

### 1. Promoting Jersey's reputation internationally

Individuals (or teams) competing on international stages serve as powerful ambassadors, representing Jersey's identity, culture, and talent. Their achievements enhance Jersey's reputation globally and bring recognition to the Island.

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<sup>1</sup> In line with the terms of the [Sports Jersey Travel Grant](#)

## **2. Encouraging excellence and inspiring future generations**

Supporting talented individuals fosters a culture of excellence, inspiring younger generations to pursue their passions. This initiative demonstrates that dedication and talent are valued in Jersey, motivating emerging talents across all disciplines.

## **3. Addressing the financial strain of high-level competition**

Competing internationally requires significant financial investment. Without support, talented individuals may miss opportunities, limiting both personal and national potential. This scheme would alleviate financial burdens, allowing performers to focus on preparation and performance.

## **4. Acknowledging personal sacrifices**

Competitors dedicate countless hours to training and studying while balancing other commitments. Providing financial support acknowledges their sacrifices, creating a supportive environment that values dedication and resilience.

## **5. Promoting inclusivity and diversity in representation**

The scheme emphasizes inclusivity by supporting excellence across a broad spectrum of disciplines. By recognizing varied forms of talent, Jersey shows its commitment to a diverse society that celebrates all avenues of achievement.

## **Arts, Culture, and Heritage**

The proposed financial support scheme is linked to enhancing Jersey's arts, culture, and heritage, particularly through its support for all types of competitors. Some of the areas of benefit are as follows –

- Showcasing Jersey's cultural identity
- Integrating sport, arts, and academics
- Increasing community pride and engagement
- Inspiring future generations
- Enhancing tourism and cultural exchange
- Reflecting Jersey's values and commitment to excellence

The proposed Support Scheme represents a vital investment in Jersey's future by supporting athletic, artistic and academic competitors. This initiative strengthens Jersey's identity, fosters community pride, and enhances its global reputation. By integrating support for sports and academics into the broader cultural narrative, the scheme enriches Jersey's arts, culture, and heritage, creating a legacy of excellence that celebrates diverse talents across all disciplines.

The scheme should also be considered in conjunction with the Island's [Arts Strategy](#) published in 2022, promoting the idea of a Creative Island. This proposal can be an important step in furthering one of the key principals of the Arts Strategy –

**Principle 5: The arts connect the local to the international.**  
 The arts can drive a new generation of internationalism – maximising the island’s international links and its diverse population. The arts can be to the heart of the Government’s Global Markets Strategy: cementing fresh relationships with France and Europe to overcome post-Brexit challenges; connecting the UK arts sector to Europe; and targeting new types of collaboration in other regions.

In turn this is backed by a Music Strategy published in May 2024 – [A Music Manifesto for Jersey](#). Again, this refers to championing musical excellence through national and international partnership – so the Island becomes known as a place of opportunity and creativity.

It is providing that level of opportunity, for all, that this amendment seeks to support.

**Conclusion**

This amendment proposes the establishment of a grant scheme that will provide crucial financial support to Jersey inhabitants, enabling them to represent the island on international stages. The initiative reinforces Jersey’s commitment to its talented individuals, acknowledges their sacrifices, and secures a legacy of excellence in a wide array of fields.

Ultimately, this financial support scheme not only helps Jersey’s talent performers reach new heights but also strengthens the island’s identity as a thriving place of talent, culture, and community - a message that resonates both within and beyond its borders.

We tell our young generation that the sky is the limit—let’s make sure that message doesn’t stop at the water’s edge!

**Financial and staffing implications**

The proposed funding for this support scheme is allocated from the Arts, Culture, and Heritage budget within the Sustainable Economic Development department. With the recent approval of [P.69/2024 \(Funding for Culture, Arts and Heritage\)](#) and the corresponding return to the original funding formula for Culture, Arts and Heritage, there is an unanticipated potential uplift of around £700,000 to the draft Budget (Government Plan) 2025-2028.

This amount was specified within the [Council of Ministers’ comments paper](#) in relation to P.69/2024 -

<b>Difference between 1% of NRE vs RPI Linkage</b>					
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
<b>£'000</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Plan</b>
1% of Net Revenue Expenditure	11,285	12,305	12,395	12,490	12,820
Budget 2025 - RPI Linked	-	11,554	11,551	11,771	12,167
Difference	-	751	844	719	805

*Table 1*

Even without including these additional funds, the allocation in the original budget draft for Culture, Arts, and Heritage was approximately £11 million. Within this allocation, there is a portion earmarked for community events that may arise, though not all are necessarily planned. In my view, it would be beneficial to redirect part of these funds to support Jersey’s talent—our island's most prominent ambassadors—who represent Jersey abroad.

If the Minister with the Council of Ministers can identify a better alternative funding source, a combination of sources, or redirect existing grants from different organizations or private funding to support even part of this initiative, I am happy for those options to be considered too, provided the funding remains sustainable and the intent of the proposition is achieved at the same level.

The funding could be managed within existing resources, for example by the newly established Performance Sport Strategy Committee, which focuses on selecting top talent for development, training, and support, where it could also involve representation from the Art Grants Committee and an academic representative. However, I don’t want to be prescriptive and limit options, and I trust the Minister will find the best way to also administer the scheme.

A preliminary estimate of the major events suggests that around 300 people could participate each year in high-level international competitions (some of these participants will have other funding sources and might not need the full amount).

This estimate breaks down as follows –

**Island Games**

As can be expected the largest participation of Islanders is within the Island Games, held every two years – the attending figures of which are as follows –

2015 - Jersey	2017 - Gotland	2019 - Gibraltar	2023 - Guernsey
264	217	162	240

**Dance World Cup**

Held every year, participation from Jersey Dance Schools is often every two years, with only one dance school going in the year where the others are not –

220	2021	2022	2023	2024
17 (age range 4-18)	64 (age range 4-18)	18 (age range 4-18)	50 (age range 5-19)	23 (age range 7-18)

**Commonwealth Games**

Held every four years. Funding would act as a bridging loan to allow participants to attend – costs are then refunded by the Commonwealth Games Association for attendees. In 2022, 28 Islanders competed in Birmingham.

Sporting Teams can also be supported through the subsidy however a number of such teams are already in receipt of funding through relevant sporting associations. The scheme will ensure safeguards are in place to avoid any duplication or misuse of funding.

Besides the above, participation of Islanders in arts, academic or other eligible competitions, are low in number usually in single digits.

Based on the information above and participation across disciplines highlighted in the media in the last few years, I estimate the total funding needed for the scheme would be no more than £600,000 (£2,000 per person for 300 individuals). This takes into account that not all competitions occur every year, and not all disciplines will be competing in the same year.

It should be noted that £125,000 is already set aside for travel grants under Jersey Sport, but within the current framework there are limited allocations per person (£20). With proper planning, we can utilise these funds to top up the funding proposed within this proposition to the estimated requirement of £600,000. This will ensure that our funding is inclusive and meets the needs outlined in the proposal, supporting our talented performers across all fields.

### **Children's Rights Impact Assessment**

A Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) has been prepared in relation to this proposition and is available to read on the States Assembly website.