

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT CRIMINAL JUSTICE (YOUNG OFFENDERS) (JERSEY) AMENDMENT LAW 202- (P.43/2025) – CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**Presented to the States on 27th May 2025
by the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs**

STATES GREFFE

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRIA)

PART 1: SCREENING

Name and title of Duty Bearer:	Deputy Mary Le Hegarat
Type of Duty Bearer: (Minister, Elected Member or States Assembly Body)	Minister for Justice and Home Affairs
Assessment completed by (if not completed by duty bearer):	Policy Principal
Date:	21.05.25

1) Name and brief description of the proposed decision

The subject of your CRIA may be a proposed law, policy or proposition and in accordance with the Law is referred to in this template as the '**decision**'

- What is the problem or issue the decision is trying to address?
- Do children experience this problem differently from adults?

The Youth Court has the primary function to hear charges against children and young people up to the age of 18 years. When it sits, the Youth Court is ordinarily constituted of 3 members. The Magistrate and two Panel members.

It is understood there is a material risk of the court not being able to deal with its statutory duty to have enough individuals to populate the Youth Court Panel and form a Youth Court.

Efforts to recruit new panel members have been made but there is an issue as panel members must retire at the age of 60. This serves to prohibit some members of the community applying to be panel members and for existing numbers with some years of experience being forced to retire.

To remedy this position the amendments, seek to change the retirement from 60 years old to 70 years old.

2) Which groups of children and young people are likely to be affected?

Groups of children could include early years, primary or secondary education; young adults; children with additional learning needs; disabled children; children living in poverty; children from particular ethnic backgrounds; migrants; refugees; care experienced children and LGBTQ+ children

This law involves children and young people dealt within the Youth Court.

3) What is the likely impact of the proposed decision on children and on their rights?

- Identify any potential positive OR negative impacts and include indirect impacts on children and their rights as described in the UNCRC
- Will different groups of children be affected differently by this decision?

The Youth Court is less likely to be cancelled resulting in an improved justice procedure.

The impact will be for those children and young people (under 18's) dealt with within the youth court and potentially swifter justice for victims who may also be children.

4) Is a full Children's Rights Impact Assessment required?

If you have identified impacts on children and their rights, a full CRIA should be completed. If no impacts are identified then a Full CRIA is not required, but please explain your rationale and how you reached this conclusion

A full CRIA is not required as although this small amendment will improve the functioning of the Youth Court, children's rights are not impacted as the procedures of the youth court remain unchanged.