

To:
Deputy Miles
Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
States Greffe: Scrutiny
Morier House
St. Helier
JE1 1DD

20 October 2025

Dear Deputy Miles

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
Proposed Budget 2026-2029 Review

Thank you for your letter to me of 6 October 2025, and the opportunity to provide you with responses to your questions. I have listed your questions below, along with my responses.

The Panel would appreciate to receive an update on the progress for 2025 for the following funded in the preceding Budget(s):

1. In your correspondence to the Panel dated 24th October 2023 in relation to Government Plan 2024-2027, you informed the Panel in relation to item 'Statistics Jersey – Capacity I-SPPP-GP23-002' from Government Plan 2023-2026, that *"this investment will enable Statistics Jersey to continue to operate sustainably and to provide existing statistical outputs"*. Please can you update the Panel about the current capacity of Statistics Jersey to continue to sustainably produce statistical outputs?

Answer:

In my correspondence to the panel of October 2023 [States Assembly | Submission - Proposed Government Plan 2024 - 2027 Review - Statistics Jersey](#) I explained that this item - 'SPPP-GP23-002' had two components:

- £172,000 of the Government Plan 2023 funding was simply to plug the inherited funding shortfall in Statistics Jersey budgets, and to prevent the cutting of existing outputs.
 - I explained at the time that, without this investment, Statistics Jersey would have had to cut the Business Tendency Survey, run the Jersey Opinions and Lifestyle Survey every two years, and make further cuts in 2024.
 - These cuts to outputs were avoided at the time by the provision of this £172k of funding. Obviously, subsequent (2024) budget reductions impacted on these statistical outputs, as explained below.

- The additional £146,000 of funding was for a new, small development team to allow Statistics Jersey to maintain the quality of existing outputs and to develop new outputs.
 - I explained that during 2023 the funding was sufficient, and we had two people in post. The funding had supported the development of the first experimental all-economy gender pay gap report and the 2022 GVA estimates (published 4 October) had been moved to the latest international Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2007).
 - Since the start of 2024 this small (two-person) development resource has been focussed on improvements to the production of the Retail Prices Index, which had had no development for twenty years. We have been able to:
 - Move the RPI production from a series of linked spreadsheets (which is dangerous for such an important indicator because of the risk of manual errors) on to a modern database system
 - As explained on page three of [R-RPI-Methodology-SJ20250813.pdf](#) this team have been able to:
 - Update and improve methodology for used cars and fresh produce
 - Update the weights for the basket of good from the 2014/15 Household spending patterns to those from the 2021/22 Household Spending Patterns [Household Spending Report 2021/2022](#) derived from the periodic Living Costs and Household Income Survey. It is important to keep RPI spending patterns up to date; the UK update RPI weights annually.
 - Introduce a mobile app for our price collectors, so that they collect prices in stores on mobile devices rather than on paper, as previously. This improves quality, reliability, and speed.
 - The RPI development work will conclude at the end of 2025. This team will then turn its attention to:
 - Preparing for the planned, but not currently funded, 2027 Living Costs and Household Income Survey, and
 - Preparatory work for the 2031 Census, including preparing materials as input to the next governments Common Strategic Policies. Decisions on the content and funding of the next census will need to be taken during the term of the 2026-30 Government.

The Panel will be aware of my 18 September 2024 statement [R-Chief-Statistician-discontinuance-of-statistical-reports-SJ20240918.pdf](#) outlining the impact of Statistics Jersey's share of Cabinet Office budget reductions. These reductions equated to four out of the then twenty-two posts.

- As explained in that statement, I and my team had reprioritised our work and outputs to focus on those we understood to be of greatest value to users such as: the Retail Price Index; Average Earnings; the House Price Index; Labour Market data; GDP/GVA estimates; the Jersey Children and Young Persons Survey and Island Outcome Indicators (Jersey's sustainable wellbeing indicators)

- During consideration of the 2025-28 Government Budget, the States Assembly decided [States Assembly | P.51/2024 Amd.\(3\).Amd.](#) to reallocate Cabinet Office budget to Statistics Jersey, to fund one post to reinstate the Business Tendency Survey (BTS). Given the Fiscal Policy Panel's keen interest in the BTS, Statistics Jersey took the opportunity of the delay and restarting of the survey to engage with the FPP and to recraft the survey questionnaire to better meet FPP needs. After a delay of a year, the next and refreshed BTS results are due to be published on Wednesday 22 October.
- A subsequent proposition [States Assembly | P.49/2025](#) resulted in an additional £40k being transferred within the Cabinet Office to Statistics Jersey to allow the Jersey Opinion and Lifestyle Survey (JOLS) to continue on an annual basis.

In summary, following the re-prioritisation outlined here [R-Chief-Statistician-discontinuance-of-statistical-reports-SJ20240918.pdf](#) and the subsequent amendments agreed in the States Assembly, Statistics Jersey is sustainably funded to produce its current suite of annual business as usual outputs.

There remain issues about the *sustainable funding* of periodic surveys (such as the five-yearly Living Costs and Household Income Survey and the decennial census). Statistics Jersey has no ongoing budget for such periodic (but predictable) activities and therefore has to submit business cases which are competing against other priorities. Despite being predictable and foreseeable, my experience over the past four years is that the Government Budget process struggles to allocate funding in advance for such activities.

2. In correspondence to the Panel dated 24th October 2023, you also informed the Panel about the challenges of recruiting for vacant statistician and analyst positions within Statistics Jersey. Have these challenges been mitigated, and what is the current status of recruitment to vacant positions within Statistics Jersey?

Answer: In summary – Statistics Jersey is fully staffed.

- At the time of the 2024 budget reductions, Statistics Jersey had 22 posts (including that of the Chief Statistician) and two vacancies.
- The budget reductions amounted to four posts
- Two team members left Statistics Jersey in autumn 2024
- This meant that the budget reductions could be achieved without any redundancies
- The decision in December 2024 to reinstate the Business Tendency Survey took Statistics Jersey headcount to 19 posts. This vacancy was recruited to on-island and filled in June 2025
- Given that Statistics Jersey is competing for statisticians and analysts with the Finance Sector we have previously found it challenging to recruit to more senior roles.

- As explained in [R-Chief-Statistician-Annual-Report-2024-SJ202507.pdf](#) Statistics Jersey therefore recruits early-in-careers staff and then trains them in statistics and develops them more generally.
- Six out of nineteen team members are currently undertaking either the full [MSc Data Analytics for Government | University of Southampton](#) at Southampton University, or relevant modules.

As part of my career and professional development responsibilities for the Jersey Statistics System, my team monitor posts, vacancies, and recruitment activities across the JSS; it has recently proved easier to recruit statisticians and analysts across the JSS. For instance, Treasury and Exchequer had over twenty applications for one of their recently advertised posts.

3. In correspondence from the Statistics User Group dated 16th October 2024, it stated that *"It is our view that the provision of additional resources for the production of statistics by Statistics Jersey and other public authorities, rather than a reduction in resources, is most likely required for accountable officers to meet these assurance responsibilities"*. Do you feel that adequate resources for Statistics Jersey are in place that enable Government of Jersey Accountable Officers to accurately complete Governance Assurance self-assessments?

Answer:

- To be clear, apart from specific requirements on itself, it is not Statistics Jersey's role to enable Accountable Officers to complete their annual Governance Assurance statement. Under Jersey's decentralised statistical system, it is important that AOs take accountability for publication of statistics in their departments. As Chief Statistician, I encourage and support the publication of more data already held by departments, but this is ultimately the decision of the AO about how they use their resources.
- The 2024 Annual Accountable Office Governance Statement included a question:
 - a) Are there arrangements in place to ensure that you meet all reporting requirements to the public and States Assembly? These must include
 - (a) updating of departmental data on the Statistics and performance (gov.je) web pages; please list the statistical pages for your area of responsibility.
 - (b) Sign-off and publication of Service Performance Measure data in your Departmental Annual Report;
 - (c) publication on time of statistical reports pre-announced on the statistics release calendar Statistical publications (gov.je)

- (d) compliance with the Jersey Statistics Code of Practice for Official Statistics for any official statistics
- Accountable Officers:
 - a) Should be able to report on (a) and (b) above
 - b) Only the following departments pre-announce publication of their statistics reports: – Statistics Jersey; Public Health; ESSH (Actively Seeking Work Open Data); Cabinet Office (homelessness data); People Services (staffing reports); Visit Jersey.
 - The relevant Chief Officers will have the information to report on performance in publishing against the plan
 - c) The Code of Practice for Official Statistics only applied to Statistics Jersey, and we are able to report on compliance
- As explained in [Statistics and Census \(Jersey\) Law 2018](#) (Part 2, 3, (3)) I, as Chief Statistician, am responsible for:
 - a) ensuring that statisticians and analysts employed by a public authority uphold high professional statistical standards
 - b) as far as resources allow, co-ordinating professional development across the statistical profession working with the Jersey Statistical System and ensuring that appropriate professional training is available; and
 - c) upholding the independence of the Jersey Statistical System.
- There are 19 Statisticians/analysts within Statistics Jersey, and an additional sixty across the wider Jersey Statistics System. These analysts are line managed within departments and ultimately by their Chief Officers.
- I have a dotted-line responsibility in relation to professional standards (the Code of Practice for Statistics) and Career and Professional development. Both are achieved by influence rather than control. That is normal in a decentralised statistical system such as in Jersey (the UK, France, Germany, and the US also have decentralised statistical systems).
- As explained above, the 2024 budget reductions amounted to cutting four posts. Two of these were in the team that supported me in my Chief Statistician cross-Government of Jersey role. These were deprioritised as having the lowest direct impact on statistical outputs. Functions cut (or plans not pursued) included:
 - a) Withdrawing from quarterly publication of departmental Service Performance Measures, with departments publishing this data in their Departmental Annual Reports.
 - b) Support to departments on surveys and questionnaires. This was a role I had hoped to recruit to and develop to provide more consistency in surveys across

government departments. Statistics Jersey still provides support when requested, but this is on a limited basis

- c) Stop supporting departmental data updates. Statistics Jersey used to curate the Jersey in Figures web pages on gov.je. With the creation of stats.je we have repatriated the remaining departmental statistics pages to analysts in departments to maintain.

<https://www.gov.je/Government/PlanningPerformance/StatisticsPerformance/pages/index.aspx>

- d) Statistics Jersey has stopped purchasing and development of statistics training for the Statistics and Analyst profession across Government of Jersey:
- We continue to maintain a career and professional development framework for statisticians and analysts in government, along with an associated list of suggested professional development training
 - We are no longer able to fund or develop statistics training. For instance, during 2024 Statistics Jersey funded the development of online training on disclosure control for (i) awareness training for all government of Jersey staff and (ii) detailed training for government statisticians and analysts.

4. Following the amendments ([Draft Statistics and Census \(Jersey\) Amendment Law 202-](#)) to the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 passed by the States Assembly in September 2024, and brought into force in February 2025. Please can you summarise which of the 2025 key priorities, outlined in the 2024 Statistics Jersey Annual Report, you have been able to implement, and which remain outstanding? Which remaining priorities related to the amendments to the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 do you anticipate will be implemented in the remainder of 2025?

Answer:

Strategic priorities are enduring. The five priorities, progress against them, and plans to the end of 2025 are set out below:

1. *Enhance Independence and accountability*

- First annual report published July 2025
- Developed (with internal communications support) new family of logos for Statistics Jersey; the Jersey Statistics System; and for Tier 1 statistics, to help enhance identity and independence
- Improved governance put in place using short-term funding that was available in 2025 only
 - Developing KPIs for 2025

- Set up Statistics Jersey Governance Board to formalise governance, reporting, and accountability
- First two meetings (May & September) of the JSS Statistical Producers Group

2. *Improve Dissemination of Statistics*

- New Statistics Jersey website went live in May 2025, to improve dissemination of Statistics Jersey statistics stats.je
- New and improved [release calendar](#) on the website
- Repatriation of departmental statistics pages to departments
- Chief Statistician's input to workstream two of the Fol review interim report <https://statesassembly.je/getmedia/a5896ce4-553e-4fbb-bad2-cd8e703949f0/R-138-2025.pdf>
- I have supported and encouraged departments such as CYPES and ESSH to publish more statistics online. The Police have committed to six monthly publication of crime statistics from autumn 2025.

3. *Make Increasing Uses of Administrative Data*

- Statistics Jersey continues to publish annual Population and Migration estimates based on administrative data. The [2024 report](#) published in September 2025 included information on those on short-term visas for the first time, after sharing of this data from JCIS
- The admin data based [gender pay gap report](#) published in March 2025 is now a separate report and no longer experimental
- We published in August 2025 a new [earnings report based on admin data](#)
- During 2025 I have agreed Data Sharing Agreements with Andium and I&E for sharing of data with Statistics Jersey on social housing and the Register of Dwellings Licence Scheme
- I have started discussions with Revenue Jersey and Employment, Social Security and Housing (ESSH) for sharing of tax and benefits data:
 - To support production of households from administrative data,
 - To assess feasibility of producing income distribution statistics from admin data sources
- Statistics Jersey are working on a project to expand the secure population admin data system to also include businesses and economic data
 - This will avoid duplication of datasets (both teams holding the same data); improve the security of the admin data; and allow linking of economic and population statistics to potentially produce new analyses.

4. *Modernise Statistical Methodologies*

- The focus during 2025 has been on RPI systems and methodologies. We have:
 - Improved methodology, as explained on page three of [R-RPI-Methodology-SJ20250813.pdf](#) :
 - Update and improve methodology for used cars and fresh produce
 - Update the weights for the basket of good from the 2014/15 Household spending patterns to those from 2021/22
 - Moved production from linked spreadsheets to a database environment
 - Developed an app for mobile devices for field force price collection – which was trialled in June; and went live in September
 - Developed an analyses app to improve and automate RPI analyses. This was tested in the September 2025 RPI round
- Restarted the Business Tendency Survey for September 2025, taking the opportunity to engage with the Fiscal Policy Panel to overhaul the questionnaire to better meet their needs
- Started evaluation of changes needed for the next Living Costs and Household Income Survey, including redesigning the spending diary, and exploring the scope for use of admin data for quality assurance of survey returns.

5. *Invest in Career and Professional Development*

- Six staff are doing modules of the Southampton University Masters in Data and Government
- Two staff are undertaking remote MSc modules at Glasgow University on use of the R statistical software
- Statistics Jersey sent three staff to the two-yearly International Statistics Institute World Statistics Congress (WSC) in the Hague in October 2025. The WSC is the premier international statistical conference, attended by 1,500 people.
 - This was part of their continuing professional development on international developments in statistics, and to build networks with international statistician colleagues
- We are developing a specific Statistics Jersey curriculum to sit alongside the analyst professional development framework and identifying those training opportunities of most relevance to our work.

5. The 2024 Statistics Jersey Annual Report states that *"2025 represents a transition year as Statistics Jersey adapts to its enhanced governance framework"*. Following the appointment of the Chief Statistician as 'Corporation Sole', what adaptations have been made in 2025 to enshrine the independence of the Chief Statistician?

Answer:

The below sets out the steps I have taken to enhance the independence of the Chief Statistician and Statistics Jersey:

2024 budget reductions do not fully come in to force until 2026. This meant that posts needed to be cut in 2024 because, although they would have been affordable in 2025, they would not have been affordable in 2026. This has consequently meant that there has been short-term funding in 2025 for implementation of the introduction of the Statistics Law amendments, but these funds are not available in future years.

- a) A Framework Agreement has been drafted between the Cabinet Office and the Chief Statistician. This is not yet finalised, but I have been fully consulted on the content.
- b) Consideration has been given to whether:
 - o Statistics Jersey should be a separate Head of Expenditure
 - o The Chief Statistician should be an Accountable Officer
 - o The decision has been made not to change arrangements for now, and Statistics Jersey remains part of the Cabinet Office budget, with Paul Wylie as Accountable Officer, although the Treasurer has said that the Accountable Officer decision could be reviewed in future in the light of experience.
- c) As explained in response to Q7 below, the budget mechanism has been different this year, which has given me an opportunity to formally and transparently set out to the Chief Minister the budget I believe is required for Statistics Jersey for its business-as-usual work and for projects.
- d) In terms of how I behave in practice, this has not changed fundamentally. The role of Chief Statistician and that of Statistics Jersey was already well understood and respected by ministers, States Assembly members, and officials within government. In my time in post I have never been asked to do something I felt was inappropriate.
- e) The Chief Minister has held three workshops with States Assembly members on issues such as long-term challenges; demographic change; and government spending. I was invited to speak independently to each of these workshops, which I have appreciated.
- f) Once the Statistics Council is well established, it is required to produce an annual report, which should also help with the independence of the Jersey Statistics System

6. Following confirmation of the membership of the Statistics Council on 10th June 2025 (R.90/2025), how often has the Statistics Council met to date? What work has the Statistics Council undertaken to date?

Answer:

- I am not responsible for the work of the Statistics Council – they are an independent body. However, to be helpful, I have outlined their activities and work to date. I checked this content with Kate Chamberlain, the Chair of the Statistics Council.

- The Chair of the Statistics Council brought together all new Council members for an online introductory meeting on 30 June – an opportunity for the Council to start to get to know each other. I attended this meeting
- I understand that the Chair has held one-to-one meetings with all members of the Statistics Council
- I also understand that the Chief Minister held an introductory meeting with the Chair of the Statistics Council
- The Chair and I have been holding short catch-up meetings every two weeks
- The first formal meeting of the Statistics Council took place on the morning of Tuesday 23 September, with most Council members attending in person
- On the afternoon of 22 September, an induction session was arranged for Statistics Council members on:
 - Jersey Government
 - The provisions of the Statistics Law
 - The role of Statistics Jersey and the wider Jersey Statistics System
 - Strengths and weaknesses of the statistics system in Jersey
 - Users of Jersey Statistics

In terms of the work of the Statistics Council:

- The main item of business for the formal meeting was presentation of the first list of Tier 1 Statistics. As defined in the law, this first list is restricted to Statistics Jersey outputs.
 - As also set out in the law, the Statistics Council then have six weeks (until early November) to consider and comment on the proposed first list of Tier 1 statistics.
- At its formal meeting, the Statistics Council also considered arrangements for engaging with users, and drew up a list of statistics users that they wished to meet with
- The proposed first list of Tier 1 Statistics had to comply with the *Code of Practice for Tier 1 Statistics*, which, under the law amendments, became my responsibility
 - Prior to presenting the first list of Tier 1 Statistics, I had therefore asked the Statistics Council to comment on my initial draft. Council members provided comments by email, which I considered.
 - After making amendments, the [Jersey Code of Practice for Tier 1 Statistics | Statistics Jersey](#) was published in September

7. What engagement have you had with the Chief Minister in relation to the changes proposed under P.29/2024, following its enactment in February 2025? Has the Chief Minister consulted you in respect of the level of funding for Statistics Jersey, as required under Article 4(4) of the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018?

Answer:

The amendments to the Statistics Law include the following requirements:

- a) "The Minister must make an annual assessment of the funding required to ensure that the Chief Statistician is provided with the financial and administrative resources, and other support, including staff, services, equipment and accommodation, necessary to enable the Chief Statistician to discharge the functions of the office economically, effectively and efficiently."
- b) "The Minister must consult the Chief Statistician before submitting an amount in respect of the Chief Statistician to the Council of Ministers under Article 10(1)(d) of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019."

The law does not specify precisely how this process should take place. In practice consultation with the Chief Minister consisted of:

- I wrote a 'Statistics Jersey budget annual assessment and business cases' submission which I sent to the Chief Minister on 3 July
- Paul Wylie and I met with the Chief Minister on 4 July 2025
- Paul and I separately briefed the Chief Minister on our respective positions
- The Chief Minister made his decisions.

I understand that in the 10 October CSSP Review Hearing on the proposed Government Budget 2026-29, Paul Wylie, the Chief Officer for the Cabinet Office, stated that he was happy to share the correspondence and associated documentation relating to the funding of Statistics Jersey in the 2026-29 period. I have therefore referenced below some of the content of that correspondence but, if the CSSP wishes to see that correspondence in full, including my budget annual assessment, and copies of the business cases, that is most appropriately a request to Paul Wylie.

My submission to the Chief Minister covered:

- 1) The budget required for maintaining business as usual
- 2) Two business cases for
 - a) Sustainably maintaining the five-yearly Living Costs and Household Income Survey; and
 - b) Resources required for administrative support for Statistics Law amendments.

1 - Business as usual

Following:

- Prioritisation of Statistics Jerseys work following 2024 Budget reductions that led to [Chief-Statistician-Statistics-Jersey-discontinuance-of-statistical-reports.pdf](#)
- Amendments to the 2025-28 Government Budget ([States Assembly | P.51/2024 Amd.\(3\)](#)) which was subsequently amended by [States Assembly | P.51/2024 Amd.\(3\).Amd.](#) which reinstated funding to restart the quarterly Business Tendency Survey (BTS), and
- The outcome of Deputy Doublet's proposition [States Assembly | P.49/2025](#) to reinstate JOLS annually, which resulted in an additional £40k budget

I explained that, unless there were further budget reductions, the planned Government Budget 2026-29 of £1.919m a year for Statistics Jersey is sufficient for Statistics Jersey to deliver its suite of outputs (including the BTS) and to run JOLS annually.

2 - Business cases – My submission to the Chief Minister contained briefing on, and links to two business cases:

a) Business case - Living Costs and Household Income Survey

The Living Costs and Household Income Survey (LCHIS) is a periodic survey to collect income and expenditure data. The survey has been carried out every five years since at least 1998, except during the pandemic. The last survey was for 2021-2022, and so the survey is due.

The survey is used in the following ways:

- 1) The income data from the survey is used to produce income distribution data and estimates of households in relative low income
- 2) The survey provides the definitive estimate of **median income**, used for the living wage calculation (uprated by changes in average earnings between surveys)
- 3) The expenditure data is used for modelling impacts of tax changes, and in updating the weights for the RPI basket of goods to ensure the RPI reflects recent spending patterns.

The business case was for the survey to start in spring 2027 and run for a year, with results published in early 2029. The preferred option costs are:

- £393,000 in 2027
- £281,000 in 2028
- £22,000 in 2029

I submitted essentially the same business case for this survey to the 2024 and 2025 Government Budget processes. In my submission to the Chief Minister this year, I pointed out that if the LCHIS is delayed beyond 2027-28, it will run in to the preparations for the 2031 Census. This would be challenging for Statistics Jersey leadership capacity to deliver with existing staffing, so delivery of both programmes would come with additional costs.

b) Business Case – Administrative support for Statistics Law amendments

The Ministerial Decision lodging the Amendments to the Statistics and Census Law [Draft Statistics and Census \(Jersey\) Amendment Law 202-](#) recognised that there are three areas in which the draft Law would introduce requirements on the Chief Statistician that carry resource implications, including:

- a) Producing a separate annual report and accounts detailing the performance and functions of the Chief Statistician
- b) Producing the strategy for the Jersey Statistics System (JSS) and formal co-ordination of the JSS, including secretarial functions for the Statistical Producers Group; and
- c) Conducting the ordinary programme of reviews and occasional extraordinary reviews of Tier 1 statistics

In terms of the Jersey Statistics Strategy and Statistics Jersey Output Plan the [Statistics and Census \(Jersey\) Law 2018](#) requires:

"The Chief Statistician must prepare and present to the Minister as soon as practicable after each new Common Strategic Policy ("CSP") has been approved by the States

- a) "a strategy for the Jersey Statistical System, taking into account both the data required to support the CSP over Ministers' term of office and the wider needs of users of statistics in Jersey; and
- b) "a plan for the output of the OCS [Statistics Jersey] covering the term of the CSP."

In terms of reviews of Tier 1 statistics, the [Statistics and Census \(Jersey\) Law 2018](#) requires:

- a) "The Chief Statistician must develop and publish a scheme for suspending statistical reports from the list of tier 1 statistics and in doing so must consult the Statistics Council.
- b) "The Chief Statistician must instigate a programme of reviews of tier 1 statistics and establish and publish the criteria against which the reviews will be carried out.
- c) "The Chief Statistician must consult the Statistics Council on the programme of reviews and the criteria for the reviews (and any changes to them) before publishing the criteria."

Tier 1 Statistics reviews may need support from international subject matter experts (e.g. from other National Statistics Offices) in the relevant statistical area. Part of the business case was to provide non-staff budget to cover such costs if required.

The proposition recognised additional ongoing annual costs of £143,900 - uprating for inflation, the £143,900 costs would be £168,000 for 2026.

Table 1: Financial costs to implement the draft Law

Description	2024 ¹⁶ £	2025 £	2026 £	2027 £	Total £
Recurring Costs (staff costs)	51,200	102,600	102,600	102,600	359,000
Recurring Costs (non-staff costs)	23,100	41,300	41,300	41,300	147,000
Investment Total	74,300	143,900	143,900	143,900	506,000

The business case I this year shared with the Chief Minister set out the case for provision of funding to support the activities identified in the law. But, recognising that:

- Budgets are tight
- That the first list of Tier 1 statistics (belonging to Statistics Jersey) is only likely to be agreed in early 2026
- It will take time for Tier 1 statistics from other public authorities to be added to the list
- And therefore, it may not be necessary to carry out Tier 1 Statistics reviews soon

The preferred option in the business case in 2026 prices was £80,000 for 2026 and 2027 and £130,000 thereafter.

For information/context:

- The 2024 Annual report was supported by a contracted resource funded by budget only available during 2025. Producing subsequent reports will be less resource intensive, but will clearly have a non-zero additional cost
- Secretarial support to the Jersey Statistical Producers Group can probably be absorbed within existing resources
- After the next Common Strategic Policy has been produced, producing (i) the strategy for the Jersey Statistics System and (ii) the Statistics Jersey Output Plan, will require resources during late 2026 and in to 2027
- I currently do not have resources to develop the criteria and schedule for Tier 1 statistics required under the law, nor resources to carry out Tier 1 Statistics reviews in the future.

Paul Wylie and I met with and briefed the Chief Minister on 4 July 2025. The decisions made were:

- 1) That it was necessary to rerun the Living Costs and Household Income Survey to start in spring 2027. Funding is not required until 2027 and so the Chief Minister agreed that this should be funded under the Government Budget 2027-30. A growth bid should, therefore, be submitted to the 2027-30 Budget process.

- a) For staff to be in post and trained for spring 2027, it will be necessary to start the recruitment process during the latter part of 2026 – i.e. before the 2027-30 Government Budget has been approved by the States Assembly.
 - b) In his letter to me, the Chief Officer of the Cabinet Office has stated that he will support me to ensure that staff can be recruited in time to enable the survey to commence in March 2027, including agreeing to recruit staff at risk of the funding request not being supported by the States Assembly in the 2027-30 Budget debate.
 - c) The survey will be treated as a cost pressure against the wider Cabinet Office budget until additional funding has been secured.
- 2) Not to accept the business case for the administrative costs associated with the Law amendments.
- a) That Statistics Jersey will continue to receive support from the Cabinet Office and Treasury and Resources to ensure it is able to produce an annual report for 2025, as it has managed to do for 2024, without the need for additional resources.
 - b) While Statistics Jersey would require additional resources to conduct reviews of statistics, as the Law does not require reviews to be conducted at specific frequencies or to set standards, this should not require growth bid funding. Further time is required to assess whether the Law increases the administrative burden on Statistics Jersey or whether these additional tasks can be managed within its existing resources with specific additional funding requests met from the wider Cabinet Office budget.

I trust that the information above provides full responses to your seven questions. If there is further information that you require, I am happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Cope

Chief Statistician

Email: Chiefstatistician@stats.je

Statistics Jersey | PO Box 140 |