Minister for External Relations and Financial Services



13 October 2021

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

Deputy David Johnson

Chair

Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Office

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Re: EIA Panel Review of the Government Plan 2022-25

Thank you for your letter dated 6th October 2021.

I can confirm that the drop in funding from £12,284,000 in 2022 and 2023 to £12,283,000 in 2024 and 2025 relates to the External Relations part of my portfolio and specifically to the Global Markets budget. This is a result of figures being rounded down for the latter two years of the Plan, and therefore is an administrative detail. This therefore doesn't relate to any particular project and it won't have any material impact on the work of the Global Markets team.

The total budget for External Relations in 2022 and 2023 is £2,918,000 and this formally reduces to £2,917,000 for 2024 and 2025, although as noted above this is practically of no effect. The total budget for Financial Services is £9,366,000 for each year from 2022-25.

I am satisfied at the current time that this budget allows the vital work of External Relations and Financial Services to proceed as necessary, ensuring our work in the UK, Brussels, France, Europe and our target global markets can continue to move forward in line with our strategies. It represents ongoing long-term growth in the budgets of these key areas of Government, which began during my time as Chief Minister and has continued over the course of this Government.

It anticipates providing the funding required to implement our refreshed financial services strategy (due for publication by the end of the year) and ensures we will continue to be a leading jurisdiction in combating financial crime. Indeed, an additional £1.8 million is allocated to our Anti-Money Laundering work and to combating the financing of terrorism.

Supporting Jersey's representation and engagement in the world, and promoting and protecting our most important economic sector, is ongoing work and it will always be possible and necessary to adapt, develop and do more. How we can best target future growth in both respects will need to form a central part of the considerations of Ministers when formulating Government Plans in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely

Senator Ian Gorst

Minister for External Relations and Financial Services