

STATES OF JERSEY



SOCIAL RENTS PLAN TO REDUCE RENTAL STRESS FOR TENANTS (P.29/2025) – CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**Presented to the States on 3rd April 2025
by Deputy R.S. Kovacs of St. Saviour**

STATES GREFFE

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRIA)

PART 1: SCREENING

Name and title of Duty Bearer:	Deputy R.S. Kovacs of St. Saviour
Type of Duty Bearer: (Minister, Elected Member or States Assembly Body)	Elected Member
Assessment completed by (if not completed by duty bearer):	Members' Resources
Date:	01.04.2025

<p>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'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the problem or issue the decision is trying to address? • Do children experience this problem differently from adults? <p>The decision is trying to address the issue of rental price stress for people in social housing rentals. Children experience this issue differently from adults.</p>
<p>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</p> <p>Children living in social housing would be affected by this decision – and this is likely to include children living in poverty.</p>
<p>3) What is the likely impact of the proposed decision on children and on their rights?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <p>Ensuring of social housing rent is kept at an affordable rate will be in the best interests of children living in this type of housing as it will reduce rental stress on parents and caregivers and see more disposable income is in the hands of families so an adequate standard of living can be achieved for children.</p> <p>Therefore, the decision will have a positive impact on children's rights in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best interests of the Child (Art 3) to be a top priority - Right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet the child's physical and social needs and support their development (Art 27) - Right to adequate standard of living (Art 27)
<p>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</p>
<p>Yes</p>

If screening determines that a full CRIA is needed, complete Part 2

Part 2: FULL CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5) What will be the impacts (positive or negative) of the proposed decision on children’s rights?			
For each of the UNCRC articles described below, click to identify any that may be relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Category	UNCRC Article	Impact? YES NO	
Guiding Principles	Non-discrimination (Art 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Best interests of the Child (Art 3) to be a top priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Right to Life survival and development (Art 6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Respect for the child’s views (Art 12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil Rights & Freedoms	Right to birth registration, name and nationality (Art 7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Right to an identity (Art 8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Freedom of expression (Art 13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion (Art 14) Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Freedom of association (Art 15) Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Right to Privacy (Art 16) including family and home life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Access to information from the media (Art 17) Right to access reliable information from a variety of sources, in a format that children can understand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Protection against torture or other cruel, degrading or inhumane treatment or punishment (Art 37(a))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Environment and Alternative Care	Respect for the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents (or where applicable, extended family or community) to guide their child as they grow up (Art 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Responsibilities of both parents in the upbringing and development of their child (Art 18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (Art 9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Family reunification (Art 10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Abduction and non-return of children abroad (Art 11)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet the child's physical and social needs and support their development (Art 27)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Special protection for children unable to live with their family (Art 20)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Best interests of the child in the context of Adoption (Art 21)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Review of treatment whilst in care (Art 25) If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Protection from violence, abuse or neglect (Art 19)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Recovery from trauma and reintegration (Art 39) Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic Health and Welfare	Rights of disabled children (Art 23)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Right to health and health services (Art 24)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Right to social security (Art 26)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Right to adequate standard of living (Art 27)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities	Right to education (Art 28)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Goals of education (Art 29) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Leisure, play and culture (Art 31) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in cultural and artistic activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Protection Measures	Special protection for refugee children (Art 22)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Children and armed conflict (Art 38 and Optional Protocol #1) Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflict.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Children and juvenile justice (Art 40) Right to be treated with dignity and respect, right to legal assistance and a fair trial that takes account of age.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inhumane treatment and detention (Art 37 (b)-(d)) Children should be arrested, detained or imprisoned only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recovery from trauma and reintegration (Art 39) Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child labour and right to be protected from economic exploitation (Art 32)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug abuse (Art 33)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual exploitation (Art 34)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abduction, sale and trafficking of children (Art 35)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection from other forms of exploitation including for political activities, by the media or for medical research (Art 36)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children belonging to a minority or an indigenous group (Art 30)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6) Information and research What evidence has been used to inform your assessment?		
Evidence collected (include links to relevant publications)	What did the evidence tell you?	What are the data gaps, if any?
Life on the Rock (2021)	“Housing was one of the top five issues that would make Jersey better for over a quarter of children, with concerns increasing as children get older.” (p. 7)	
Life on the Rock (2021)	“The group agreed that ‘houses and flats are very expensive in Jersey’. They spoke of the knock-on effect high housing costs may cause families who struggle to pay high rent such as ‘homelessness or	

	children being made to social services when it's not their (the parents) fault'." (p. 90)	
Life on the Rock (2021)	"While Jersey offers many of its children a seemingly idyllic backdrop in which to grow and develop and learn, many children do not enjoy this to the same extent as others since much of what is available comes at a cost. These costs may relate to conflicts between housing, transport, leisure, school, or even medical assistance, and in this regard, not all costs fell equally." (p. 4)	
Island-wide Survey Findings 2018 – Age 3-7 Findings	30% children chose "More money for families" as top 2 things that would "make life better for children in Jersey."	

7) Engagement with children What groups of children and young people (or those who speak on their behalf, such as social workers, teachers or youth workers) have been directly or indirectly involved in developing the decision?		
Groups consulted	How they were involved	What were the findings?
Young people to the age of 9-18	Life on the Rock (2021)	Affordable housing is an important issue for young people.
3-7 year old children	Island-wide Survey Findings 2018 – Age 3-7 Findings	More money for families is considered an important way to make life better for children in Jersey.

8) Assessing Impact on children's rights Based on the information collected and analysed above, what likely impact will the proposed decision have on the specific children's rights identified in question 5)?		
Relevant UNCRC Articles (rights) identified in Q5	Describe the positive or negative impacts on these rights	Which group(s) of children are likely to be affected?

Best interests of the Child (Art 3) to be a top priority	Positive impact – it is in the best interests of children to live in stable, affordable accommodation with rents that do not place financial stress on families with all of the negative outcomes of such stress.	All children living in social housing in Jersey
Right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet the child’s physical and social needs and support their development (Art 27)	Positive impact – if social housing rent is more affordable families will have more disposable income which contributes to a standard of living that is good enough to meet a child’s physical, social and developmental needs.	All children living in social housing in Jersey
Right to adequate standard of living (Art 27)	Positive impact – if social housing rent is more affordable families will have more disposable income which contributes to an adequate standard of living.	All children living in social housing in Jersey
<p>9) Weighing positive and negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a negative impact is identified for any area of rights <u>or</u> any group of children and young people, what options are there to modify the proposed decision to mitigate the impact? • Could any positive impacts be enhanced? <p>The proposed policy would have a positive impact on children and young people - ways in which these positive outcomes could be enhanced would depend on the final terms of the policy that is presented to the Assembly.</p>		

<p>10) Conclusions</p> <p>In summary, what are your key findings on the impact of the proposed decision on the rights of Jersey children?</p>
<p>Housing is a basic right for children in Jersey and this proposed decision aims to ensure rent for some of Jersey’s most vulnerable children is lowered in order to increase affordability of social housing and reduce rental stress.</p> <p>Housing affordability has a range of positive impacts on families in terms of alleviating rental stress and delivering increased disposable income which in turn contributes to an adequate standard of living that is good enough to meet a child’s physical, social and developmental needs. By lowering social housing rent more disposable income will be available to families.</p>