

Deputy S Luce
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
Mourier House
St Helier
Jersey
JE1 1DD

11 November 2022

Dear Deputy Luce

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel review of the proposed Government Plan 2023 – 2026 (GP23-26), (the Proposition).

Rubis Channel Islands have reviewed the Proposition and the impact of the funding proposals.

Fuel Duty Freeze

Freezing fuel duty in the current volatile global market and with an eye on the objectives in the Carbon Neutral Roadmap (CNR), is a pragmatic decision.

We have previously voiced (letter to Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, 19/08/22) that the Government may need to consider targeted support to those who need help, whether this is Islanders or businesses.

Schemes to assist businesses reliant on motor fuel e.g. logistics, fishing or agriculture could be introduced. These schemes could be targeted to support businesses facing significant increases in their cost base, costs which either cannot be recovered and/or would be passed on to the end consumer.

For Islanders, we would suggest that there could be a voucher scheme introduced utilising the eligibility criteria of an existing support scheme envisaged in the Proposition. Such a voucher scheme would provide focussed assistance to those in need and we would be more than happy to be involved in such scheme and accept the vouchers at our retail sites.

Any environmental impact could be mitigated by ensuring any scheme encouraged Islanders and businesses to switch to use a renewable fuel source, for example renewable diesel.

Climate Emergency Fund Commitment

Focussing on the Climate Emergency Fund (CEF), this is a critical vehicle to move the Island towards achieving the net zero emissions target by 2050.

Rubis Channel Islands have overall been supportive of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap (CNR) and see the need of the CEF to be ringfenced, to ensure that initiatives in the CNR can start to be delivered. The current funding levels are not sufficient to deliver the CNR.

The need for additional funding is critical, a route to add to the CEF, from other areas not just additional duty on road fuel, needs to be explored as an imperative.

This should kick start a wider review on the use of fuel duty as a mechanism to raise tax. The CNR objectives are to reduce this as a tax base, and with the increased uptake of renewables fuels and electric vehicles, the current system is not fit for purpose going forward.

The CNR includes a proposed reduction in duty on 2nd generation renewable diesel (SGRD), whether there is a reduction in duty or facilitating other targeted initiatives, there needs to be a focus on helping businesses and consumers transition from fossil fuels now.

SGRD is a solution for today.

We are, as ever, happy to discuss any of the points raised with yourselves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Crolla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nick Crolla

Head of Sales & Marketing
Rubis Channel Islands