

3.8 Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North of the Chief Minister regarding strengthening Jersey's preparedness for unforeseen events (OQ.21/2026):

In light of current geopolitical uncertainties and the importance of food security, energy resilience and the Island's transport links, will the Chief Minister advise what steps, if any, the Government has taken to strengthen Jersey's preparedness for unforeseen events, including disruption to supply chains, and if no steps have been taken, will he explain why?"

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter (The Chief Minister):

The Government has taken a number of practical steps to strengthen Jersey's resilience to potential disruption affecting food security, energy supply and transport links. Emergency preparedness is co-ordinated through the Emergency Planning Team and the Jersey Resilience Forum, which brings together 27 partner organisations to plan for, respond to and recover from major incidents. We maintain close working relationships with U.K. Government departments, regional resilience forums and military liaison officers to ensure we are sighted on emerging risks and can escalate issues quickly where needed. Our planning is underpinned by the Jersey Emergency Risk Register that is aligned to the U.K. National Security and Risk Assessment, which identifies the Island's most significant risks and drives contingency planning. We have also established an energy resilience working group, are responding to recommendations on critical national infrastructure and progressing proposals for a new resilience law to strengthen governance and accountability. In addition, steps have been taken to protect supply chains and connectivity, including strengthened ferry service arrangements and ongoing work on energy security as part of the Island's developing energy strategy. Together, these measures reflect an active and ongoing programme to ensure Jersey is better prepared for both anticipated and unforeseen events.

3.8.1 Deputy I. Gardiner:

Will the Chief Minister advise whether the Government has assessed how long essential food, fuel, and medical supplies could be maintained in the event of prolonged disruption to sea or air links, and what are the contingencies?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

Those considerations are looked at periodically. I cannot give the exact details of the latest estimates on that figure but I can assure Members they are constantly reviewed

3.8.2 Deputy R.S. Kovacs of St. Saviour:

The Chief Minister said that the most significant risks are assessed. What specific risks have been identified as the most significant to the Island?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

I do not think I have time to identify all of them, but we are constantly working with quite a large risk register, which is categorised into risk depending on the prevailing circumstances and the political situations at the time. I cannot be specific, but I am happy to share risk registers with Members.

3.8.3 Deputy R.S. Kovacs:

I will appreciate if that could be shared. How often are emergency preparedness plans reviewed and tested in that sense?

[10:30]

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

I would just say regularly. I do not think there is a set timetable. The forums and the groups meet regularly, consistently, and that culminates in Emergencies Council meetings when emergencies are declared or further action is required. But I can assure Members that all known risks are constantly monitored, and careful consideration is given in the hopefully unlikely times we might need to step in. Of course, we learnt a lot from recent incidents, we learnt a lot during COVID, and we learnt a lot from the very sad events we had following COVID in relation to L'Ecume, and the Haut do Mont situation.

3.8.4 Deputy H.L. Jeune of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity:

The Chief Minister mentioned a number of groups and responsibilities and areas that is being looked at under this, but could the Chief Minister clarify where clear Ministerial responsibility now sits for overall Island resilience and how progress is being monitored as a whole of government level?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

The overall responsibility sits with the Council of Ministers. I chair, in my role as Chief Minister, the Emergencies Council and a number of the groups. The Emergencies Councils, off the top of my head, consists of Economy, Infrastructure, Health, Chief Minister, Home Affairs, as I believe it.

3.8.5 Deputy H.L. Jeune:

Specifically we have heard from the Chief Minister before about this particular resilience law that he mentioned as well. Will the Chief Minister, as the head of this Ministerial responsibility, be bringing this law any time soon and could he give a timeline please?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

I cannot at the moment, but I am due for an update this month. I am happy to keep Members posted.

3.8.6 Deputy I. Gardiner:

Since the Chief Minister cited that we responded to COVID and the other incidents that we had, can the Chief Minister identify what specific changes, one or 2 changes, have been implemented since those incidents to strengthen our preparedness?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

I would allude the Deputy to some of the details I gave in my original answer, including, I think, more regular meetings of the political groups that I mentioned and, of course, the considerable unseen work ... I am sorry, I will give way if the Deputy is confused.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

No, the question was: can the Chief Minister present specific change what happened in our preparedness based on the lessons learned during the COVID and managing other incidents?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

I am sorry, I do not understand the question.

The Bailiff:

She wants to know what specific changes have been introduced post-COVID?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

I cannot list all of those off the top of my head. But I would be happy to invite the Deputy to come into the office and I will happily run through all the work that is going on.