

Government of Jersey
Union Street | St Helier | Jersey | JE2 3DN

Deputy Catherine Curtis
Chair, Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel.
BY EMAIL

Dear Chair,

19 May 2025

**Clarification following the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel's
Quarterly Hearing with the Minister for Children and Families - 30th April 2025**

During the quarterly hearing on the 30 April, I was asked about progress on reciprocal care orders, and I advised that, whilst dialogue was ongoing with the DfE (UK Department for Education) progress remained slow. I also stated that the delay was caused partly by legal resources being allocated to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools bill, which is currently passing through the House of Lords.

I believe some confusion may have arisen when Deputy Miles asked whether there would be a permissive extent clause to extend regulations to Jersey.

I would like to clarify that the provision for Jersey care orders to be recognised in England and Wales will be made by regulations under current powers in the Children Act 1989 (not the Children's Wellbeing and Schools bill). That is to say, provision will be inserted into these regulations to deal with the recognition of Jersey care orders in England and Wales; it is not the case that any UK regulations will be extended to Jersey. The only relevance of the UK Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is the extent to which it is currently impacting our ability to progress matters with the DfE.

I trust this clarifies the position and would like to assure the Panel that officers are working with UK counterparts to progress this as swiftly as possible; further meetings are due to take place later this month.

In addition to the clarification above, I was asked during the hearing if I agreed that a third of children in Jersey are living in poverty. I should have clarified that the most up to date data that Statistics Jersey hold on this, comes from the Jersey Household Income Distribution report 2021/2022 ([Income Distribution Report Published](#)). This states that **one in four (24%)** of children were in relative low income, a lower proportion than the **UK (29%)**. Where 'relative low income' is defined as household income below 60% of median equivalised income.

So it may be that the 'third' mentioned was in reference to the UK reporting, whereas I understand in Jersey it is slightly lower at a quarter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Vibert', written in a cursive style.

Connétable Richard Vibert
Minister for Children and Families
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