

Chief Minister



Deputy Helen Miles,  
Chair, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel  
**By email**

24<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Chair

**Re Inquests and Post-Mortem Examinations (Jersey) Law 1995 and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 2001**

Thank you for your letter of 17<sup>th</sup> March enquiring about the workstream to improve Jersey's coronial practices and procedures relating to the investigation and registration of death, which is known as the Death Management Project.

Over the last year officials have developed a set of draft legislative drafting instructions, which are nearing completion, and have briefed key stakeholders, Ministers, and the Legislation Advisory Panel on the overarching aims of the project. Measures to modernise the cremations authorisation process and improve the scrutiny of deaths resulting in burial have been identified.

A number of simple but impactful amendments to improve the flexibility of coronial inquests, particularly the ability to release a body so that families can hold a funeral, have been developed. By reviewing end-to-end processes, it is anticipated that scrutiny of death will be enhanced, while overburdensome administration and duplication will be reduced, to place the needs of grieving families at the heart of service delivery.

In the coming months, officials will be working to simplify governance processes and further identify efficiencies to reduce delays. It is anticipated that the law drafting instructions will be completed during 2025, although this may run into 2026.

However, it is unlikely that the amendments will be brought forward before the end of this Government term.

Matters relating to missing persons have been incorporated into this workstream. After consideration of an options paper, some minor amendments have been identified to clarify the position regarding presumption of death in the Probate (Jersey) Law 1998. As part of this work, some guidance has been published on managing the personal affairs of long-term missing persons, with a view to supporting the small number of families impacted by this issue.

I trust that the above explains the progress of this workstream and anticipated timescales. If it would assist the Panel, I would be pleased for officials to provide you with a further private briefing on the project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lyndon Farnham".

**Deputy Lyndon Farnham**  
**Chief Minister**

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