

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

Deputy Helen Miles
Chair of the Corporate Services Panel
By email only

2 June 2025

Dear Chair

Draft Elections (Jersey) Amendment Law 202-

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 May 2025 regarding the [Draft Elections \(Jersey\) Amendment Law 202- \('P.28/2025'\)](#). In light of the proposed change, *to remove the blanket ban on the right to vote for persons serving prison sentences exceeding four years*, please find the information requested below regarding the potential impact upon the States of Jersey Prison Service ('SoJPS').

The extent of any consultation undertaken by the PPC with the SoJPS on the proposed change and its potential impact upon the SoJPS.

The SoJPS were not consulted.

Whether the SoJPS would require any additional resources to facilitate an extension of voting rights to all prisoners based in Jersey.

The SoJPS would require additional resources to facilitate an extension of voting rights to all prisoners based in Jersey. Previously, SoJPS registered each prisoner eligible to vote with St Brelade's Parish Hall, requiring additional administration. Therefore, increasing the scope of those eligible would require increased resourcing for staff. Maintenance of the electoral role as and when prisoners arrive and leave the prison population would also need to be considered.

Whether any cost implications would result from an extension of voting rights to all prisoners based in Jersey.

There will be staffing cost implications as a result of the extension of voting rights. Officers will be required to supervise visits from election candidates as well as cover the cost of postage, assuming postal votes will be preferable. Additionally, if all election candidates visited the prison or wanted to meet with the prison population via Teams, it would require additional staff resourcing, supervision and management.

During the last election period, the States Greffe gave a presentation on voting and eligibility which would be welcomed again by SoJPS to enhance prisoner awareness.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. R. Le Hegarat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Deputy Mary Le Hegarat
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs