



| States Assembly

States Greffe

Deputy Kirsten Morel
Minister for Sustainable Economic Development

BY EMAIL

21st July 2025

Dear Minister,

Follow-up questions from the Quarterly Public Hearing on 17th July 2025

Thank you for your attendance at our Public Hearing on the 17th July 2025. As discussed, there were a select number of questions that the Panel was unable to ask during the scheduled time and we would be grateful if information on the following points could please be provided:

Compensation Scheme

1. Minister, can you confirm if you will be launching a review into the possibility of implementing a compensation scheme such as exists in the UK and EU?
 - a. If so, can you provide a timeframe as to when this will be taking place and when it might be published?
2. Can you explain if the compensation scheme costs to an airline have been calculated?
 1. If so, can you provide an indication as to the estimated costs?

Opera house

3. The Panel understands that there have been numerous senior members of the board of the Jersey Opera House LTD that have stepped down, what ongoing support are you providing to assist and ensure that the Opera House continues to function?

Ferries

4. Minister, now that DFDS has been operating the route since the end of March 2025 can you provide an update on how you feel the services provided have been?
5. Is there currently a limit on the number of animals that can travel on a ferry at one time on either the northern or southern routes?
 - a. If so can you please provide the Panel with information as to when this was established and the rationale behind it?
 - b. Did Condor have the same restrictions on animal numbers?

6. Islanders have raised concerns about the service provided by DFDS, with complaints centring around a reduced timetable, longer sailing times, pricing and the vessels being outdated.
 - a. Can you provide your views on these concerns?
 - b. Are you in discussions with DFDS with regards to the concerns Islanders are raising around the service being provided?
 - c. What actions are you undertaking to ensure DFDS actively listen to those making complaints?
 - d. Some have expressed the view that ticket prices have risen greatly compared to previous years, have you gathered any information on this?
7. The Panel understands that within the operating agreement with DFDS there are a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) that DFDS must meet.
 - a. Can you provide an indication as to whether they are meeting these key performance indicators currently?
 - b. What is the consequence or action that is taken should DFDS not meet these KPIs?
8. Minister, will a review on lessons learnt be undertaken with DFDS and if so, when will this take place?

Estate Agents and gazumping

9. Minister, can you provide an update regarding the Estate agents redress scheme workstream and when the States Assembly can anticipate that legislation might be lodged?
10. It was reported by the Property Redress scheme in the UK that in 2024 it expelled [“78 estate and letting agents due to non-compliance with its rules”](#).
 - a. How grave of a problem do you think there is within Jersey?
 - b. Has any further consultation on this topic taken place? If so, can you provide a brief outline on feedback received?
11. In France, when selling a property if an offer is received of the asking price, the seller is legally obligated to sell the property at that price as French law considers that there is an agreement on the price of the object being sold and therefore this is enough to establish a contract. Do you see any merit in Jersey exploring the introduction of this type of legislation?

Heritage Law

12. The Panel note that in an answer to a written question at the end of March 2025, you stated that the Heritage (Jersey) Law 202- is now in a [“mature form and due to be lodged before the 2025 summer recess”](#). Please can you outline the position of this work stream?
 - a. In what position is the draft Law and when will this be lodged?

13. What consultation on the proposed legislation has taken place?
- What feedback has been received?
 - Is further consultation anticipated?
 - What interaction has been held with representatives of the detectorist societies in the island?
 - What updates to the draft law has occurred since the Panel received its briefing on the topic in March 2024?
14. The 2022 [Heritage Strategy](#) identified that a working group including the Metal Detectorist Society, the Crown, Société Jersiaise and Jersey Heritage had carried out work on progressing the Law in 2000. Had this working group been reformed or been invited to comment upon the draft legislation?
15. Can you confirm how it is envisaged that the legislation would work in practice?
16. What work has been undertaken in reviewing and discussing the draft legislation with the UK and other legislations?

Living Wage Support and Barriers to Business

17. In May 2024, Government published its response to the [Barriers to Business Report. Enabling Business: Government response to the Barriers to Business Report](#) setting out the actions Government has and would take in response to the recommendations outlined in the independent Barriers to Business Report.
- Can you provide an update as to the progress being made by government with regards to meeting the Barriers to Business Report's recommendations?
 - Have there been any noticeable changes in barriers to business that you could cite to give some examples as to progress being made?
18. The transition to a living wage for Islanders is a Common Strategic Policy priority for 2024-2026.
- Can you provide the Panel with an update as to how the transition to the living wage is progressing?
 - How is the success of the transition to a living wage being measured and monitored?
19. In an effort to assist employers in the transition to a living wage, the Better Business Support Package was launched in March 2025.
- Could you outline how many grants have been applied for and awarded to date and can you provide a breakdown as to how many were major, minor or apprenticeship grants?
 - Are you able to provide some examples of how employers have proposed they will be using the grants within their applications?

c. Can you confirm if a list of those receiving grants will be published?

20. The Panel notes within [a media release from Jersey Business](#) on 9th July 2025 that the *“Productivity element of the Better Business Grant has completed for this year however businesses are encouraged to explore the remaining 2025 funding opportunities under the Better Business Grant, including:*

- *Skills Development Grants*
- *Visitor Economy Development Grants*
- *Apprenticeship Grants”*

- a. Are you able to provide detail as to how many business' have applied for the Skills Development Grants, Visitor Economy Development Grants and Apprenticeship Grants and how many were successful?
- b. Why do you think these grants programs have not seen the same uptake as the Productivity grant programs?

21. It is stated that £2.8million will be granted to help businesses “reduce costs, improve technology, foster innovation and increase productivity”.

- a. Can you provide detail as to the impact you anticipate this grant total amount will have?
- b. How will you measure the impact of the grants awarded?

We would be grateful if you could respond no later than Monday 28th July 2025 in line with the 5 working days approved for responses between Scrutiny Panels and Ministers.

If you have any questions regarding this or our work in general, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please note that unless otherwise stated, all letters will be uploaded to the Scrutiny website as a matter of course.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Montfort Tadier

Chair

Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel