



Deputy Tom Binet  
Minister for Health and Social Services

**BY EMAIL**

8th May 2025

Dear Minister,

**Health and Social Security Panel  
Recurring Overspend in Health and Care Department**

I am writing to raise serious concerns about the ongoing overspending within the Health and Care Department, and the broader implications this persistent trend poses for the long-term sustainability of Jersey's healthcare system.

The Panel acknowledges your previous statements highlighting the need for accurate financial planning and your commitment to reviewing the department's financial strategies. We also recognise the steps being taken to reduce reliance on agency staff and to strengthen procurement practices as part of efforts to bring greater stability to the department's financial management.

Nevertheless, in light of the projected £28 million overspend for 2024—and despite the additional £31 million allocated to the department in the 2025 Government Plan—it is now clear that the department is on course to exceed its budget once again. This recurring overspend raises critical concerns about the robustness of financial planning processes, the accuracy of service demand projections, and the underlying structural viability of Jersey's current health and care model.

In light of this, the Panel seeks a detailed response to the following:

**Departmental Cost Transparency**

Can you provide a clear breakdown of how funding is allocated across the Department and which areas are being prioritised for funding, including spending on infrastructure, enhancing public health and preventative programmes, digital integration and the expansion of private health care services, alongside acute care, mental health services, community care, social care, staffing, pharmaceuticals, and contracts with external providers?

**Understanding of Financial Requirements**

Do you believe you currently hold a full and accurate understanding of the cost of running the Health and Care Department—both in its current state and under your proposed new "Jersey Health System" model? How have these projections been calculated and stress-tested?

**Root Causes of Overspending**

What are the main factors contributing to repeated overspends? It has been publicly stated that pressures include increasing mental health demand, specialist contracts, and medication costs—but are these being systematically analysed and addressed?

**Action to Control Costs**

What specific measures have been taken as part of the Department's financial recovery plan to mitigate overspending in 2025? Are these measures sustainable, and what changes (if any) are being considered to avoid continued deficits in future years?



## **Long-Term Financial Planning**

As you move forward with proposals to reform the health system and shift towards a preventative model of care, how will you ensure financial discipline and accountability across what may become a more complex, multi-agency system?

The Panel recognises the increasing pressure on health systems both locally and globally, but it is vital that the States Assembly and the public have full transparency regarding how health resources are being utilised, and how we can ensure high-quality care remains financially sustainable in the long term.

We would be grateful if you could provide your response in writing by 16th May 2025, after which the Panel may request a public hearing or further briefings on the matter.

**Deputy Louise Doublet**  
**Chair, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel**