

Deputy Lyndsay Feltham Minister for Social Security

BY EMAIL 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

# Health and Social Security Panel Work and Operations of the Cost-of-Living Ministerial Oversight Group

Dear Minister,

I write further to the Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel's Quarterly Public Hearing held on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. The Panel appreciate your work regarding the cost-of living but would like to seek clarity on the activity and impact of the Cost-of-Living Ministerial Oversight Group.

Given the significance of your work in addressing the ongoing pressures faced by Islanders, the Panel would be grateful if you could provide responses to the following:

## **Meeting Schedule and Records**

We understand that the Group is due to meet today, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, having last met in March. Can you advise what the schedule of future meetings is, and if this deviates from the prescribed meetings (every 6 weeks) detailed in the Group's Terms of Reference (ToR), why the ToR has not been adhered to?

Are the agendas and minutes of these meetings publicly available? If so, where can they be accessed?

Since the inception of this Group in 2024, what has been achieved and what areas have been carried forward from the Cost-of-Living Strategy Group 2022 and the Inflation Strategy Group formed in 2020?

# **Objectives and Terms of Reference**

The Group's ToR are:

- Investigate, understand and monitor cost of living pressures faced by Islanders in general and also groups most adversely affected by cost-of-living pressures
- Consider and develop policy responses, as appropriate, to support the Government of Jersey's commitment to mitigate and address the cost-of-living pressures facing Islanders.
- Monitor enacted policy measures (e.g. for effectiveness and sufficiency)
- Deliver any actions and responses setting out Government's priorities in the area.



• Oversee the development of Minimum Income Standards for Jersey.

What are the Group's objectives for 2025 and how do they align to the ToR?

#### **Achievements to Date**

What tangible outcomes or policy interventions has the Group achieved or contributed to since its formation?

Could you provide examples of how the Group's work has informed or shaped government action on cost-of-living matters?

## **Focus on Vulnerable Groups**

How is the Group considering the specific needs of those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis, particularly in relation to child poverty and pensioner poverty?

Are there targeted strategies or workstreams aimed at these vulnerable Islanders?

The Panel is keen to understand the oversight Group's role in developing and coordinating the Government's response to cost-of-living challenges, especially in the context of health and social security implications for lower-income households.

The Panel would be grateful that a response to the letter be provided by the 18<sup>th</sup> June at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

**Deputy Louise Doublet** 

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**Chair, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel**