

States Greffe

Minister for Sustainable Economic Development

BY EMAIL

8th October 2025

Dear Minister

Parishes and Government Review Panel – Licensing Law

I'm writing in relation to our ongoing review of the relationship between the parishes and Government. A key element of the Panel's remit is to consider the administrative functions currently undertaken by the parishes, and whether alternative mechanisms may be required to meet modern needs. One of the areas under review is the process of alcohol licensing.

We are interested in understanding how proposed changes to the Licensing Law may affect the role and responsibilities of parishes. The Panel understands that, under the current system, an applicant for an alcohol licence must first present their case at a parish assembly in the relevant parish. The assembly then makes a recommendation to the Licensing Assembly on whether the application should be approved or refused. While the Licensing Assembly is not legally bound by the parish assembly's recommendation, it will take it into consideration.

Prior to this, the premises are inspected, and a report is prepared for the Connétable detailing the condition of the premises, with particular attention to sanitary facilities and fire safety measures. This report is subsequently submitted to the parish assembly as part of its deliberation on the application. The Panel would therefore welcome clarification on how these aspects will be reflected in the new framework. Specifically, we would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

1. How will the proposed changes to the Licensing Law affect the current role of parishes and Connétables in the licensing process?
2. Will parishes retain any formal responsibilities for commenting on or managing licensing matters?
3. How will the proposed changes align with the Government's stated aim of reducing bureaucracy and simplifying regulatory processes?
4. In what ways will the new system reduce administrative burden for applicants and officials?

I have copied the Chair of the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel into this correspondence, given the crossover of remits.

We would be grateful to receive your response by 30th October.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Miles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in Miles.

Deputy Helen Miles

Chair

Parishes and Government Review Panel