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Deputy Helen Miles
Parishes and Government Review Panel

30 September 2025

Dear Deputy Miles

Thank you for your letter dated 13 August 2025 regarding the Scrutiny Review Panel's examination of the relationship between the Parishes and the Government of Jersey. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important review.

Please find below my responses to the questions.

1. What mechanisms are in place to ensure that Honorary Police officers receive training that aligns with the legal and professional standards expected of sworn officers in the States of Jersey Police?

It is the responsibility of the Parishes to ensure their officers are equipped and trained for the role.

It is understood that there are several courses which each Officer is required to attend before they can be on duty. The Attorney General does not have input into the detailed content of these courses. It is understood that Parishes access training through the States of Jersey Police (**SoJP**) for Officers and the Honorary Police would be best place to provide the detail on the type of training in place for Officers.

However, the Attorney General has regular meetings with the Chef des Chefs de Police and attends Centeniers Quarterly meetings where a range of matters are discussed, including training for Honorary Police Officers. The Attorney General has issued guidance or directives requiring officers to attend training.

For example, the Attorney General issued guidance concerning the [driving standards that are expected of Honorary Police Officers](#) driving marked police vehicles. The SoJP Officers are required to undergo intensive driving training before they are permitted to drive a police vehicle. This guidance seeks to ensure that Honorary Police Officers are held to a similar standard of driving, appropriate to their roles and responsibilities. It aims to ensure that there is consistency across the Parishes as regards the driving standards expected of Officers and the training that they are required to undertake.

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The Attorney General has also required Honorary Police Officers to attend training on safeguarding in relation to children provided on behalf of the Safeguarding Partnership Board. He also requested Chefs de Police to attend a management and leadership course.

2. Is there a formal process by which the States of Jersey Police or another authority assesses the adequacy of firearm storage once a certificate has been issued, particularly where Honorary Police may be involved in inspections or enforcement?

This is a question for the SoJP and Connétables. It is not a matter that the Attorney General nor Law Officers' Department (the "LOD") would be involved with.

It is noted that Robin Smith, Chief Officer, has provided an answer to this question in his letter to the Panel dated 26 June 2025.

If there were a challenge in the Royal Court to the refusal or variation of conditions of a fire arms certificate, or for the removal of a prohibition on a firearms certificate, then Law Officers might act for the Connétable in defence of such a challenge e.g.: [OSMENT v. ST. SAVIOUR \(PARISH\)](#).

3. To what extent are the actions of Honorary Police officers subject to oversight or supervision by your office or other legal authorities, to ensure compliance with statutory obligations and professional conduct standards?

The supervision of the Honorary Police exercised by the Attorney General is reflected in a number of duties, powers and functions under [the Police \(Complaints and Discipline\) \(Jersey\) Law 1999](#) (the "1999 Law"), and subsequent Regulations.

The primary method of oversight is the complaints process set out in the [Police \(Honorary Police Complaints and Discipline Procedure\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 2000](#) (the "2000 Regulations"). The 1999 Law, in conjunction with the 2000 Regulations, provides a comprehensive code in relation to the resolution of complaints made against the Honorary Police in their policing capacity. A flow chart of the steps to be taken on the receipt of a complaint against a member of the Honorary Police can be found [here](#).

To assist with uniformity of standards across the Honorary Police, the Attorney General issues [guidance and directions](#) in a range of different areas. For example, [Guidance on conduct and other matters](#), [Guidance on acceptable use of social media](#) and [Guidance on the distribution of warrant cards](#).

Specific guidance is also issued to *Centeniers*, principally in respect of their actions in a prosecutorial capacity—whether making decisions to charge; [carrying out Parish Hall enquiries](#) or giving guidance as to how to exercise their discretion in particular circumstances.

4. How are budgetary decisions regarding Honorary Police resources—such as uniforms, equipment, vehicles, and technology—made within the parishes, and does your office have any role in reviewing or advising on these allocations?

This is not an area that the Attorney General or the LOD has any involvement in as budgetary decisions fall within the remit of the individual parishes.

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5. Do you consider the current funding model for the Honorary Police to be financially sustainable in the long term, given its reliance on voluntary service and parish-level budgeting?

Whilst I would agree with most of the Chief Officers' answers concerning the Honorary Police in his letter dated 26 June 2025, it is not entirely correct to state (at paragraph 18) that "*funding routes are commissioned through [the Attorney General]*". The Honorary Police Forces are funded by the Parishes and paid for by parishioners through Parish rates. The Attorney General does not commission funding routes for the Honorary Police save only for the exception set out in the answer to question 7 below.

It is the Attorney General's view that the current funding model is unlikely to be sustainable in the long term. Different Parishes have different approaches to funding and it can be very difficult and time consuming for the Honorary Police to obtain funding or to establish a consistent approach. A recent example of this has been the challenge in obtaining funding and consistency across the Parishes for a recruitment campaign for the Honorary Police.

6. Would increased financial support from the government, either directly or via the States of Jersey Police, enhance the operational effectiveness and sustainability of the Honorary Police—particularly in areas such as training, equipment, and digital infrastructure?

Yes. It is the Attorney General's view that a mechanism for increased financial support from the government or another source would assist to enhance the operational effectiveness and sustainability of the Honorary Police.

7. Does your office have any formal role in advocating for additional funding to support the Honorary Police, especially in cases where parish budgets may be constrained or unable to meet evolving operational needs?

The only matter where the Attorney General performs a formal role relating to funding is when he is consulted by the Treasury Minister in relation to requests for funding for equipment for the Honorary Police. Such funding would come out of the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund (COCF) pursuant to Article 24 of [the Proceeds of Crime \(Jersey\) Law 1999](#). Funding requests from the COCF are considered by the Treasury Minister and the Treasurer of the States each year and requests from the Honorary Police have to compete with other requests for law enforcement funding. However, specific "one-off" requests for equipment for the Honorary Police have previously been funded from the COCF.

Access to legal support for Parishes

It is the Attorney General's view that a formal mechanism is not necessary to enable Parishes to seek legal support. Parishes already actively seek advice directly from LOD on a range of matters.

When a request for legal advice is received from a Parish, the LOD will assist as far as is possible as it is in the public interest to save Parishes the costs of obtaining legal advice and because Law Officers often have relevant specialist public law experience which may not be available in private practice legal firms. There are however circumstances when it would not be appropriate for LOD to provide advice to a Parish. This would include in respect to private law matters, for example, where the parish enters into a transaction to acquire land, or where Law Officers have a conflict of interest. In such matters it would be appropriate for the Parish to engage their own lawyers.

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I am content for this response to be published on the States Assembly website. Should you require any further information or clarification, or if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any of the responses in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Temple', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Temple
Attorney General

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