Deputy Helen Miles
Chair
Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

JERSEY ADVISORY AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
3RD FLOOR 1 SEALE STREET ST HELIER JERSEY JE2 3QG
TELEPHONE: 01534 730503 FACSIMILE: 01534 733942
EMAIL: JACS@JACS.ORG.JE

Via Email

23 October 2025

Dear Deputy Miles

Re: Proposed Budget 2026-2029 Review

Further to your letter dated 13 October 2025, please see below JACS response to the questions posed to us.

1. **Please can you outline the discussions that have taken place regarding your Proposed Budget 2026-2029 allocations?**

   JACS budget for 2026 was discussed at our quarterly meetings with SPPP, this is a standing topic for discussion at each meeting. An update on the increase for 2026 was notified to JACS ahead of the last quarterly meeting (with the caveat that this needs still to be debated by the States Assembly). The most recent quarterly meeting was on Wednesday 1 October 2025.

   - **Where have any savings been achieved within your organisation?**

     There have been no savings achieved in 2025 – our budget is tight, and we maintain strict fiscal management of this. Although some savings were made as we did not replace a team member who resigned this year, these monies were able to be then utilized into strategy development project (which we have been unable to fund previously) to continue to meet the requirements of the legislation (Jersey Advisory and Conciliation (Jersey) Law 2003) and the needs of clients.

2. **How will the Proposed Budget 2026-2029 allocations impact your organisation, including any impacts on service delivery?**

   The proposed uplift contained in the budget for 2026 means we can show a balanced budget – with a tiny surplus of £9k – if approved. Without this the JACS budget for 2026 was showing a shortfall of around £3k. The proposed increase is 2.6%, which is the RPI uplift applied to departmental non-pay budgets for 2026 (JACS is paid as a grant, so is shown as non-pay in the Cabinet Office budget). If a similar uplift is allocated in 2027 and beyond, this will also apply that to JACS grant.

However, if over the next few years there is no further injection of funds JACS will have to look at service delivery against our statutory requirements under the legislation, along with the impact of any additions to either/both the employment and discrimination legislation on such a small team.

3. **Have discussions taken place with Government about the functions of your organisation, and whether there is scope for these to be merged with other arm's length organisations and entities?**

   There have been no discussions about merging with out ALOs, which in itself is likely to mean that the impartiality of JACS would be impacted significantly. The importance of maintaining a neutral and confidential service that demonstrates impartial advice is paramount for the delivery of the service and maintaining the trust and confidence the public have in JACS.

4. **Overall, are you confident that you can maintain core service delivery with the allocations provided for in the Proposed Budget 2026-2029?**
   The services JACS deliver are in demand and increasingly so for a small team of 3.75 (FTE) people. Much of the JACS workload is driven by economic factors – redundancy and insolvency etc – and new legislation. With a change in Government in 2026 it is not possible to predict the drivers for the Social Security Minister following the elections which in turn makes it difficult to have any prediction on JACS workload.

   Furthermore, whilst JACS are happy to receive (if agreed through the States Assembly) a small increase for 2026, which means we are able to show the smallest of surplus next year, it is obvious this is a very fine line. Confidence/impact of the Proposed Budget beyond 2026 is not possible to predict at this point in time, due to the above-mentioned external factors that place pressure on JACS workload.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Rowan
Director