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24 October 2025

Dear Deputy Miles,

Subject: Jersey Care Commission Submission – Proposed Budget 2026–2029 Review

Thank you for your letter inviting the Jersey Care Commission (the Commission) to contribute to the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel's review of the Proposed Budget 2026–2029.

The Commission welcomes the opportunity to provide our views and appreciate the Panel's interest in the role and funding of publicly funded arm's length bodies.

We believe the Commission has demonstrated a responsible and measured approach to financial management, as reflected in our Annual Report, recent scrutiny engagements, and our regular meetings with the Cabinet Office.

In response to the Panel's specific questions:

1. Budget Reduction and Savings Achieved

The Government Budget over 2024, 2025 and 2026 has required significant savings in the Commission's Budget compared to 2023. However around £100,000 of this reduction was an expected reduction in one off funds to enable preparations to expand the remit of the Commission to regulate new areas.



Additional savings above this amount have been delivered through a combination of internal efficiencies, including:

- Reviewing and streamlining administrative processes, including the introduction of an online portal for professional registration that once fully functional will enable the Commission to manage the registration and renewals process more efficiently.
- Reviewing and rescheduling projects to balance delivery with funding and resources.
- Prioritising regulatory activities to focus on core statutory functions.
- Reviewing staffing requirements by for example reviewing the grades at which some work was carried out.
- Employing a part time pharmacist inspector role rather than full time.
- Introduction of a range of data tools to enable more efficient regulation.
- A longer lead time in enacting legislation to regulate hospital ambulance and mental health services has resulted some savings. For example, some preparations can be deferred or the cost spread over more than one year, and some recruitment has been delayed.

These decisions were made carefully to ensure that the quality and integrity of our regulatory work were not compromised.

2. Impact of Proposed Budget Allocations on Service Delivery

The proposed allocations for 2026-2029 will allow the Commission to maintain core service delivery in the short term. While we plan in detail, uncertainties and risk will remain especially in areas new to regulation. We continue to mitigate our risks by applying sound financial principles and risk-based planning to ensure that our resources are directed where they are most needed.

It is essential that the regulation of high-risk services including the hospital, ambulance, and adult mental health services continue to be adequately funded. These areas are critical to public safety and wellbeing, and effective regulation must be maintained.



3. Discussions on Merging Functions with Other Arm's Length Bodies

We have not had discussions with Government regarding potential merging functions with other arm's length bodies. However, we would be open to exploring opportunities for collaboration where it may enhance efficiency, without compromising independence or public confidence.

4. Confidence in Maintaining Core Service Delivery

We are confident that core service delivery can be maintained within the proposed allocations for 2026. This confidence is, however, contingent upon the anticipated improvements within HCJ being realised. The Commission will only be in a position to confirm this once the extension to the regulations has come into effect.

It should be noted that there remains a possibility that the cost of regulation may exceed current assumptions should additional areas of risk emerge. In such circumstances, the Commission would not be able to incur expenditure beyond the approved budget without the formal agreement of the Accountable Officer and the approval of Ministers.

We are committed to evolving as a modern regulator, balancing the burden of regulation with the need to be effective. This is reflected in our engagement with the Institute of Regulation and our ongoing efforts to develop proportionate, risk-based approaches to oversight.

We trust this submission is helpful to the Panel's review and would be happy to provide further information or clarification if required.

Yours sincerely

Becky Sherrington
Chief Inspector

Cc Deputy Luce, Minister for the Environment. Paul Wylie, Chief Officer, Cabinet Officer. Dr N Acheson, Chair, Jersey Care Commission.