



Patron – His Excellency Vice Admiral Jeremy Paul Kyd CBE

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Dear Deputy Gardiner,

Arm's Length Bodies, Grants and Subsidies Review

I am writing in response to your letter of 6th August requesting information as part of this review. For ease we refer to Autism Jersey as "AJ" throughout the text.

I trust our response will provide the insight you are looking for, but if there are any further questions then I, and our new Chair, Nick Hutchinson, would be pleased to help.

For the avoidance of doubt, having looked at the Terms of Reference, we confirm that we are an external organisation and that we are **not** a:

- c) States owned entity
- c) States established entity
- c) States established independent body

We are an independent registered charity, overseen by our Board of Trustees.

We are

registered with the Jersey Charity Commission.

We are regulated by the Jersey Care Commission.

We hold the Advanced Autism Specialist Award as assessed by the National Autistic Society.

We give our responses below using the numbering in your letter.

1. Overview of our Organisation

Originally established by a group of concerned parents we are now a mature charity with a track record of providing increasing services over two decades.

We have two main arms to our activities.

Our Operational Services commissioned by the Government of Jersey Health & Care Jersey and CYPES departments, provide tailored support to autistic individuals with complex needs who require a various number of hours close support every day. We also provide Short Break Services for autistic children and adults and their families, which are a great facility for relieving the pressure on families. At present we are supporting 36 individuals in this way. As stated, this work is undertaken on behalf of Adult and Children's Services, and we compete, alongside other providers for commissioned contracts. The team is highly trained and supported and we operate under individual specific service level agreements. At a more general level we regularly report to the Jersey Care Commission who regulate us. These commissioned activities fall outside the scope of this review.

Our Charitable Services team provide immediate and ongoing support for autistic individuals, their families and carers. We do not have government funding, and we rely



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on fundraising events, activities, charitable donations and event sponsorship to be able to offer these services free at the point of delivery. This team provides Counselling, Peer Support, Family Days, Sibling Days, Adult Social Club, pre and post diagnosis support, and much more. We are regularly supporting 529 individuals in this way, with more intermittent contact with a much wider group.

Grant

We have received solely one grant from the Government of Jersey and those monies are restricted for use on our capital project. This money has been advanced toward the total cost of establishing a dedicated autism centre for the island. The grant is to supplement funding from AJ, with the facility being developed by AJ.

Our search for a new autism centre has been going on for many years. AJ has raised its own funds for this purpose through many annual treks, fundraising events and donations. These monies, together with some firm commitments from charitable trusts (which will crystallise once an agreed site is found) exceed the size of the grant referred to below. We continue with our fundraising for this capital project whilst ensuring that our operational reserves are maintained at a prudent level.

The grant, of £1m, was approved in the States by way of the Budget Statement 2018 (as amended following the States Debate of 28-30 November 2017) – on page 64.

At that time there was an assumption that Jersey Property Holdings might be involved. The Treasury Minister, at that time, confirmed that the funding could be used by AJ to purchase a property. “The property purchased would then be an asset of AJ with no States Interest or responsibility for maintenance etc.”

In the event AJ expressed an interest in developing a site (San Souci) within a development that Andium Homes are working on. AJ and Andium Homes agreed outline Heads of Terms in November 2019. The Treasury Minister confirmed that the funds remained available. Subsequently, Treasury released the funds to Andium Homes on 16th July 2020. We understood this routing to be Treasury’s preference. Andium Homes retained the funds in their books whilst both parties proceeded with the project.

Unfortunately, the San Souci site proved to be unsuitable for the new centre and both parties accepted that we would not progress that site after October 2024. AJ continued looking for an appropriate site and, after discussion between AJ, Andium Homes and Treasury it was agreed that the remaining balance of the grant (after San Souci cost incurred) be forward directly to AJ. These monies, £855,912, were received by AJ on 25th April 2025 and we have been solely responsible for the governance of those funds since that date.

At the time of writing, we have found a suitable site and are hopeful of completing our purchase before the end of the year.



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Past Five Years

Although we have given details of the grant above, this was released by Treasury in July 2020 and was placed with Andium Homes rather than AJ; therefore, it is excluded from the figures below.

	Independen t	Independen t	Government	Total
	Operations	Restricted		
	£	£	£	£
April 25 (Unaudited)	356,960	-	-	356,960
April 24	269,405	-	-	269,405
April 23	234,653	-	-	234,653
April 22	236,500	125,000	-	361,500
April 21	180,556	10,000	-	190,556

	Independen t	Independen t	Government	Total
	Operations	Restricted		
	%	%	%	%
April 25 (Unaudited)	100	-	-	100
April 24	100	-	-	100
April 23	100	-	-	100
April 22	65	35	-	100
April 21	95	5	-	100

2. Formal Governance

Our governance arrangements are in place across the whole of our organisation and are not aimed just at Government funding.

These arrangements include:

- Independent Board of Trustees (meeting at least quarterly)
- Annual General Meeting
- Independent Review of Accounts by qualified accountancy practice.
- Published Annual Report
- Monthly management accounts
- Monthly key performance indicators
- Risk Register
- Signatory control over funds



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As explained, our Government funding relates to the one grant for our capital project. We are in contact with Treasury on this matter. It does not touch on operational monitoring and there has been no need for any further grant negotiation.

3. Documentation

We have not applied for any operational funding, so we can make no comment on the documentation required when applying for or renewing funding.

4. Value for Money

We have been keeping metrics of our performance for many years and are striving to establish further consistent impact measures.

We do this to inform our effective use of resources and our strategic thinking and not for the purpose of reporting to any agency.

We regularly publish these parameters and, you can see these distributed throughout the Annual Report included with this letter.

5. Duplications or Overlaps

We enthusiastically collaborate with other charities, not for profits, and agencies, where we see opportunities to do so.

We work closely with both Adult and Children's Services and other agencies.

In the recent past we have:

- Actively led and contributed to the development of the island wide Neuroinclusive Jersey Strategy
- Completed a 12-month pilot providing enhanced advice, information, and support to adults and their families regarding pre and post autism assessment and diagnosis support. This has been with the backing of Health & Community Services. This pilot has since been extended.
- Held joint fundraising events with other charities.

We have several potential developments in mind for the coming months.

We have not been part of any operational grant oversight situation and so we cannot make any informed comment on such arrangements.

We enclose our most recent annual report, 30th April 2024, by way of supporting document. We are in transparent communication with Treasury re our management and use of the grant monies.



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Please come back to us if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Dunne
CEO
Autism Jersey