

Response to Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Request

From: Jersey Community Relations Trust (JCRT)

Date: 26 August 2025

Deputy Inna Gardiner
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
States Greffe
Morier House
St Helier
Jersey

Dear Deputy Gardiner,

On behalf of the Trustees of the Jersey Community Relations Trust (JCRT), I am pleased to submit our response to the Public Accounts Committee's request for information regarding organisations in receipt of Government of Jersey grant funding.

We welcome the opportunity to provide this detail and to demonstrate both the impact and accountability of our work. As a volunteer-led organisation, JCRT is committed to ensuring that every pound of public funding is used efficiently and effectively to advance our mission: eliminating discrimination in Jersey in all its forms and building a more inclusive society where everyone can reach their potential.

Please find below our structured response, presented in Q&A format to reflect the questions posed by the Committee. Supporting materials, including our most recent accounts and funding agreements, are included.

PAC Questions & JCRT Responses

1. Please can you provide a brief overview of your organisation, including its purpose, structure, and main areas of activity?

The Jersey Community Relations Trust (JCRT) was established to eliminate discrimination in Jersey in all its forms and to promote an inclusive society where

everyone can achieve their potential.

We are governed by a board of entirely volunteer Trustees, supported by a part-time Executive Officer (18 hours per month) who undertakes administrative, financial, and communication functions.

Our main areas of activity are:

- Independent Research & Policy Influence: Commissioning evidence-based reports on issues central to inclusion, equality, and fairness. Examples include Poverty in Jersey and Social Mobility & Education. Current research focuses on the Migrant Experience in Jersey.
- Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement: Partnering with charities, government, and civil society to advance shared goals. In 2024, we worked with Friends of Africa, Jersey Child Care Trust, Liberate Jersey, Samaritans, and others.
- Strategic Projects: Leading the development of a proposed Wellbeing Hub in St Helier to enable charities to collaborate, pool resources, and deliver greater impact. We secured £60,300 from Jersey Community Foundation in 2025 to pilot this initiative.
- Government-commissioned Projects: Delivering Project Luso (funded £50,000 in late 2023) to explore how Jersey can better support minority communities and strengthen integration.

Through these activities, JCRT provides robust evidence, policy recommendations, and leadership that help shape a more inclusive and cohesive Island community.

2. When did your organisation first receive public funding from the Government of Jersey?

JCRT first received public funding in 2017.

3. Which department(s) currently act as your main point(s) of contact for this funding?

- Department: Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) / Home Affairs
- Deputy Carina Alves – Government liaison officer
- Deputy Beatriz Porée – States-appointed Trustee

4. Please provide, for each of the past five years: The total and percentage of your income provided by the Government of Jersey (or Government-funded bodies, including charitable funds administered by Government). The total and percentage of funding raised independently (e.g. fundraising events, membership, donations, sponsorship).

Government of Jersey income (2019–2024): 100%

Independent income (2019–2024): 0%

In late 2023, JCRT signed a renewed three-year partnership agreement (£20,000 per annum, 2023–2026) and an additional £50,000 for Project Luso.

We have successfully explored independent fundraising through grant applications in 2025.

5. What formal governance arrangements are in place within your organisation to oversee the use of Government funding (e.g. board oversight, financial controls, risk management, external audit)?

Formal Agreements:

- Signed Partnership Agreement with Government of Jersey (2023–2026) – £20,000 annual grant.
- Separate grant agreement for Project Luso (£50,000, awarded end 2023).

Governance & Oversight:

- Trustees meet every six weeks. All decisions are formally minuted and published on our website.
- Votes require a trustee majority.
- States-appointed Trustee attends meetings, providing direct accountability.
- Annual accounts are externally prepared by Rosscott and published online.

Project Oversight:

- Independent researchers are commissioned via Service Level Agreements (e.g. Pragmatix, Khora Partners, Sasha Holden).
- Sub-committees, often including government officials, oversee major projects such as Project Luso.

6. How frequently do you engage with your sponsoring Government department or officer, and for what purpose (e.g. operational monitoring, grant negotiation)?

- Trustee meetings (every six weeks) attended by the States-appointed Trustee.
- Project Luso stakeholder meetings (approx. every eight weeks) with Government representation.
- Regular discussions between the Chair (Kate Wright) and Deputy Alves on strategic, political and operational matters.

7. Do you believe the current oversight arrangements provide a clear and proportionate balance between operational independence and accountability for public funds?

Yes. The oversight framework is proportionate to the funding level, ensuring accountability without compromising JCRT's independence.

8. What documentation are you required to submit when applying for or renewing funding (e.g. business plans, budgets, service delivery plans)?

We provide:

- Annual externally prepared accounts.
- Trustee meeting minutes.
- Project budgets, milestones, and delivery plans.
- Notifications of trustee appointments/changes.

Performance & Reporting:

- Each commissioned project delivers a published report with measurable outcomes and recommendations.
- Our States-appointed Trustee contributes to and reviews outputs.

9. Are you asked to report against specific indicators or outcomes (e.g. contribution to Island Outcomes, KPIs, user impact) and if so, do you receive regular feedback from Government on these reports?

Each report includes defined outcomes, impact measures, and recommendations. Government representatives are engaged in report development and provide feedback where appropriate.

10. Do you consider the current application, monitoring, audit, and reporting requirements to be proportionate to the level of funding you receive?

Yes.

- The £20,000 annual grant is directed almost entirely to commissioning independent

research.

- Trustees are unpaid volunteers, ensuring funds are maximised for public benefit.
- Additional project grants are managed with clear milestones and oversight.

11. How does your organisation demonstrate value for money in the use of Government funds (e.g. efficiency, outcomes delivered, community impact)?

JCRT delivers value by:

- Commissioning evidence-based reports that shape public policy and inform government decisions.
- Providing a platform for marginalised voices, ensuring equity in Island decision-making.
- Leveraging small government grants into significant external funding (e.g. £63,000 JCF grant in 2025).
- Operating with minimal overheads – Trustees are unpaid, and funds are directed to project delivery.
- Driving policy impact, e.g. contributions to consultations, draft laws, and inclusion strategies.

12. Do you undertake any independent evaluations or impact reviews relating to the use of public funds?

Not in addition to project-specific KPIs and impact measures. However, all commissioned research includes independent evaluation by professional third parties, providing external validation.

13. What evidence, if any, do you share with Government on the long-term benefits or return on investment of your activities?

Government have access to:

- Annual reviews and accounts.
- Project reports with data and recommendations.
- Community engagement figures and feedback.
- Testimonials from community partners.

Examples of additional validation and faith in our long-term value include:

- Securing external funding from Jersey Community Foundation for the Wellbeing Hub pilot (£60,300, 2025).
- Evidence of legislative or policy changes influenced by JCRT's work.
- £50,000 Government funding for Project Luso.
- Invitations to comment on draft laws and contribute to policy development.

14. In your view, are there any areas where your organisation's role, services, or funding appear to duplicate or overlap with the activities of Government departments, Arm's Length Bodies, or other grant-funded organisations?

We believe JCRT's role is unique, vital, and without duplication.

- Our remit is broad, enabling us to support communities without formal representation.
- We actively collaborate with partners to avoid duplication and enhance impact.

Examples of partnerships (2024/25):

- Migrant Research: Friends of Africa, DE&I Cluster, FREEDA, Sasha Holden.
- Wellbeing Hub: Liberate Jersey, FREEDA, Jersey Community Foundation, Khora Partners.
- Project Luso: Jersey Youth Association, Jersey Sport, Jersey Prison, DE&I Cluster, Khora Partners, Sasha Gibb, Government officers.

15. Have you been asked to coordinate or align your work with any other Government-funded bodies to avoid duplication?

Yes. We were originally commissioned to work with the International Cultural Centre (ICC) on Project Luso, though their role reduced in 2024 due to internal restructuring.

16. Are there aspects of the current grant management or oversight system that you believe could be improved?

The system is proportionate and effective. One area for improvement could be greater coordination across departments to streamline communication and reduce duplication in oversight where multiple Government stakeholders are engaged.

17. Optional Supporting Materials

- Most recent Annual Report
- Current funding agreements
- Accounts 2019-2024

We trust that this submission provides the clarity and assurance sought by the Committee. JCRT remains committed to ensuring that Government funding delivers maximum impact for the people of Jersey, while maintaining strong governance and accountability.

Should you require further information, supporting documentation, or oral evidence, I



would be happy to provide this at the Committee's convenience.

With thanks for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Wright

Chair

Jersey Community Relations Trust