

Our Ref: CS/nlb

26 August 2025

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Deputy Inna Gardiner

Chair

Public Accounts Committee

BY EMAIL- j.brannigan@gov.je & a.harris5@gov.je

Dear Deputy Gardiner

Public Accounts Committee – Grant and Subsidies review

Thank you for your letter dated 11 August 2025.

The Jersey Police Complaints Authority is a statutory body established in law (various) to oversee complaints made by the public about the States of Jersey and the Honorary Police.

We are an independent body and as such we are not subject to government direction, but we are appointed by the Minister and ultimately the States Assembly.

We are not integrated to the Government of Jersey IT services.

We have our own “stand-alone” PC’s and manage our independent website to provide information and access to the public. The Home Affairs and Justice Department provides our budget. This covers our office rental costs, staff costs (for our administrative support), any service or equipment provided by third parties (IT support, stationery, Telecoms etc). All members of the Authority including the Chair provide a voluntary service, with no compensation, although they are entitled to recover “reasonable expenses” incurred in the conduct of their duties. In practice this very rarely occurs.

I have addressed your questions as follows:

1. The Authority does not raise any income as a service provider. There is a “nil” income for the past 5 years.
 - a. As shown above, the JPCA falls under the Home Affairs and Justice Department and are allocated an annual budget under the direction of the Chief Officer. This funding is not fixed and is subject to annual consultation on the specific needs of the Authority in the next twelve-month period. As shown above this is to support the specific running costs of the Authority. Occasionally, if the Authority believes its needs legal advice /support this will be underwritten by the Department on an ad hoc basis. The Authority carries no reserves.
 - b. The actual spend over the last 5 years, as reported in our annual report is:
 - i. 2020 £42,091



- ii. 2021 £45,003
- iii. 2022 £36,682
- iv. 2023 £57,949
- v. 2024 £39,621

2. The purpose of the JPCA is to provide an independent service to supervise investigations into complaints made about police officers (States of Jersey Police or members of the Jersey Honorary Police). The Supervising Members of the Authority provide an impartial and thorough review of the investigations.
3. The Chair ensures the Authority operates independently with compassion to conduct a careful and meticulous review of investigations. A Service level agreement exists which provides a benchmark of standards (copy attached).
4. Daily operation of the Authority is the responsibility of the Chair who meets with the Chief Officer of Home Affairs and Justice regularly. Regular meetings also take place with the Chief of Police and there is regular meeting profile with Law Officers and the Professional Standards department to ensure all aspects of the Authority's work are progressed promptly. We do not follow any government framework in the operation of the Authority. We do follow the Nolan principles and continually review our methodology to ensure we maintain good practice.
5. The Authority understands it is a public body and applies the PFM as necessary. Given it runs a very small budget with limited discretion it tries to meet its annual budget and considers VFM in all its transactions.
6. Regarding consideration of Island outcomes, our purpose is very clear to maintain and improve public trust in our police, both SOJ and Honorary.
7. There is no Board - The Authority is led by a Chair, supported by a Deputy Chair. Members are involved in decision making and consulted accordingly through a regular meeting cycle.
8. The operating model undergoes regular review, and we will make adjustment to reflect opportunities to improve our approach and review our methodology all of which has to be considered with in the legislative framework applicable at the time.

Our compensation structure does not include a bonus element.

I trust that this has answered your questions, but if you have further queries, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stephenson
Chair