

Council of Ministers

(36th Meeting)

28th January 2025

**Part A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister  
 Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families  
 Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure  
 Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development  
 Deputy S.G. Luce of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for the Environment  
 Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development (for items A1-A4, B1-B3 and part of item B4 only)  
 Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs  
 Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations  
 Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security  
 Deputy M.E. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Treasury and Resources  
 Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services  
 Deputy C.S. Alves of St. Helier Central, Assistant Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (in lieu of the Minister)

In attendance -

Deputy M.R. Ferey of St. Saviour, Assistant Chief Minister (not present for part of item B3)  
 Deputy R.E. Binet of Grouville and St. Martin, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services  
 Deputy B. Ward of St. Clement, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services  
 Deputy A. Howell of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services (not present for item B7)  
 M.H. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General  
 L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States  
 Dr. A. McLaughlin, Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey  
 K. Briden, Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs Department (for item B6 only)  
 R. Corrigan, Chief Officer, Department for the Economy (for item B7 only)  
 T. Holvey, Chief Economic Adviser, Cabinet Office (for item B4 only)  
 D. Marriott, Director, Children's Services (for item B2 only)  
 S. Duhamel, Director, Cabinet Office (for item B3 only)  
 Dr. L. Magris, Director for Housing Environment and Placemaking, Cabinet Office (for item B6 only)

A. Metcalfe, Associate Director of Strategic Planning and Accountability, Cabinet Office (for item B6 only)  
J. Robinson, Head of UK Affairs, Cabinet Office (for item B5 only)  
N. Turner, Policy Principal – Employment and Discrimination, Cabinet Office (for item B3 only)  
R. Buchholz, Head of Property Strategy, Infrastructure and Environment Department (for item B4 only)  
F. Walker, Head of Policy, Cabinet Office (for item A5 only)  
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office  
R. Dickinson, Policy Officer, Cabinet Office (for item A5 only)  
T. Mourant, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister  
K.L. Slack, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Parts A and B.

- Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 28th and 30th October, 1st November (Part B only), 3rd and 17th December 2024 (Parts A and B) and 7th January 2025 (Parts A and B), having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed. A minor correction was requested to Minute No. B5 of the meeting of 17th December 2024 to clarify that curbing expenditure growth was not one of the 13 Strategic Priorities, but was nevertheless an important objective.
- Matters arising. A2. The Council, with reference to Minute No. B4 of the meeting of 3rd December 2024, recalled that the Health and Community Services Department was to be renamed Health and Care Jersey and questioned whether this change of nomenclature had occurred. It was noted that the Minister for Health and Social Services was due to make a Ministerial Decision to formally give effect to this modification imminently.
- On a related note, the Council was informed that the Department formally known as Customer and Local Services had been renamed Employment, Social Security and Housing to coincide with the move to the new Government building in Union Street.
- Declarations of interest. A3. Declarations of interest were received from the following –
- Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter in connexion with Minute No. A4, as the Chair of one of the charities that currently provided an independent advocacy service for children; and
  - Deputies Gorst, T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour and R.E. Binet of Grouville and St. Martin in connexion with Minute No. B3 as employers of staff.
- Forthcoming business. A4. The Council discussed the following item of forthcoming business, which was scheduled to be considered at the meeting of the States Assembly on 4th February 2025 –
- Draft Children and Young People (Independent Advocates) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.87/2024)
- The Council was reminded that this proposition would establish a statutory framework for appointing independent advocates to provide support and representation for certain groups of children and young people in Jersey and recalled that these services were already available on a non-statutory basis.
- It was noted that the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel had presented comments on the proposition and had indicated its support for the same.

Island Identity  
– consultation  
results on  
national day  
and Jersey  
anthem.

A5. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. B2 of 16th October 2024, welcomed Mr. F. Walker, Head of Policy and Ms. R. Dickinson, Policy Officer, Cabinet Office and received and noted a paper entitled ‘A national day and local anthem for Jersey – consultation response’ and an associated PowerPoint presentation.

The Council recalled that the Island Identity Report, which had been led by Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development, had recommended that an official national day should be designated for Jersey and that a local anthem should be determined. As a consequence, during the period from 18th November 2024 to 18th January 2025, a consultation had been undertaken asking whether 9th May (Liberation Day) should be formally adopted as Jersey’s national day and whether ‘Beautiful Jersey’ should be named as Jersey’s local anthem. It was felt important to clarify which piece of music should be played at sporting and cultural events where Jersey was participating in its own right, such as the Island or Commonwealth Games.

The online and paper survey had elicited almost 2,500 responses, including more than 1,000 from school children. Of the respondents, 82 per cent had been in favour of Liberation Day being designated the Island’s national day. Half of the respondents had expressed a wish for ‘Beautiful Jersey’ to be made the local anthem, whilst 35 per cent had opposed this and 15 per cent had been unsure.

As a consequence of the overwhelming support to formally designate Liberation Day as Jersey’s national day, it was agreed that the Minister for International Development should lodge a proposition ‘*au Greffe*’ to this effect for debate by the States Assembly. The Council decided that it did not wish to formalise ‘Beautiful Jersey’ as the Island’s anthem, given the absence of an overwhelmingly clear preference from the consultation, but instead resolved to issue interim guidance to sports clubs and other relevant bodies that it should be used during official events where Jersey was represented in its own capacity.