

Council of Ministers

(33rd Meeting)

3rd December 2024

Note: The meeting was held between 10.00 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. and reconvened between 4.00 p.m. and 5.20 p.m.

Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families and Deputy M.E. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Treasury and Resources, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister (for items A1-A4, B1-B3, part of item B4 and item B6 only)

Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure

Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development (not present for item B6)

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 part of item A3 and item B6 only)

Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs (for items A3-A4, part of item B1 and items B2-B4 and B6 only)

Deputy M.R. Ferey of St. Clement, Assistant Minister for Children and Families (in lieu of the Minister)

Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations (for items A1-A4, B1-B4 and part of item B6 only)

Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing

Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance -

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Representative of the Comité des Connétables

Deputy C.S. Alves of St. Helier Central, Assistant Chief Minister

Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Economic Development (for part of item A3, item A4 and items B2-B6 only)

Deputy A. Howell of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services (for item B6 only)

Deputy R.E. Binet of Grouville and St. Martin, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services (for item B6 only)

Deputy B. Ward of St. Clement, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services

M. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General (for item B6 only)

M. Jowitt, K.C., H.M. Solicitor General (for items A1-A4 and B1-B5 only)

L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States (for items A1-A4 and B1-B5 only)

Dr. A. McLaughlin, Interim Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey (for items A1-A4 and B1-B5 only)

A. Scate, Chief Officer, Infrastructure and Environment Department (for item B6 only)
M. Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, Ports of Jersey (for item B6 only)
Dr. C. Corrigan, Children's Commissioner (for items A4 and B2 only)
P. Wylie, Group Director of Policy, Cabinet Office (for a time)
R. Johnson, Director, Health Policy, Cabinet Office (for item B4 only)
F. Walker, Head of Policy, Cabinet Office (for item B3 only)
M. White, Head of Strategic Communications, Cabinet Office (for item B6 only)
N. Day, Head of Strategic Housing and Regeneration, Cabinet Office (for item B5 only)
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office
T. Millar, Principal Policy Officer, Cabinet Office (for item B5 only)
T. Murphy, Policy Principal, Office of the Children's Commissioner (for items A4 and B2 only)
N. Holmes, Sector Officer Sport, Department for the Economy (for part of item A3 only)
B. Markwell Sales, Business and Governance Officer to the Council of Ministers
T. Mourant, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister (for a time)
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 meeting of 14th November 2024 (Part A only), having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Declarations of interest. A2. Declarations of interest were received from the following in connexion with the discussion of the Residential Tenancy Law at item No. B5 of the meeting, in their capacity as landlords –

- Deputy S.G. Luce of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for the Environment;
- Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations; and
- Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services.

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade declared an interest in relation to item No. B3 of the current meeting, as the Chair of a body that was regulated by the Jersey Care Commission. He and Deputy Luce also declared an item in relation to item No. B1 in connexion with the lifeboats.

Forthcoming business. A3. The Council discussed the following items of forthcoming business, which were scheduled to be discussed at the meeting on 10th December 2024 –

Reporting on Ministerial Affairs (P.71/2024)

It was recalled that this Proposition, which had been lodged by Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, requested the Chief Minister to update the Ministerial Code before 31st December 2024 to (a) publish monthly details of all external meetings attended by Ministers and Assistant Ministers and (b) details of their off-Island travel, including the attendant costs.

The Council was mindful that details of Ministers' off-Island travel was already provided on an annual basis. Having discussed at length the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a requirement to publish monthly details of attendance at external meetings in a small jurisdiction, it was confirmed that comments should

be prepared, which outlined the challenges represented by the proposal and undertaking to revert to the Assembly within a period of 6 months;

Modern Languages in Schools (P.74/2024)

The Council noted the details of an amendment by Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, to the proposition of Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade and indicated its support for the same; and

Support Scheme for individuals qualifying to represent Jersey in off-Island competitions (P.82/2024)

The Council recalled that it had previously given initial consideration to this proposition of Deputy R.S. Kovacs of St. Saviour and was mindful that, whilst the current allocation of £125,000 in subsidies, was frequently oversubscribed, it was of the view that the proposed figure of £500,000 was too great. Accordingly, it considered and signified its support for a proposed amendment by the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development, which *inter alia* replaced that amount with a sum of £250,000.

Children's
Commissioner
– Strategic
Plan 2024-27.

A4. The Council, with reference to Minute No. B5 of 25th January 2022 of the Council, as previously constituted, welcomed Dr. C. Corrigan, Children's Commissioner, to the meeting and received and noted a PowerPoint presentation in connexion with her Strategic Plan 2024-27 (the Plan).

The Commissioner informed the Council that, in April 2024, she had commenced a consultation to inform the Plan, which had involved surveying a range of young people and key stakeholders, visits to 16 schools and requests for input via social media. In excess of 1,000 responses had been received, of which 319 had come from children aged under 13 years, 516 from young people aged between 13 and 17 years and 230 from adults. Recurring themes that had emerged from the consultation included play and leisure, educational inequality and mental health and wellbeing, the latter most notably from amongst the older cohorts.

The Commissioner had also reviewed existing evidence around those issues which affected children and young people both locally and more widely and had considered national and international priority issues, as raised by the Council of Europe, United Nations and the European Network of Ombudspersons for Europe. It was noted that these aligned with the situation in Jersey.

The Council was informed that the stated aims of the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) were to –

- work to make as many people as possible aware of the rights of children and young people and provide information and advice about those rights;
- involve children in its work through a variety of means including the Youth Advisory Group;
- ensure that the Government gave appropriate consideration to children's rights when making decisions and enacting laws;
- work to have the rights of children and young people included in Jersey's policies and laws;
- work with and learn from partners in other countries and international organisations to promote the rights of young people; and
- run the office in an open, accessible and responsible way.

During 2025, the Commissioner intended to raise awareness of the OCC through strengthening networks to facilitate collaborative working and having a more visible presence both in the Island and internationally. She aimed to increase knowledge around children's rights across all sectors and would commission a review on

educational inequalities.

The Council noted the position and thanked the Commissioner for attending.