

Treasury and Exchequer Ministerial Decision Report

ALLOCATION OF RESERVE FUNDING FOR RHEUMATOLOGY SERVICES REVIEW

1. Purpose of Report

To enable the Minister to approve the allocation of up to £1,170,400 from the Central Reserve to the Health and Community Services Head of Expenditure to continue the review and the implementation of review findings of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) on Rheumatology patients care in Jersey in 2024.

2. Background

In January 2022, the Royal College of Physicians was requested to undertake a review of the Rheumatology Services in Jersey due to concerns raised about clinical practices. In March 2023 the RCP wrote to the Medical Director, in advance of their final report that that a full audit should be carried out for current patients under the care of clinicians working in Rheumatology. In response, a project (Operation Crocus) was created and resourced to work on the initial findings and recommendation of the RCP. At the time, up to £1.3m was allocated and ring-fenced for this purpose.

However, upon delivery of the RCP's final report in December 2023, the scope of the review was expanded to include all patients (deceased and current) under the care of the clinicians working in Rheumatology, necessitating additional funding requirement.

This funding would enable HCS to complete the patient reviews and review of deceased patients since 2019, implement changes to transition to improved 'business as usual' from January 2025, and provide assurance regarding the current safety of patient diagnoses and care as well as enable HCS to exercise its Duty of Candour to current and previous patients.

3. Recommendation

The Minister is recommended to approve the allocation of up to £1,170,400 from the Central Reserve to the Health and Community Services Head of Expenditure in 2024.

4. Reason for Decision

Article 15(3) of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 states that the approval by the States of a Government Plan authorises the Minister to direct how an approved appropriation for a reserve head of expenditure in the plan may be spent (including on another head of expenditure) in the first financial year covered by the plan.

The current Policy for Allocations from the Reserve, presented to the States Assembly as R.76/2022, sets out the requirements for allocations from Reserves. These requirements have been met and the Treasurer now recommends these allocations to the Minister for approval.

5. Resource Implications

The Central Reserve Head of Expenditure will decrease by up to £1,170,400 in 2024 and the Health and Community Services Head of Expenditure will increase by up to £1,170,400.

This additional funding approved from Reserves by the Minister for Treasury and Resources is not available for transfer to purposes other than that approved by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, without the express written agreement of that Minister.

This decision does not change the total amount of expenditure approved by the States in the Government Plan 2024-27.

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