

Treasury and Exchequer Ministerial Decision Report

RELEASE OF RINGFENCED FUNDING FOR PARENTAL LEAVE IN 2024

1. Purpose of Report

To enable the Minister to approve the allocation of up to £2,360,000 from the Central Reserve – Centrally Held Items to various departmental Heads of Expenditure as detailed in the report below.

2. Background

In 2024, the Central Reserve includes funds that have been ringfenced for specific purposes by the Government Plan 2024-27. These funds are held in the Central Reserve until the level or timing of financial need can be confirmed.

Following the introduction of increased parental leave entitlements, the Government Plan provided £2.5 million in the Central Reserve to fund the incremental costs of Parental Leave in frontline departments during 2024. This is a continuation of funding that was also provided for the same purpose in 2023.

Following the end of May, departments are now able to reliably estimate the parental leave costs that will be incurred in 2024 and funding will be released as set out in the table below:

Head of Expenditure	Title	2024
CYPES	Parental Leave 2024	Up to £1,275,000
HCS	Parental Leave 2024	Up to £580,000
JHA	Parental Leave 2024	Up to £345,000
SoJP	Parental Leave 2024	Up to £160,000
Total		Up to £2,360,000

3. Recommendation

The Minister is recommended to approve the allocation up to £2,360,000 from the Central Reserve – Centrally Held Items to various departmental Heads of Expenditure, as detailed above for the purposes set out in this report.

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 Treasury and Resources for approval.

5. Resource Implications

The Central Reserve – Centrally Held Items will decrease by up to £2,360,000 in 2024, while the following departmental heads of expenditure will increase as follows:

- Children, Young People, Education and Skills by up to £1,275,000;
- Health and Community Services by up to £580,000;
- Justice and Home Affairs by up to £345,000, and;
- States of Jersey Police by up to £160,000.

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

Report author: Specialist Cost Benefit Analysis	Document date 20/06/2024
Quality Assurance / Review: Head of Financial Governance	File name and path: L:\Treasury\Sections\Corporate Finance\Ministerial Decisions\DS, WR and SD\2024-xx - Release of Parental leave Funding in 2024
MD Sponsor: Director of Treasury and Investment Management	