

Application of COCF funding for laptops for the Honorary Police

1. Purpose of Report

To enable the Minister to approve the allocation of £86,400 from the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund (COCF) to the Law Officers' department (LOD) head of expenditure to purchase laptops for the Honorary Police.

2. Background

Jersey's Honorary Police play an integral role in community policing, parish support and the broader criminal justice network. Centeniers are the most senior officers of the Honorary Police, retaining all the powers of a Police Officer under the Police Force (Jersey) Law 1974. Centeniers are able to resolve matters without recourse to formal prosecution in Court via the Parish Hall Enquiry system in appropriate cases, whilst retaining responsibility for charging suspected offenders. Centeniers bring defendants before the Magistrates Court in a wide range of cases.

Document and Information Management is a key success factor in the judicial system for secure, systematic, and efficient case management. As part of work to digitise case management processes within the Honorary Police, Centeniers require laptops that will enable live access to the prosecution service's secure centralised electronic case management platform. The devices will allow existing paper-based processes to be modernised, leading to more efficient case management and improved information security.

This allocation would be used to fund the purchase of 63 laptops, including charging leads and carry cases, remote access to allow 12 support staff to connect to the network from a remote location ensuring access is functional, secure and efficient as well as three years cost of the annual license fee

3. Recommendation

The Minister is recommended to approve the allocation of up to £86,400 from the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund (COCF) to the LOD head of expenditure to purchase laptops for the Honorary Police.

4. Reasons for Decision

Article 21 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 states that if, during a financial year, the Minister is satisfied that the income of a States funded body or area of operation is likely to exceed the estimate income for that income, the Minister may authorise the withdrawal of that excess amount from the Consolidated Fund during that year.

A case for funding from the COCF has been made by the department and the Attorney General and following review by the Investment Appraisal team, the Treasurer of the States is now recommending this to the Minister for Treasury and Resources for approval.

5. Resource Implications

The COCF to decrease by £86,400 and the LOD head of expenditure to increase by an identical amount in 2024. This does not change the total amount of expenditure proposed in the Government Plan 2024-2027.

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