

# STATES OF JERSEY



## PROPOSED BUDGET (GOVERNMENT PLAN) 2026-2029 (P.70/2025): TWENTY- EIGHTH AMENDMENT

### FUNDING FOR RESPITE CARE

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Lodged au Greffe on 24th November 2025  
by Deputy K.M. Wilson of St. Clement  
Earliest date for debate: 9th December 2025

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STATES GREFFE

PROPOSED BUDGET (GOVERNMENT PLAN) 2026-2029 (P.70/2025):  
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**1 PAGE 4, PARAGRAPH (b)(viii) –**

After the words “in Appendix 2 – Summary Tables 5(i) and (ii) of the Report” insert the words -

“, except that in Table 5(i), the Head of Expenditure for the Central Reserve should be decreased by £525,000, to be allocated from the growth bid funding for Assisted Dying, and the head of expenditure for Health and Care Jersey should be increased by £525,000, to be allocated to the funding line for Respite Care”.

**2 PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH (b)(xii) –**

After the words “as set in the Appendix to the accompanying Report” insert the words –

“, except that, on page 42, in Table 9 –

- (i) the Head of Expenditure for Central Reserves should be decreased by £525,000 in 2026, £727,000 in 2027, £688,000 in 2028 and £718,000 in 2029, with funding allocated from the growth allocation for Assisted Dying; and
- (ii) the Revenue Head of Expenditure for Health and Care Jersey should be increased by £525,000 in 2026, £727,000 in 2027, £688,000 in 2028 and £718,000 in 2029, funding to be allocated to Respite care,

with any consequential amendments to be reflected as necessary throughout the Budget.”.

DEPUTY K.M. WILSON OF ST. CLEMENT

**Note:** After this amendment, the proposition would read as follows –

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –**

- (a) In accordance with Article 16 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 (the Law) to approve an amendment to the Government Plan 2025 – 2028 (entitled “Budget 2025 – 2028”) to a reduction in the 2025 head of expenditure “Grants to States Funds” as included in Table 5(i) Revenue Heads of Expenditure of that Government Plan from £119,821,000 to £69,821,000.
- (b) To receive the Government Plan 2026 – 2029 (entitled “Budget 2026-2029”) specified in Article 9(1) of the Law and specifically –
  - i. to approve the estimate of total States income to be paid into the Consolidated Fund in 2026 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary

Table 1 to the Report, which is inclusive of the proposed taxation and impôts duties changes outlined in the Government Plan, in line with Article 9(2)(a) of the Law.

- ii. to refer to their Act dated 24th June 2003 in which they approved that no new ‘user pays’ charges be introduced without any such charge receiving prior in principle approval by the States Assembly and accordingly to approve the introduction of two new charges, to be levied by Health and Care Jersey to promote appropriate use of the Emergency Department and for repeated non-attendance of outpatient appointments, detailed in the section entitled “Departmental Income Sources” as set out in the Appendix to the accompanying Report.
- iii. to approve the proposed Changes to Approval for financing/borrowing for 2026, as shown in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 2 to the Report, which may be obtained by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, as and when required, in line with Article 9 (2)(c) of the Law, of up to those revised approval amounts.
- iv. to approve the transfers from one States fund to another for 2026 of up to and including the amounts set in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 3 in line with Article 9(2)(b) of the Law.
- v. to approve a transfer from the Consolidated Fund to the Stabilisation Fund in 2026 of up to £50 million, subject to a decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources based on the availability of funds in the Consolidated Fund as at 31st December 2025 in excess of the estimates provided in this plan, or from budgeted underspends identified before 31st December 2026.
- vi. to approve a transfer from the Consolidated Fund to the Agricultural Loans Fund in 2026 of up to £5 million, subject to a decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources based on availability of funds in the Consolidated Fund as at 31st December 2025 in excess of estimates provided in this plan, or from budgeted underspends identified before 31st December 2026;
- vii. to approve each major project that is to be started or continued in 2026 and the total cost of each such project and any amendments to the proposed total cost of a major project under a previously approved Government Plan, in line with Article 9(2)(d), (e) and (f) of the Law and as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 4 to the Report.
- viii. to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund for 2026, for each head of expenditure, being gross expenditure less estimated income (if any), in line with Articles 9(2)(g), 10(1) and 10(2) of the Law, and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Tables 5(i) and (ii) of the Report, except that in Table 5(i), the Head of Expenditure for the Central Reserve should be decreased by £525,000, to be allocated from the growth bid funding

for Assisted Dying, and the head of expenditure for Health and Care Jersey should be increased by £525,000, to be allocated to the funding line for Respite Care.

- ix. to approve the estimated income, being estimated gross income less expenditure, that each States trading operation will pay into its trading fund in 2026 in line with Article 9(2)(h) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 6 to the Report.
- x. to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from each States trading operation’s trading fund for 2026 for each head of expenditure in line with Article 9(2)(i) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 7 to the Report.
- xi. to approve the estimated income and expenditure proposals for the Climate Emergency Fund for 2026 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 8 to the Report.
- xii. to approve, in accordance with Article 9(1) of the Law, the Government Plan 2026-2029, as set in the Appendix to the accompanying Report, except that, on page 42, in Table 9 –
  - (i) the Head of Expenditure for Central Reserves should be decreased by £525,000 in 2026, £727,000 in 2027, £688,000 in 2028 and £718,000 in 2029, with funding allocated from the growth allocation for Assisted Dying; and
  - (ii) the Revenue Head of Expenditure for Health and Care Jersey should be increased by £525,000 in 2026, £727,000 in 2027, £688,000 in 2028 and £718,000 in 2029, funding to be allocated to Respite care,with any consequential amendments to be reflected as necessary throughout the Budget.

## REPORT

The allocation set out in the budget for an Assisted Dying service represents a significant commitment of public funds. Given the already competing financial pressures and the multimillion-pound additional funding already allocated to the burgeoning health budget, it is reasonable to question whether this money could be more effectively deployed to address established and pressing needs such as completing the development of high quality palliative care services, expanding respite provision or increasing direct support for carers.

While some improvement in palliative care is evident it is partial. This amendment is a way of making sure palliative care is delivered to the standard the Government has said must exist before Assisted Dying is delivered.

Promises have also been made by the Minister for Social Security to review and put in place better support for Carers, but this has also stalled, so this amendment is again a sure way of making that happen.

The idea that an Assisted Dying service can be provided “free of charge” is not entirely a fair reflection of what is required to deliver it. Under these proposals the taxpayer will fund the Assisted Dying service at the expense of not funding other health priorities.

More cost-effective ways of establishing an assisted dying service should be explored. Spending millions of pounds on a small number of people who want to die at the expense of the many who want to live is not a good use of public money particularly when the benefits to be gained fall short of the benefits that could be achieved elsewhere. At present the government are proposing to fund the option of assisted dying more generously than fund areas of unmet need that would enable people to live well.

This amendment directs funding to areas of immediate and pressing need, strengthens existing services that support both quality of life and compassionate care without introducing additional financial pressures.

This amendment is not proposing to reopen the debate on Assisted Dying law it merely proposes that it is possible to support someone's right to Assisted Dying without agreeing it should be paid for from the public purse when improvements to publicly funded palliative care services are still required and carers in need of support.

The amendment allows for further time to consider how an Assisted Dying service can be procured without necessarily relying on a public funding model to deliver it. The amounts of public money being proposed cannot be justified on the number of people it is intended to serve.

### **Financial and staffing implications**

This amendment will transfer all expenditure allocation to the feasibility work for assisted dying to instead support the improvement of Respite Care.

## **Children's Rights Impact Assessment**

I consider that this proposition (amendment) has no direct or indirect impact on children and that the duty to have due regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does not arise. Accordingly, a Children's Rights Impact Assessment is not required under the Children (Conventions Rights) (Jersey) Law 2022.

## **Re-issue Note**

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This amendment has been re-issued to correctly reflect the transfer of funds from funding related to expenditure growth allocations, which is currently held within the Central Reserve.

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