

Council of Ministers

(71st Meeting)

17th February 2026Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister, Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure and Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services and Deputy Chief Minister (Acting Chair)

Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families

Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development

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

Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

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

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

Deputy M.E. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Treasury and Resources

In attendance -

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

Deputy M.R. Ferey of St. Saviour, Assistant Chief Minister

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

M. Jowitt, H.M. Solicitor General

T. Walker, Acting Chief Executive Officer and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey

L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States

K. Briden, Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs Department (for items A2, B1 and B2 only)

R. Blake, Deputy Emergency Planning Officer (for item B2 only)

C. May, Interim Head of Data Protection and Governance Services, Cabinet Office (for item B3 only)

P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office

S. Holland, Head of Information Governance, Cabinet Office (for item B3 only)

B. Markwell-Sales, Business and Governance Officer, Ministerial Office, Cabinet Office (for item B3 only)

A. Thorne, Business and Governance Officer, Ministerial Office

T. Mourant, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister

K.L. Slack, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

H. Esnouf, Assistant Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Parts A and B.

Declarations of interest.

A1. No declarations of interest were received in connexion with any of the items discussed at the current meeting.

Forthcoming business.

A2. The Council discussed the following items of public business, which were due to be considered by the States Assembly on 24th February 2026 –

Draft Sexual Offences (Jersey) Amendment Law 202- (P.5/2026);

Draft Harassment and Stalking (Jersey) Law 202- (P.6/2026);

Draft Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Amendment Law 202- (P.7/2026);

Draft Crime (Strangulation) (Jersey) Law 202- (P.8/2026); and

Draft Crime (Public Order) (Jersey) Amendment Law 202- (P.9/2026)

The Council was informed that the intention was for these 5 propositions, which had been lodged ‘*au Greffe*’ by the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, to be deferred to the meeting of the States Assembly on 10th March 2026, to enable further work to be undertaken in respect of the cost implications associated with the same.

It was recalled that the legislation formed part of the Government’s Common Strategic Priority objective to address and implement the recommendations from the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Taskforce report, which had been published in November 2023. It was noted that the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel had been reviewing the draft Laws and had raised several questions with the Justice and Home Affairs Department, which had been addressed;

Draft Assisted Dying (Jersey) Law 202- (P.65/2025)

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services, indicated that he intended to accept all but 3 of the amendments to this proposition, 2 of which had been lodged by the Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel and one by Deputy B. Ward of St. Clement.

The Council discussed the order in which the various amendments would be debated and whether it would be possible to vote on certain Articles of the draft Law separately. It was noted that the States Greffe would be preparing a ‘running order’ which, it was hoped, would be of assistance; and

Draft Alcohol Licensing (Jersey) Law 202- (P.112/2025)

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Representative of the Comité des Connétables, emphasised that the Connétables agreed that it was important that the number of licence categories should be reduced, thereby lessening the administrative burden. He suggested that the Comité might be minded to withdraw its amendment.

Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development, reminded the Council that his own amendment, which replaced reference within the draft Law to the Alcohol and Gambling Commission with the Regulatory Directorate of the Infrastructure and Environment Department, would remove what was, arguably, the most contentious element of P.112/2025.

It was noted that a briefing for States Members was due to take place on the proposition on 18th February 2026.