

Council of Ministers

(72nd Meeting)

3rd March 2026Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister (not present for items A1, A2, part of item B2, B4 and B5)

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services and Deputy Chief Minister (Acting Chair for items A1, A2, part of item B2, B4 and B5)

Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security

Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure

Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development (not present for item B5)

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 (for a time)

Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (not present for item B5)

Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations (for a time)

Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing (not present for items B4 and B5)

Deputy M.E. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Treasury and Resources (not present for items A1 and A2)

In attendance -

Deputy C.S. Alves of St. Helier Central, Assistant Chief Minister

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

Deputy A. Howell of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services

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

Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Economic Development (not present for part of items A3 and B1 and item B5)

M. Jowitt, K.C., H.M. Solicitor General (for a time)

Advocate V. Bell, Senior Legal Adviser, Law Officers' Department

L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States (not present for items B4 and B5)

Dr. A. McLaughlin, Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey

V. Bisson, Service Manager for Vulnerable Children and Virtual School Headteacher, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department (for item B1 only)

F. Walker, Head of Policy, Cabinet Office (for item B1 only)

T. Le Feuvre, Director of External Relations, External Relations Department (for item B2 only)
K. Briden, Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs Department (for item B3 only)
R. Smith, Chief of Police, States of Jersey Police (for item B3 only)
P. Ashley, Head of Cost-Benefit Analysis and Investment Appraisal, Treasury and Exchequer (for items B3 and B4 only)
K. Whitehead, Group Director for Regulation, Infrastructure and Environment Department (for item B4 only)
S. Robinson, Head of Shareholder Relations, Treasury and Exchequer (for item B4 only)
R. Bell, Treasurer of the States (for item B4 only)
R. Johnson, Director for Health Policy, Cabinet Office (for item B5 only)
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office
A. Thorne, Business and Governance Officer, Cabinet Office
S. Youd, Assistant Business and Governance Officer, Cabinet Office
L. Plumley, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

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

- Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 10th and 17th February 2026 (Parts A and B), having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- Declarations of interest. A2. A declaration of interest was received from Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security, in connexion with item No. A3 of the current meeting, in relation to the proposition 'Use of cash in Jersey' (P.48/2026 referred), due to a family member holding shares in a payment services provider business.
- Forthcoming Business. A3. The Council discussed the following items of public business, which were due to be considered by the States Assembly on 10th March 2026 –

Treating children as children (P.14/2026)

The Council was informed that this proposition of Deputy Sir P.M. Bailhache of St. Clement requested the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning to replace the existing 'Trans Inclusion Guidance' (non-statutory guidance for the Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department, including schools and educational settings) with the document entitled 'Treating children as children: a safeguarding approach to trans-identifying children and adolescents in Jersey schools' and to make this available to all schools and educational settings.

It was noted that Deputy Bailhache had subsequently lodged an amendment to P.14/2026 which, if adopted, would permit the Minister to make minor modifications to the aforementioned document. The Council received and noted a draft comments paper from the Minister in this connexion;

Draft Health and Social Care Professionals Register (Jersey) Law 202- (P.15/2026)

The Council noted that the draft Law would standardise the registration process for regulated health and care professionals in Jersey and address inconsistent registration requirements across professional groups and insufficient oversight of healthcare professionals. The proposals also included a regime for registering professionals in the event of an urgent health situation and for the Jersey Care Commission to regulate providers of specialist health care.

The Council was apprised of an amendment to P.15/2026, which had been lodged 'au Greffe' by Deputy T.A. Coles of St. Helier South. The amendment proposed the removal of references to the United Kingdom (UK) throughout the legislation to

allow for standards from around the world to be considered; allowing for Jersey registration on the basis of registration with any non-statutory accrediting body accredited by the Professional Standards Authority in the UK; the removal of the requirement for occupations to be registrable in Jersey (which needed to be recorded in the UK), which would enable the Minister for Health and Social Services to specify registrable professions in the Island; and the addition of psychotherapist, counsellor and related titles to the Scheduled Occupations;

Draft Sea Fisheries (Trawling, Netting and Dredging) (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 202- (P.18/2026)

The Council noted that the draft Regulations would update and consolidate various pieces of legislation governing the management of mobile and passive fishing gear. They would also deliver the Marine Protected Area network, as specified under the Jersey Marine Spatial Plan. It was confirmed that consultation and engagement had been undertaken with the industry in relation to the proposals;

Ministerial Office: independent support to Ministers (P.23/2026)

The Council was informed that this proposition of Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade, which had been lodged in her capacity as an independent Member, requested the Chief Minister to develop and implement a framework agreement by 31st March 2026, to ensure that the Ministerial Office maintained the explicit ability to support Ministers in challenging Executive Officers of Government Departments. The proposition was intended to assist staff in the Ministerial Office by addressing potential conflicts of interest.

The Council was apprised of an amendment to P.23/2026, lodged '*au Greffe*' by Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, to refer to the Cabinet Office instead of the Ministerial Office and to request the Chief Minister to undertake work (including any legislative changes required) to meet recommendation 35 of the Report of the Privileges and Procedures Committee's Democratic Accountability and Governance Sub-Committee (R.23/2022 referred) and legally embed the right of the Cabinet Office to support Ministerial functions and advise on policy, independent of the Chief Executive Officer, who would, instead, account for the delivery of policy;

Assessment of visual impact in Green Backdrop Zone (GBZ) planning applications (P.31/2026)

The Council noted that this proposition of Deputy Scott requested the Minister for the Environment to ensure that planning applications for sites within or impacting the GBZ included a text and pictorial assessment of visual impact. The publication of associated draft guidance would also be required. The Council was informed that Deputy Scott had lodged an amendment '*au Greffe*' to require the provision of additional resources to support the application of the relevant policy of the 2022 Bridging Island Plan;

Review of affordable housing percentage in developments (P.33/2026)

The Council was advised that Deputy Scott had decided to defer this proposition, pending the receipt of formal economic advice;

Draft Alcohol Licensing (Jersey) Law 202-: Amendments (P.112/2025 Amd., P.112/2025 Amd. 3 and P.112/2025 Amd. 4)

The Council was advised that the first amendment, which had been lodged by the Comité des Connétables, was likely to be withdrawn; and

Draft Food (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.113/2025)

The Council was informed that the draft Regulations represented a significant step

forward in modernising Jersey's food safety framework, aligning it with international best practice and addressing long-standing gaps. Clear, enforceable requirements would be provided for allergen labelling, hygiene standards and licensing.

The Council was apprised of an amendment to P.113/2025, lodged '*au Greffe*' by the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel, requiring the new licensing framework to proceed without introducing fees for food businesses, thereby preventing additional financial and administrative pressures. The amendment also proposed removing the fixed commencement date of 1st October 2026, with the new date to be set instead by Act of the States Assembly.