

Council of Ministers

(66th Meeting)

16th December 2025Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families and Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister (for items A1-A4 and B1-B5 only)

Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure (for part of item B3 and item B4 only)

Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development (for part of items A3 and B1, items A4-A5 and items B2-B6 only)

Deputy S.G. Luce of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for the Environment (for items A3 and B1 only)

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

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

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance –

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

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

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

Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Economic Development

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

M.H. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General

M. Jowitt, K.C., H.M. Solicitor General

L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States (for items A1-A4, B1-B2 and part of item B3 only)

Dr. A. McLaughlin, Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey (for items A1-A4 and B1-B5 only)

K. Briden, Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs Department (for part of items A3 and B1 only)

K. Whitehead, Group Director for Regulation, Infrastructure and Environment Department (for item B5 only)
A. Heaven, Assistant Director for Policy, Cabinet Office (for items A4 and B2 only)
A. Metcalfe, Associate Director of Strategic Planning and Accountability, Cabinet Office (for part of items A3 and B1 only)
R. Johnson, Associate Director, Policy, Cabinet Office (for part of items A3 and B1 only)
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office
A. Pinel, States Veterinary Assistant, Infrastructure and Environment Department (for part of items A3 and B1 only)
N. Day, Head of Strategic Housing and Regeneration, Cabinet Office (for item B3 only)
C. Lucas, Head of Transformation, Commissioning and Partnerships, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department (for item B5 only)
E. Blampied, Policy Principal (Digital), Cabinet Office (for items A4 and B2 only)
A. Hamon, Senior Policy Officer, Cabinet Office (for part of items A3 and B1 only)
J. Higham, Commissioning Officer, Transformation, Commissioning and Partnerships, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department (for item B5 only)
C. Kelleher, Culture and Heritage, Department for the Economy (for part of items A3 and B1 only)
A. Thorne, Business and Governance Officer, Cabinet Office
T. Mourant, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister
K.L. Slack, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

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

Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 28th October (Parts A and B), 30th October (Part A only), 7th November (Part A only), 14th November (Part B only), 18th November (Parts A and B), 27th November (Part A only) and 2nd December 2025 (Part A only), having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister, thanked the officers from the Secretariat Team, States Greffe, for the production of the Minutes in a timely manner.

Declarations of interest. A2. No declarations of interest were received from Ministers in connexion with any of the items discussed at the current meeting.

Forthcoming business. A3. The Council discussed the following items of business, which were scheduled to be considered at the meeting of the States Assembly on 20th January 2026 –

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

It was noted that the Scrutiny Assisted Dying Review Panel, which had requested that the proposition should be debated 20 weeks (rather than the requisite 12) after being lodged ‘*au Greffe*’, namely on 20th January 2026, was seeking to delay the debate until 23rd February 2026, in order to complete its review. The Council discussed the implications of further delays to this proposition and agreed with a suggested course of action that the principles of P.65/2025 should be debated, as scheduled, on 20th January 2026 with the Panel having the opportunity to call it in

thereafter;

End-of-Life Care (P.73/2025)

The Council noted that this proposition was intrinsically linked with the former (P.65/2025), as it set out that the Minister for Health and Social Services would ask the States Assembly to agree that a new end-of-life care law should be presented to Assembly before the assisted dying law, if adopted, came into full force. The Council was informed that discussions would take place with representatives from the care home sector during the course of the development of any legislation relating to end-of-life care;

Draft Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 202- (P.97/2025)

The Council was informed that the draft law was predicated upon existing legislation in the United Kingdom (UK) and Europe, in addition to international best practice regarding animal welfare. The legislation would give the Minister for the Environment the power to enact subordinate legislation to protect animal welfare and to alleviate or prevent the suffering of an animal. These would, *inter alia*, require cats, dogs and ferrets to be microchipped, ban the docking of dogs' tails (except in specific circumstances) and prohibit the importation of certain animals;

Amendments to Standing Orders – Code of Conduct (P.102/2025)

The Council was informed by Mrs. L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States, that the Chair of the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) was minded to defer the debate of this proposition to the 3rd February 2026 to enable a further briefing for Members of the States Assembly to take place; and

Amendments to Standing Orders – Jersey Youth Assembly (P.103/2025)

It was noted that this proposition would amend Standing Orders to facilitate the newly reconstituted Youth Assembly having a more meaningful interaction with the States Assembly to ensure that the views of young people were heard, most notably in connexion with those subjects that impacted them directly.

Online Safety for Children in Jersey – response to scrutiny report S.R. 4/2025.

A4. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. B6 of 18th November 2025, received and noted a draft response to the report by the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel, entitled 'What protection do children in Jersey have from online harms?' (S.R. 4/2025 referred) and welcomed the Assistant Director for Policy and the Policy Principal (Digital), Cabinet Office, to the meeting.

The Council recalled that S.R. 4/2025 contained 63 findings (of which 6 were key) and 38 recommendations (of which 5 were key) for the Government and that a response to the report was due to be submitted before 19th December 2025. Whilst some of the recommendations were targeted at specific Ministers, 17 had been assigned to the Government of Jersey. It was further recalled that a group comprising various Ministers had been established to co-ordinate the approaches to the individual hearings that had been requested by the Panel during the course of the review, which had commenced in October 2024.

Having considered the foregoing the Council requested that a covering report be appended to the response to S.R. 4/2025 and agreed that they should be presented to the States. Officers were requested to take the necessary action.

Festive wishes.

A5. Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Deputy Chief Minister, on behalf of the Chief Minister, thanked all the Ministers, Assistant Ministers and officers who worked alongside the Council for their hard work during 2025 and wished them a very happy Christmas.