



# Consultation: Telecoms Security Framework

JULY 2023

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## Introduction / why Jersey needs a telecoms security framework

The strength of Jersey's economy, and our excellent reputation as an international financial services centre and a centre of innovation, are based not only on our laws and high standards but also on the Island's high speed digital connectivity.

Our digital connectivity provides reliable, secure access to the world and sits at the heart of our community, underpinning our private and working lives. Digital services and connectivity have already had a profound effect on society and business, and it would be sensible to assume that digital services will continue to transform the way in which we interact.

If Jersey can harness our digital services correctly, it will create new and exciting opportunities.

New capabilities and opportunities, however, come with ever more complex risks and threats. In a rapidly changing world, we must be able to respond quickly to the threat of cyber-attacks.

This consultation aims to raise awareness, and obtain feedback, on Government's proposals to maintain the security and resilience of Jersey's telecoms networks and services.

This document sets out five questions, and provides background information on each one. You can provide feedback on any or all of the questions:

- online, by going to [gov.je/consultations](http://gov.je/consultations)
- by email to [Economy@gov.je](mailto:Economy@gov.je)
- by post to

FAO Mick Fews  
Department for the Economy,  
19-21 Broad Street,  
St Helier,  
JE2 3RR

## Data protection

The information you provide will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018. For more information see the [Department for the Economy privacy notices](#).

Under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011, information submitted to this consultation may be released if a Freedom of Information (FOI) request requires it, but no personal data may be released.

## Question 1:

### Do you think it makes sense for Jersey to follow the UK's approach?

Jersey's relationship with the UK is deep and long-standing and our closest cultural, economic and diplomatic relationships are with the UK. Jersey looks to the UK Government for our defence and international representation.

Our telecoms providers use UK +44 phone numbers and work closely with UK telecoms providers and government agencies to maintain the security of our networks and services.

The proposed new law for Jersey, based in UK legislation, has been drafted to ensure we stay closely aligned with the UK approach to telecoms security.

The UK has taken a lead in securing the digital connectivity needed for modern life. The UK's approach to telecoms security is underpinned by the Telecommunications (Security) Act 2021. The UK's Act:

- Imposes duties on providers of telecoms networks and services to protect their networks and services from security compromises that might or would affect the security or availability of networks and services.
- Allows requirements, including removal, to be imposed on the use of equipment, services and facilities from suppliers that are threats to the UK's national security.
- Creates a compliance regime with financial penalties for those who do not secure their networks and services or fail to meet requirements.

You can read about the UK's Act and its implementation here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-telecoms-security-law-to-protect-uk-from-cyber-threats> and
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposal-for-new-telecoms-security-regulations-and-code-of-practice>.

The UK's Act does not apply to Jersey or the other Crown Dependencies. If agreed by States Assembly, providers of networks and services will be required to maintain the security of networks and services under Jersey Law.

## **Question 2:**

### **Do you think the costs of maintaining Jersey's security are justified by the benefits?**

Maintaining the security of Jersey's telecoms networks and services will bring significant economic benefits for Jersey. Jersey will maintain and enhance its reputation as a globally-connected, trusted place to locate and do business. At the same time, users of networks and services including Islanders will be less likely to suffer from disruptive and costly cyber-attacks and loss of service.

Maintaining the security of our networks and services is likely to be challenging, costly and ongoing for providers. Networks and services are continually transforming.

Following the UK's approach will require that new equipment, ways of managing and operating must have security built in. The costs of maintaining security will have to be paid for.

## **Question 3:**

### **Do you agree with the principles that inform our Telecoms Security Framework? If you do not agree, please give your reasons.**

The Telecommunications (Jersey) Law 2002 already contains a provision that allows the Jersey Law to be amended in the interests of security. If agreed by States Assembly the telecoms security amendment will align Jersey's approach to telecoms security with the UK, ensuring that Jersey Law that is underpinned by four principles:

- Credible in the eyes of our stakeholders, maintaining Jersey's reputation as a secure and resilient place to do business
- Robust, capable of maintaining the secure and resilient telecoms networks and services on which Jersey depends
- Effective, imposing duties and requirements that are enforceable
- Proportionate, recognising Jersey's unique context.

## **Question 4:**

### **Are the proposed timings sufficient to protect the interests of Jersey?**

Our aim is to have Jersey's telecoms security framework in place by the end of 2024. To achieve our aim, we are working to the following milestones:

- Q4 2023 - lodge Regulations with States Assembly to amend the existing Jersey law
- Q1 /Q2 2024 - obtain States Assembly approval for the amending regulations

- Q2 2024 – commence the powers that will allow Government to impose restrictions on the use equipment, services and facilities
- Throughout 2024 – consult on the implementation of the Telecoms Security Framework
- Q4 2024 – the Telecoms Security Framework goes-live, and the security measures, duties, functions and powers commence

### **Question 5:**

#### **Do you agree with the principle of the three Crown Dependencies working together on telecoms security.**

It is important that Government of Jersey works closely with both the States of Guernsey and the Isle of Man Government on telecoms security and cyber security more broadly.

Crown Dependency telecoms networks and services are provided on a pan-Island basis. JT, Airtel and Newtel provide networks and services across Jersey and Guernsey, Sure provides networks and services across Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

Government has worked to ensure that the governments of Guernsey and the Isle of Man understand our plans to maintain Jersey's telecoms security.