



Hydrogeological PFAS Steering Group Update

24/02/2026

Government of Jersey

The Hydrogeological PFAS Steering Group was established to support a coordinated response to PFAS contamination linked to historic activities at the Airport, and to ensure that work to reduce risks to groundwater, surface water and water catchments is progressed in a joined-up way. PFAS affects interconnected systems, groundwater movement, surface water pathways, drainage infrastructure, private supplies and the wider water environment, and no single organisation can address these issues in isolation. The Steering Group was set up to provide a structured forum where the key organisations can align on evidence, responsibilities, sequencing and communication.

Since convening, the Group has focused on strengthening the shared evidence base and maintaining momentum on practical measures while longer-term remediation options are developed. This has included improving coordination around monitoring and drainage information, clarifying what early interventions could look like in practice, and keeping attention on the sites and catchments where action is most likely to reduce PFAS loads to the environment. The Group has also identified areas where public interest is high and where consistent information is important, including mains connections, management of contaminated materials, and how progress will be demonstrated over time.

A key theme emerging from the Steering Group's work has been sequencing, agreeing what can be progressed now, what depends on further surveys or testing, and what requires longer-term design and delivery planning. This has helped ensure that related workstreams are considered together rather than in isolation, and that partners have clarity on near-term priorities.

This update provides Islanders with a clear, factual account of the Steering Group's purpose and activity to date. The detail of delivery sits with the responsible organisations, and the sections that follow provide updates from Ports of Jersey and Jersey Water on their work programmes and next steps. Government's role through the Steering Group is to convene partners, maintain an evidence-led and proportionate approach, and ensure that planning remains aligned with the Independent PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel's recommendations and the wider Water Quality and Safety programme.

1. Positive Intervention Steps

A key early intervention agreed through the Steering Group was to stop the disposal of groundwater from boreholes at the Airport Fire Training Ground (FTG) to the Island's foul sewer network. Since pumping ceased, monitoring shows a substantial reduction in PFAS (PFOS) concentrations associated with that discharge, indicating that this action has reduced PFAS loading to the sewer system.

Early results also suggest a corresponding reduction in PFOS concentrations in the enhanced treated biosolids produced at Bellozanne. This matters because biosolids management is a live operational issue for the Island, and reductions in PFAS

concentrations support safer handling decisions while longer-term remediation options are developed.

2. Monitoring and Evidence Base

Government officers continue to strengthen the shared evidence base that underpins Steering Group discussions. This includes ongoing sampling of boreholes and streams within the plume area to fill data gaps, validate earlier assessment work, and build trend data that can be used to measure change over time as remediation measures are introduced.

In parallel, broader environmental PFAS monitoring is being undertaken to support the Independent PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel's work (including the Panel's reporting programme) and to ensure that decisions across the wider Water Quality and Safety Programme remain evidence-led and proportionate.

3. Pollution Control and Regulatory Engagement

Alongside the Steering Group, Pollution Control officers have been working directly with Ports of Jersey to progress discharge permit applications under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000. This has included regular officer-level engagement, site visits at the airport, and collaborative workshops to support the permit process and help clarify monitoring expectations and improvement measures. Ports of Jersey have continued to provide monitoring results to the regulator to support this work.

Government officers have also maintained practical support to residents and private water supply users. This has included face-to-face visits, advice and support in relation to borehole and tap testing results, and coordination with Jersey Water to help ensure testing activity and public-facing information are handled consistently.

Ports of Jersey

Ports of Jersey continues to work collaboratively with Government of Jersey, Jersey Water, and the Hydrogeological PFAS Steering Group to address the legacy PFAS contamination associated with historic Airport activities.

Operating within one of the Island's most regulated environments, Jersey Airport undertakes rigorous and proportionate assessments before any operational change is made, to ensure that public safety, environmental protection and regulatory compliance remain central to all decisions.

Our work on PFAS is focused on building a shared, evidence led understanding of PFAS pathways across our airport estate and contributing to a coordinated remediation strategy that focuses on proportionate actions, coordinated sequencing of actions and a shared understanding of risks and responsibilities.

The following section sets out the actions Ports of Jersey is taking to support ongoing PFAS monitoring and mitigation, ahead of any long-term remediation measures arising from the wider Government led strategic approach and the work of the Hydrogeological PFAS Steering Group and reflects our contribution to a coordinated evidence-led response.

1. Strengthening Monitoring

In support of the Steering Groups emphasis on a consistent and well understood dataset, Ports of Jersey expanded its monitoring activity. This includes:

- Biannual testing of boreholes across the St Ouen's plume area and wider airport estate.
- PFAS testing of soils encountered during groundworks to ensure responsible PFAS management. Other material such as grass clippings, asphalt and concrete have also been tested.
- Planning increased PFAS testing at multiple locations within the estate to narrow down PFAS movement across the drainage network which impacts the Pont Marquet catchment.
- Increased testing of any water historically discharged to Bellozanne, now undertaken quarterly.

In parallel with this monitoring work, Ports of Jersey has continued to work closely with Pollution Control officers on updated discharge permit applications under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000, with regular meetings helping to strengthen the shared evidence base, providing a clearer more coordinated foundation for the future.

2. Targeted Interventions and Drainage Improvements

Reflecting the Steering Group's focus on early gains, Ports of Jersey has progressed several targeted actions to improve understanding of infrastructure PFAS pathways. These include:

- Completion of detailed surveys of drainage infrastructure leading to Pont Marquet, with further site-wide surveys scheduled.
- Enhancing interceptor cleaning and maintenance to ensure effective operations.
- Assessment of reed beds and aeration ponds to confirm their continued performance in managing contaminants effectively.

These interventions help identify where infrastructure improvements can deliver reductions in PFAS as part of the wider strategy.

3. Fire Training Ground – Containment and Risk Reduction

Ports of Jersey continues to maintain and monitor the long-term containment system installed at the Fire Training Ground. In line with Steering Group agreement, pumping of groundwater to the foul sewer has ceased. Since this has ceased, monitoring at Bellozane indicates a measurable reduction in PFAS concentrations in both the sewer discharges and treated biosolids.

This data provides an important evidence-base and informs short-term remediation decisions as well as supporting long-term planning.

4. Supporting Impacted Private Supplies

Ports of Jersey, Government of Jersey, and Jersey Water have worked together to support households historically affected by PFAS contamination. More than 70 properties have been connected to mains water prior to the Steering Group being established. Work continues with one remaining household being supported by ongoing borehole testing and coordinated advice from Government and Jersey Water.

5. Remediation Strategy Development

To support the Steering Group's work on a proportionate remediation strategy, Ports of Jersey has commissioned independent advisors to evaluate potential treatment and management options for the airport site. These appraisals will provide more detail on viable treatments, associated risks and costs and likely timelines for Pont Marquet, St Ouen's catchment, and the Fire Training Ground.

Draft findings are being shared with the Steering Group for discussion and will be considered alongside the recent recommendations provided by the PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel with consolidated final report is due in the middle of March 2026.

Ports of Jersey considers this structured approach is essential for enabling a unified evidence based remediation strategy that balances health and environmental benefits, alongside technical feasibility.

These options appraisals will provide the foundation for the joint remediation strategy that, aligned with the PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel's recommendations and Jersey Water's parallel workstreams, will provide the necessary evidence to determine the

most effective approach for the whole life cycle of the treatment of PFAS. This will enable a unified, evidence-led cost–benefit analysis to identify the most appropriate remediation strategy.

Jersey Water

The collaborative work of the Steering Group has led to greater understanding, knowledge sharing and constructive developments, for both addressing PFAS contamination around the airport and for formulating a broader Island-wide response to PFAS pollution.

1. Remediation of Contaminated Water Sources

We continue to support the remediation efforts being led by the Government of Jersey and Ports of Jersey and we welcome the steps being taken to address the contamination affecting our own water sources in the affected area, which remain out of service. The loss of the stream source at Pont Marquet and the five boreholes in St Ouen's Bay places additional pressure on the Island's water supply, and the Steering Group has helped maintain a shared focus on the importance of and steps required to bring these valuable sources back into operation. Reducing pollution in the Island streams and catchment areas will consequently reduce the need for extensive treatment for PFAS at our treatment works.

2. Testing Private Supplies

Following the publication of the Arcadis hydrogeological report, we have, on behalf of the Government and Ports of Jersey, assisted with testing private water supplies in the extended pollution area and assessed options for extending mains connections to newly identified affected properties.

3. Research into Water Treatment and Waste Recycling

We continue to dedicate significant effort to addressing PFAS as part of the Island's broader response to the environmental issue of PFAS. We have shared with the Steering Group the findings of our research into treatment technologies to facilitate a group understanding of the requirements and costs of removing PFAS from drinking water.

In anticipation of any new regulation, we have proactively advanced our research into both interim and long-term treatment solutions to reduce the trace concentrations of PFAS currently detected in drinking water. We have already undertaken laboratory bench-top testing for liquid powdered activated carbon (LPAC) and will imminently begin full-scale trials at our Augrès treatment works. Our initial research indicates that LPAC could achieve some reduction in PFAS levels and could be a cost effective interim measure, while we develop a longer-term treatment solution.

Following a detailed research project into ten different treatment options, we have identified two solutions that are potentially suitable for long-term treatment, namely granulated activated carbon and/or ion exchange.

We have committed nearly £2 million during 2026 and 2027 to investigate interim treatment and carry out these pilot trials to find the right long-term treatment solution

for Jersey. We will shortly begin the pilot trials at our Handois water treatment works, which we expect to run for 12 to 18 months to assess how the technologies perform across all seasons and water conditions.

To support the work of this Steering Group and the latest report from the Independent PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel, we have in parallel investigated the potential impact of our waste materials being recycled on land. These joint investigations have shown that, outside of the identified pollution area around the airport, there is not a significant, detrimental impact of spreading waste and bio solids containing PFAS. In fact, PFAS concentrations in soil are, in most cases, undetectable. Without the joint working approach of this Steering Group, this work would not have been possible. It is important research for Jersey Water as we investigate options for treating PFAS at our treatment works.

4. Community Engagement

Community engagement has been an important part of the group's work. We have attended public meetings alongside the Government and Ports of Jersey, hosted site visits of our treatment works, and met with concerned Islanders to share information and provide reassurance about the steps we are taking to protect the Island's water supply. This important work will continue into 2026 and beyond.