



Lesson 2 – Difficult funding decisions

Sustainable Social Security fund

You are the Minister for Social Security. You have been alerted to a population development that is affecting the medium-term sustainability of the fund. You must decide how best to address the issue:

- The proportion of islanders of working age has reduced due to the low number of students returning to work on the island after graduation.
- The proportion of islanders receiving pension has increased significantly, due to positive health interventions meaning islanders are living longer and receiving pensions for a greater number of years.
- The number of islanders receiving short- and long-term incapacity benefit due to mental health has also doubled.

These factors have contributed to a report showing the fund is no longer sustainable.

There are several corrective measures you could use to address the issue which are:

1. Increase the number of years you must have with full contributions to be eligible for **any** pension.
2. Increase the number of years you must have with full contributions to be eligible for a **full** pension.
3. Freeze the amount of pension islanders receive so that it no longer increases with inflation.
4. Introduce new restrictions to who receives a full pension, for example a maximum number of years you can receive it before it reduces or stops if you own assets over a certain value, say £500,000 (including your home).
5. Increase the % of employee salary that the employee, and/or employer must pay as social security contributions into the fund.
6. Decrease the amount of benefit that is paid out per week for long- and short-term incapacity benefit.
7. Tighten eligibility criteria for certain benefits so that less money is paid out in benefits.



Choose 1 of the 4 scenarios below and complete the task:

1

Minister for Treasury and Resources – Jersey Infrastructure Priorities

You are the Minister for Treasury and Resources in Jersey. You’ve received four urgent funding requests, each addressing a critical issue affecting island life. However, your budget only allows you to fund three out of the four proposals.

The Funding Requests:

- 1. Drainage System Upgrade in St Helier**
 Recent storms have caused severe flooding in St Helier, damaging homes and businesses. The Jersey Shoreline Management Plan and the Havre des Pas Coastal Flood Alleviation Project have identified this area as high-risk. The proposed upgrade would improve stormwater drainage and protect key commercial zones and residential areas.
- 2. Pollution Inspection Team for Farms and Industrial Sites**
 Several pollution incidents have led to beach closures, harming Jersey’s tourism reputation. A new inspection team would ensure compliance with environmental regulations and prevent further damage to the island’s coastal waters.
- 3. Continued Subsidy for Public Bus Services**
 Jersey’s bus service is currently subsidised to keep fares low and provide free travel for students. Without continued funding, fares could triple, and student travel benefits would be withdrawn, affecting access to education and increasing car dependency.
- 4. Replacement of Diesel Garbage Trucks with Electric Vehicles**
 Jersey City has begun transitioning to electric garbage trucks to meet zero-carbon fleet targets and improve air quality. Expanding this initiative island-wide would reduce emissions from one of the most polluting vehicle types in the municipal fleet.

TASK

➔ **Which of the four activities will you decline funding for?** Explain the rationale for your decision, considering environmental impact, public wellbeing, and long-term value.

What measure you would use

2

Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Prioritising Jersey’s Health Initiatives

You are the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. You’ve received four proposals aimed at improving public health across Jersey. However, your budget only allows you to fund three out of the four.

The Funding Requests:

1. Mental Health Support App for Young People

The rise in youth anxiety and depression has prompted calls for digital support. The proposed app would offer free, anonymous chat, self-help tools, and crisis support, aligned with Jersey’s Jersey Care Model focus on community-based mental health care.

2. Expansion of Hospital Capacity at Overdale

Jersey’s New Healthcare Facilities Programme includes plans to expand acute care services at Overdale. This would reduce waiting times and improve access to emergency and specialist care.

3. Island-Wide Fitness Programme

With obesity and inactivity rising, this initiative would offer free weekly fitness classes in parks and community centres, targeting all age groups and promoting preventative health.

4. New Cancer Screening Technology

Jersey’s Preventative Screening Team proposes investing in a new AI-based screening tool for early cancer detection. While promising, the technology is still in trial phase and not yet widely adopted.

TASK

→ **Which of the four activities will you decline funding for?** Explain the rationale for your decision, considering public health impact, cost-effectiveness, and long-term outcomes.

3

Minister for Education and Skills – Investing in Jersey’s Future

You are the Minister for Education and Skills. You’ve received four proposals to improve education outcomes but can only fund three out of the four.

The Funding Requests:

- 1. Free Laptops for All Secondary Students**
To reduce the digital divide, this initiative would provide every student with a laptop, supporting remote learning and digital literacy. It aligns with Jersey’s push for equitable access to education.
- 2. Inclusive Teaching Training Programme**
Following the launch of Jersey’s Inclusive Education Charter, this programme would train teachers in inclusive practices, ensuring all students feel supported and valued.
- 3. Vocational Training Centre for Green Jobs**
A new centre would offer hands-on training in trades like solar installation, EV maintenance, and sustainable construction — preparing students for Jersey’s green economy.
- 4. Family Support Services to Reduce Absenteeism**
Chronic absenteeism is rising, especially in low-income areas. This initiative would fund social workers and outreach programmes to help families overcome barriers to school attendance.

TASK

→ Which of the four activities will you decline funding for? Explain the rationale for your decision, considering equity, future skills, and student wellbeing.

4

Minister for Environment and Infrastructure – Building a Sustainable Jersey

You are the Minister for Environment and Infrastructure. You've received four proposals to support Jersey's environmental goals. You must choose three to fund.

The Funding Requests:

- 1. Restoration of Coastal Wetlands**
Wetlands around St Ouen's Bay and Grouville Marsh are under threat. Restoration would protect biodiversity and reduce flood risk, supporting the Jersey Shoreline Management Plan.
- 2. Solar Panels on Government Buildings**
Jersey has committed to net-zero emissions. Installing solar panels on schools, hospitals, and offices would reduce energy costs and emissions.
- 3. Island-Wide Recycling Awareness Campaign**
Despite recycling facilities, participation remains low. This campaign would educate residents on proper sorting and the environmental benefits of recycling.
- 4. Cycle Path Network Expansion**
Jersey's cycling infrastructure is limited. This proposal would build new paths connecting schools, parks, and town centres, encouraging active travel and reducing car use.

TASK

- **Which of the four activities will you decline funding for?** Explain the rationale for your decision, considering environmental impact, public engagement, and long-term sustainability.
