

Chief Minister



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25th February 2020

Dear Deputy Southern,

Government Plan Efficiencies Review Panel

Thank you for setting out the establishment of this new panel and sharing the purpose, membership and Terms of Reference.

In response to your specific requests:

The background material pertinent to the review is largely in the public domain and I draw your attention to the following documents:

- The Efficiencies Plan 2020 – 2023 (R. 130/2019)
- The Government Plan 2020 – 2023 (due for publication during February)

In line with the obligations set out in P.88/2019 we will publish a six monthly update on the performance of the Efficiencies Plan 2020 – 2023. The timescales for this publication will comply with the obligations set out in Article 23 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 i.e. for the first report no later than the 31st August 2020.

We are still determining the most appropriate method of publication which is likely to be either a stand-alone report or embedded, but distinct, within a broader six monthly update.

Internal governance is provided by the One Government Political Oversight Board and the Council of Ministers. Papers submitted to these groups, which fall within the Terms of Reference for this Panel, will be shared once the Council of Ministers has had the opportunity to review and comment.

Impact assessments

It is also constructive to set out our intentions to conduct impact assessments. We are developing a *sustainable wellbeing impact assessment* which may be applied in part/whole to both existing efficiencies (being delivered within the Efficiencies Plan 2020 – 2023) and those being developed for inclusion in the Government Plan 2021 – 2024. We will share both the development and method of application of this assessment as it develops.

In respect of the provision of information aligned with the Panel's Terms of Reference:

Terms of Reference	How we propose to provide information

1. Undertake, commission or oversee detailed 6-monthly assessments of the planned efficiency savings outlined by the Council of Ministers through the Government Plan process (as agreed through P.88/2019).	For 2020 we will publish six monthly reports, no later than 31 st August 2020 and 28 th February 2021, and thereafter in line with the timescales set out in Article 23 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019.
2. Assess the expected impact on the ongoing delivery of public services, by Minister, Department and CSP priority, accompanied by a comparable comprehensive review of the real impact of the previous 6 months' efficiencies.	We will apply the evolving <i>sustainable wellbeing impact assessment</i> to consider the impact over the previous six months, and likely impact over the next six months, of the Efficiencies Plan 2020 – 2023.
3. Consider the financial, social and administrative implications that these efficiencies may have on islanders, especially those in receipt of public services.	This will be considered through the application of the impact assessment and we will describe how the assessment reflects these elements.

We note also the publication of a series of key issues on the Panel's website as reproduced and numbered below:

Key Issues:

1. *Are efficiency savings on track?*
2. *What additional savings have been identified?*
3. *Where a saving target not be met, what alternative saving was implemented?*
4. *How have impacts been identified and measured?*
5. *Have there been any unintended consequences because of efficiency savings?*
6. *What efficiency savings are being scrutinised by other Scrutiny Panels?*

The six monthly update will consider and provide responses to issues 1 – 5. We propose that issue 6 is considered by the Panel and indeed request the Panel confirm which Scrutiny Panels will be scrutinising efficiencies including those being developed for the proposed Government Plan 2021 – 2024.

We welcome the publication of the performance and impact of the Efficiencies Plan 2020 – 2023 in the public domain and will be working through the governance structure described to determine, over and above the mandatory reports, what additional updates can be provided.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Minister

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