

Chief Minister



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Deputy Rob Ward
Chair, Safer Travel Guidelines Review Panel

BY EMAIL

2 December 2021

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter dated 29 November 2021. I am conscious that since you drafted the letter States Members have had the benefit of receiving briefings from officials including Dr Muscat on the Omicron Variant of Concern (VoC). Currently the evidence on the impact of the Omicron VoC is being gathered, and we will need to be highly watchful of analysis that provides more data on its transmissibility, health impacts and other characteristics including how well current vaccines provide protection. At the time of writing no positive cases have been identified as the Omicron VoC in Jersey, but we are now increasing the numbers of positive cases that are being sequenced. Further, should we identify cases in Jersey, we will apply stricter contact tracing parameters to decrease the risk of spread.

As our announcements yesterday made clear, we have reverted to comprehensive testing of arrivals at our ports from non-CTA countries. This measure is consistent with the UK and other Crown Dependency decisions made this week. As we understand more about how and where Omicron is spreading, we do not rule out further action to slow the spread of Omicron to Jersey.

It is likely that the policy decisions announced today will require further refinement over the coming weeks, as we learn more. As before, we are committed to informing the Panel and other States Members of actions prior to announcement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Le Fondré".

Senator John Le Fondré
Chief Minister