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Deputy Alex Curtis Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture

Cc Deputy Kirsten Morel Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture

BY EMAIL

20th June 2023

Dear Assistant Minister,

Technology Accelerator Programme (Impact Jersey)

Thank you for your briefing of 1st June 2023 regarding the Technology Accelerator Programme (Impact Jersey), I have raised a series of points with you on this topic and the Panel would further seek clarification in the following areas.

- How will performance measurement and benchmarking regarding in the increased use or manufacture of technology as a 'solution' to specific problems be undertaken? For example how will a clear 'tech acceleration' objective with respect to Tech Accelerator Fund grants be demonstrated?
 - a. How will this be encompassed in or inform the Department for the Economy's Value for Money review?
- 2. What political oversight will you be providing to ensure any performance measurement is not over-reliant upon key indicators set by Digital Jersey itself when administrating Impact Jersey or the success of any grant allocation by the Technology Accelerator Fund?
- 3. What understanding of the level of Angel, Venture Capital, etc. funding of Jersey Tech companies over the last 5 years is there, and how will Impact Jersey initiate or procure private investment in any project to be supported by Impact Jersey?
- 4. What is the generation rate of new tech companies in Jersey, do you consider this as suitable level and how will Impact Jersey influence this?
- 5. Have you assessed the averaged value in the world of technology contributions to a country's economy (both in the area of 'digitalisation and in technology production) and can you comment on where Jersey is today and where it will be in 10 years in both areas?

- 6. How can Jersey demonstrate that it has progressed in terms of overcoming the things that discourage tech companies with the potential to manufacture technology overseas from establishing their businesses here?
- 7. How will clear problem statements (using Eight Disciplines Methodology) be formed and clearly communicated and prioritised during its current programme and prior to the opening of further Impact Jersey programmes to ensure optimal application of funds?
- 8. How have the fees payable to Digital Jersey with respect to its role in administering the Impact Jersey been set and assessed?
- 9. How much work is it anticipated Digital Jersey may have to do to ensure a problem is not already solved in another jurisdiction in a more satisfactory way than contemplated by any solution proposed by an applicant?
- 10. How has the success of other funds structured in a similar way to Impact Jersey been measured and how does the scale of funding to achieve such success compare?

We would be grateful if you could respond to this no later than Tuesday 27th June 2023 in line with the 5 working days approved for responses between Scrutiny Panels and Ministers.

If you have any questions regarding this or our work in general, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please note that unless otherwise stated, all letters will be uploaded to the Scrutiny website as a matter of course.

Yours sincerely,

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Deputy Moz Scott Chair Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel