

**Chief Minister of Jersey**

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Connétable Stephen Pallett  
Chairman, Digital Skills Scrutiny Sub-Panel

Dear Connétable *Steve*

**Digital Skills Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your review of the development of digital skills. I am aware that EDD, ESC, Digital Jersey and others have provided comprehensive evidence to your Panel but, for completeness, I hope the following comments are helpful.

There is full acceptance that the development of digital skills within the island is a vital component of the future diversification and growth of our economy. In addition, the development of e-Government, will allow Jersey citizens and businesses to access government services through online and mobile platforms.

Clearly, the primary responsibility for the defining the requirement for the development of digital skills is being led by Digital Jersey working in partnership with EDD and ESC. This shared responsibility is captured in the Digital Jersey Business Plan, the recently published ESC Thinking Differently strategy and the EDD Economic Growth and Diversification Strategy.

One of Digital Jersey's three key objectives is the development of a digitally enabled society which, to be successfully delivered, will require far more than the development of our education system.

The Digital Learning Hub, which will be delivered by Digital Jersey in early 2014, is an initiative designed to assist in the development of the sustainable digital skills pipeline necessary for Jersey to flourish as a digitally enabled society.

The Digital Learning Hub will offer a plethora of digital skills development opportunities through courses led by local industry professionals, access to cutting edge technologies, introductions to like-minded peers and a range of exclusive educational content made available online. Access will be freely available initially only to those currently enrolled at a local educational facility and any school leavers yet to find full-time employment. In the near future, Digital Jersey intend to broaden the reach of the hub and offer membership to the wider population.

The demand and growth rate for digital skills is at an all-time high and shows signs of increasing in the future. The Digital Learning Hub business plan highlights areas market growth and demand for digital skills and outlines Digital Jersey's implementation plan for the Learning Hub over the next three years.

I can assure you that we are making a significant "whole of Government" investment in education and e-Government to deliver services in the most efficient way and, in parallel, equip Jersey residents with the necessary skills to benefit from the development of Jersey as a digital jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely

**Senator Ian Gorst**  
**Chief Minister of Jersey**