



## States of Jersey Police Association

11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

FAO Andy Harris & Deputy R. Ward,  
Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel,  
By email

Dear Deputy Ward,

I write this letter in response to your request for feedback on matters concerning the recently published Government Plan and in particular p.110 of R.91/2019 and p.97 of the Government Plan.

### **R.91/2019**

The 'expression of interest' details that Police Officer numbers have fallen to their lowest levels "since computerised records began". This remark illustrates the degradation of our ability to fulfil our responsibility to "keep people safe, property secure and uphold the laws of the land". In 2006 (when I joined the Force) 245 Officers were in post. Figures accurate as of today reveal that we have 188 Officers. Since 2006, the Island's Population has risen by at least 10,000. This rise has been complemented by a simultaneous rise in both the needs and expectations of the people we serve. No reasonable minded person would surely suggest that we can suffer a 25% loss in personnel and continue to provide the service expected of us.

The report eludes to the fact that Jersey has a low crime rate. This should be treated with caution. It is an ongoing misconception that our time is spent primarily dealing with crime when a significant proportion of our resources are utilised responding to reports of concerning behaviour, vulnerable adults and children and mental health incidents. Any suggestion that a low crime rate is evidence that we have sufficient resources simply misses the point entirely. Furthermore, Policing has two fundamental branches, proactive and reactive. In recent years, measures have been put in place to ensure our continued ability to respond to incidents as and when they occur. This has come at the expense of our proactive capability and is borne out in the statistics showing the numbers of stop checks, reported traffic offences and drug offences.

In summary, the Police Association welcome the request to raise our establishment figures to 215 and consider this a modest increase at a time when resources have been stretched to their limit.

### **P.97 Government Plan**

The Police Association welcome the proposals.

Sincerely

James Le Cornu  
President