

**Minister for
Treasury and Resources**



19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 4WE

Chris Bown

Chief Officer – Health and Community Services

BY EMAIL

16 June 2023

Dear Chris,

Funding for costs related to a rheumatology incident

I understand that:

- following an incident within the rheumatology service, HCS requires up to £1.3m in 2023 to conduct investigative work and address the wider implications that may arise;
- you have written to the Treasurer of the States to confirm that you are unable to meet these costs from within existing expenditure limits;
- you have provided details of the likely costs involved and a business justification case is being developed to seek funding for this work;
- there is a need to urgently progress the necessary work before the formal process to allocate funding can be completed;
- you wish to ensure that, as an Accountable Officer with legal obligations, you are not at risk of breaching the Public Finances Law or Manual.

Having reviewed the estimated costings, I consider them to be represent a worst-case scenario for likely expenditure needs in 2023. I expect that actual spending on this area should likely be lower than is project. However, to allow you to proceed without delay and in order to satisfy your legal obligations, I can confirm that you will have access to up to £1.3 million set aside in the General Reserve in 2023 for this purpose. Funding will only be provided to match actual expenditure incurred that is demonstrably linked to this initiative.

This letter will allow you to incur the necessary initial expenditure and/or make contractual commitments. In doing so, I ask that you:

- continue to do everything possible to ensure expenditure represents value for money, such that costs are minimised while all of the intended objectives are met;
- do not enter into any contractual commitments beyond the total £1.3 million assurance provided by this letter;
- finalise the business justification case for this work as soon as possible in order that we can assess the full extent of the likely financial consequences;
- ensure compliance with the Public Finance Manual, seeking exemptions as necessary.

As with all allocations from the General Reserve, funding will be made available only for this specific purpose, and the amount may be reduced should it become apparent your department is able to meet the costs from within existing approved expenditure limits.

For the avoidance of doubt, this letter does not obviate the need for a formal budget allocation. It remains necessary for an allocation to be made from the General Reserve on the basis of an approved business case to allow you to meet your legal obligation to manage within existing expenditure limits. I request that you progress the necessary steps to enable the formal allocation to take place so the process may be completed in a timely manner and no later than the end of the third quarter.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

Deputy Ian Gorst
Minister for Treasury and Resources

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