

19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 3RR

Simon Burgess
Independent Chair
Jersey Homelessness Strategic Board
BY EMAIL

6 June 2024

Dear Simon,

Proposed changes to the Jersey Homelessness Strategic Board

I am writing following the Homelessness Strategic Board meeting on 20 May, when officials representing the Government of Jersey indicated that they would step down from the board. I support this move and believe it will help to ensure that homeless accommodation providers are able to better scrutinise the work of government in delivering the Homelessness Strategy. This will also avoid the potential conflict of interest that arises from officials being involved in both homelessness policy and service provision, and in providing oversight of the strategy.

I am grateful for the work of the board in overseeing the development of the strategy. I believe that our awareness and understanding about homelessness in Jersey has been strengthened significantly because of the strategy, and that there is greater collaboration, engagement and trust between government and homeless accommodation providers. I am especially pleased with the work that has been undertaken to develop a definition of homelessness; to establish the Housing Advice Service; and the current work to increase statutory protection for tenants under the Residential Tenancy Law. I was also pleased to see the opening of the new women-only facility at Venetia House by the Shelter Trust.

I believe that it is, therefore, timely to review the structure of the board, and the ways in which government works with homeless accommodation providers. In doing so, I wish to emphasise that I am committed to delivering the strategy, and I will ensure that there are regular opportunities for engagement between myself, other ministers, government officials and representatives of providers, including attendance at Homelessness Cluster meetings.

I understand that you have recently circulated a letter to homeless accommodation providers, asking their boards to consider establishing a representative body of organisations involved in supporting people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. I wish to encourage a strong and professional network of homelessness accommodation providers in Jersey, and I will continue to support and work with these organisations individually and collectively to realise the vision of the strategy.

Finally, I would be grateful if you could ensure that the Homelessness.je website is updated to reflect the changes to the membership of the board.

I want to extend my gratitude to you personally for the significant contribution you have made to developing and implementing the strategy. You have, and continue to be, a strong champion for addressing homelessness in Jersey, and I look forward to working with you as we seek to realise the vision of the strategy to end homelessness in the Island.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Mézec', enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

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