



8 September 2025

### Request

In reference to the quarterly public hearing of the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel held on 2 July 2025. The Minister for Home Affairs refers to meeting with the Comité des Connétables (no date given) with a view to forming a working group

To consider amendments to the Firearms Jersey Law. The Minister also stated that the working group had met prior to that date on three occasions.

Q1 Can you provide the date of the Minister's meeting with the Comité along with the minutes of the meeting.

Q2 can you provide copies of the minutes of the 3 meetings of the working group and any minutes of subsequent meetings.

Q3 could you provide the terms of reference and set objectives of the working group.

Q4 please provide details of any written submissions or reports used by the working group and the details of persons or any organisations consulted by the working group.

Q5 please provide details of any reports requested or commissioned by the working group in order to reach any recommendations.

Q6 please provide a copy of any report produced by the working group.

### Response

Q1 – The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs met with the Comité des Connétables on 16 September 2024, the minutes are exempt under Article 35 of the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 (FOI) as they related to the formulation and development of policies. (*Formulation and Development of policies - FOI Article 35 applies*)

Q2 – The Minister informed the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel Quarterly Public Hearing that there had been 3 meetings; these were held on 28 March 2025, 23 May 2025 and 13 June 2025 but were informal preliminary discussions and therefore minutes were not prepared.

Q3 – No terms of reference have been prepared. As reported in the Scrutiny transcript - [Transcript-Quarterly-Hearing-Minister-for-Justice-and-Home-Affairs-2nd-July-2025.pdf](#) – the discussions are to look at any potential for amendments to the Firearms (Jersey) Law 2000 which could be implemented by way of Ministerial orders to reduce the risk in the community.

Q4 – No written submissions or reports have been used by the working group and no persons or organisations have been consulted.

Q5 – No reports have been requested or commissioned by the working group.

Q6 – A report has not been produced.

## **FOI exemptions applied:**

### **Article 35 - Formulation and development of policies**

Information is qualified exempt information if it relates to the formulation or development of any proposed policy by a public authority.

#### **Public Interest Test**

A SPA must supply qualified exempt information it has been requested to supply unless it is satisfied that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in supplying the information is outweighed by the public interest in not doing so. Article 9(2) requires the SPA to consider whether “in all the circumstances of the case”, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The options explored in early stages of development or formulation of policy may not necessarily be pursued and therefore not in the public interest for release.

Amongst other matters, it was noted that there is a need for SPAs to have transparency, accountability, financial and good decision making, in order to facilitate understanding and public debate and the Law is intended to enable the release of information unless there is good reason this should not occur. However, there is also an inherent need to avoid prejudice being caused to third parties and SPAs.

The release of certain information would be likely by undermine the extent to which current and future working groups might be willing to discuss future proposals at an early stage, allowing options to be explored which may not necessarily be pursued.

On balance, it is judged that the public interest of disclosing the information requested is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

