



PRESS RELEASE

Strictly embargoed until **06.00 on Wednesday 14 January**

The Jersey Employment Trust (JET) has today confirmed that it has begun a consultation process which places all 38 staff roles at Employ Jersey (JET) Ltd formally 'at risk' of redundancy, following a reduction in government funding.

JET has been advised that future funding will be substantially lower than required to maintain its current level of clients and services. The Trust continues to engage constructively with the Government of Jersey following funding discussions throughout 2025. However, it must now take responsible steps to realign its operations at Employ Jersey (JET) Ltd with the lower funding that is being made available.

The organisation is contracted by the Employment, Social Security and Housing Department to provide vocational training and employment support for Islanders with disabilities and long-term health conditions, with agreed funding of £1.9m. For the past four years, further essential funding – in the form of one-off grants – have been necessary to cover increases in demand and the cost of living, which last year was an additional £785,000.

During contract negotiations JET has been told that the additional top-up funding will no longer be made available and, as a result, is reviewing the scale of its services and, as a consequence, the number of clients it can support.

It is likely that the Trust will need to refer more than half of the 550 clients it supports each year to the Government to stay within the £1.9m grant. It will also now close its waiting list of more than 50 Islanders, and pause the acceptance of any new referrals, including any school leavers this summer.

No final decisions have yet been made on individual roles within the organisation, and the consultation process is intended to explore all options, including ways to minimise compulsory redundancies where possible. Staff at Acorn Enterprises, which is a separate company under the umbrella of JET, are unaffected.

JET recognises the seriousness of this situation and the concern it will cause for staff, clients and their families. Supporting those affected and communicating clearly and

compassionately remains a priority, and all clients are in the process of being contacted over the coming days.

The Trust will provide further updates as the consultation process progresses and, while that is getting underway, will not be providing further comment at this time.

– Ends –

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Jersey Employment Trust (JET) is an independent charitable trust that provides a specialist employment service for people who have a disability and/or long-term health condition.

The organisation has three main service delivery areas: the Employment Service, the Acorn Training and Development Service, and the Acorn business group known as Acorn Enterprises. Acorn Enterprises comprises Acorn Reuse, Acorn Nursery and Acorn Woodshack.

The Jersey Employment Trust was created following a Report and Proposition in 2000 that examined how people with disabilities and long-term health conditions could be better supported into employment being adopted by the States Assembly. The service was further enhanced in 2008 when a further Report and Proposition was adopted by the States which provided for greater vocational support by a dedicated, specialist organisation to help disabled Islanders prepare for, find and retain work. Approval of these propositions reflected a wider shift in Jersey's social policy towards inclusion, independence and partnership with employers.

Acorn Enterprises Ltd (comprising Acorn Reuse, plant nursery and Woodshack) is a self-funding company under JET and receives no funding from government, but relies on the social enterprise generating funds, and charitable donations and fundraising. Acorn staff, 70% of whom have a disability or long-term health condition, are unaffected by the government funding cut.

As a social enterprise, Acorn's sole purpose is to provide realistic employment and an appropriate training environment for people who may require additional support. Employ Jersey is a limited company under the auspices of JET which oversees the Employment Service, Under-25s Team and Acorn Training & Development.

The Jersey Employment Trust (JET) is registered with the Jersey Charity Commission: No 158

516 Islanders who had been referred to JET by other agencies were supported during 2025

The Jersey Employment Trust provides over **£10 million** social value benefit to the Island year on year.

JET provides Islanders who have a disability or long-term health condition with a comprehensive and bespoke employment and vocational training service.



£4,150,000

Income support benefit saving. *



£4,400,000

Benefit through increased tax and social contributions. *



£1,310,000

Individuals building their own pension funds. ^



£36,000

Additional pastoral care to support the demands placed on other services.



£182,000

Benefit from JET clients volunteering in the community.



* 2022 figures data based on government figures for a single person in a bedsit.

^ Based on government average weekly wage per industry sector.

▲ Based on 2022 annual report data of JET having supported 284 individuals.

