

ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT REILTYS ELLAN VANNIN

Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture
Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eirinys

Department Plan Update 2024
Plan y Rheynn 2024



Our Island Plan: Plan yn Ellan Ain:

Building A Secure, Vibrant And
Troggal Traa Ry-Heet Shickyr,
Sustainable Future For Our Island
Breeoil As Fondagh Son Yn Ellan Ain

Glossary

ADS	Agriculture Development Scheme
ASSI	Areas of Special Scientific Interest
BAPs	Biodiversity Action Plans
DEFA	Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture
DESC	Department of Education, Sport & Culture
DHSC	Department of Health & Social Care
DfE	Department for Enterprise
DPO	Development Procedure Order
EES	Energy Efficiency Scheme
ESG	Environmental, Sustainability and Governance
EU	European Union
EUTA	European Union and Trade Act
FALD	Forestry, Amenity & Lands Directorate
ICCAT	International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
IOM	Isle of Man
MCS	Marine Conservation Society
OFT	Office of Fair Trading
P&BC	Planning & Building Control
RTLC	Road Transport Licensing Committee
SAP	Standard Assessment Procedure
TBC	To be confirmed
UK	United Kingdom
UKHSA	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
WLP	Wildlife Park

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Minister & Members' Foreword

Goan-toshee yn Chirveishagh as Olteynyn



Hon Clare Barber MHK



Miss August-Hanson MLC



Ms Claire Christian MHK

As the Political Board for the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, we are committed to working to deliver the best outcomes for our community, our environment, and our economy; for our Biosphere. The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere status given to our Island recognises that, as an Island, we seek to balance in harmony each of these elements, and it is our role to embody, celebrate and promote this.

During the forthcoming year, a new UNESCO Biosphere Board will be tasked with enhancing our community engagement and communication, celebrating our achievements, valuing what is special about our Island as well as nurturing further development where needed.

This plan shares the achievements of the past 12 months and sets out the priorities for the forthcoming year. Over the past year the Department has continued to deliver improvements to the planning system with the Built Environment Reform Programme, and to drive change through the Climate Change Plan 2022-2027 and Energy Strategy. Each of these programmes are of a significant scale and it will be some years until big successes will be able to be demonstrated, however it is the work of today that will lead us there, and the small achievements along the way that will build the big ones.

The plans for the future of agriculture, food security and fisheries management, are to be imminently finalised, and we look forward to sharing those with you in the coming months. The plans have not been delivered in line with the target dates initially set, but we firmly believe the imperative was getting them right, with each of them setting out a path for successful and sustainable industries on our Island. They also reaffirm our commitment to the food processing sector, Laxey Glen Mills, Isle of Man Meats and Isle of Man Creamery, with the Food Security Strategy having a vision of ensuring our Nation has a strong, dependable and responsive approach to ensuring the Island population has access to nutritious food.

We would like to take this opportunity to reconfirm our commitment to our agricultural, food and fishing sectors which provide essential resources for our Island and enhance and protect our environments. They all demonstrate the core principles of our UNESCO Biosphere status and are industries we are proud to continue to assist in various ways. For example, the Department recently supported the 23rd International Pectinid Workshop in Douglas, that brought together scientists and the fishing industry to discuss the latest in scallop research and management.

We have signalled in recent months the need for us to adjust and reflect upon the Department's activities associated with food and drink events on the Island. In this regard, we look forward to working with local food and drink producers over the coming year to provide greater access to markets, and greater opportunities to grow their businesses, including by way of a year-long calendar of events.

The forthcoming year will also see priority given to the development and enhancement of our Environmental Protection policies and associated legislation, continued development of the Planning and Building Control processes and of course the implementation of the Agriculture, Food and Fisheries plans, alongside the many day to day functions for which the Department is responsible.

At a time when funding is limited and there are many competing priorities, it is important that this updated Department Plan provides clarity on the direction for delivery for our teams.

Chief Officer Introduction

Goan-foshlee yn Ard-offishear



Scott Gallacher

It is a privilege to be the Chief Officer of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), and I continue to be impressed by the incredible value of the work DEFA delivers every day, to communities the length and breadth of the Island.

DEFA's activities and work programmes span the whole chain of food production to help grow the Island's economy, improve the environment, protect the Isle of Man from harmful pests and diseases, underpin the built environment of the Island, and ensure our communities make the best choices when it comes to energy efficiency.

I am therefore incredibly proud to present DEFA's updated Department Plan for 2024, where the committed staff in DEFA, working with all of our partners and stakeholders, will continue to strive to leave our Island in a better state than we found it through:

- Protecting and supporting productive capacity on our Island, including by way of our land, marine space, species, ecosystems and the built heritage
- Managing threats and adverse impacts
- Being a voice for the environment
- Connecting people to our Island's natural environment

DEFA wants to make a positive, tangible difference for the Island and this updated Department Plan presents some of the key highlights and examples of the broad work that DEFA has undertaken this year, and is planning to achieve over the year ahead. Together with our partners, stakeholders and the various communities across the Island, I am confident we can meet the challenges we face and make a difference for Ellan Vannin.



About Us

Mychione Ain

The Department is dedicated to safeguarding and enriching the natural and built assets of our Island, guided by the core principles of environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Our aim is to enhance the quality of life for our community while ensuring the Island's international reputation, food production and food security, energy security, nature-based carbon sequestration, biodiversity, biosecurity and outdoor amenity are optimised.

DEFA actively collaborates with all sectors of the Manx community to preserve and improve the fundamental elements of life - food, air, health and well-being, land and water - while minimising the impact of work activities, food-borne and infectious diseases on the people who live, work, and visit our Island.

As the responsible policy-making body, DEFA covers a diverse range of areas, including animal health and welfare, biodiversity, ecosystems, energy, environmental protection, farming, fisheries, food, forestry, and planning & building control. We recognise the interconnectedness of these areas and strive to ensure a holistic and integrated approach.

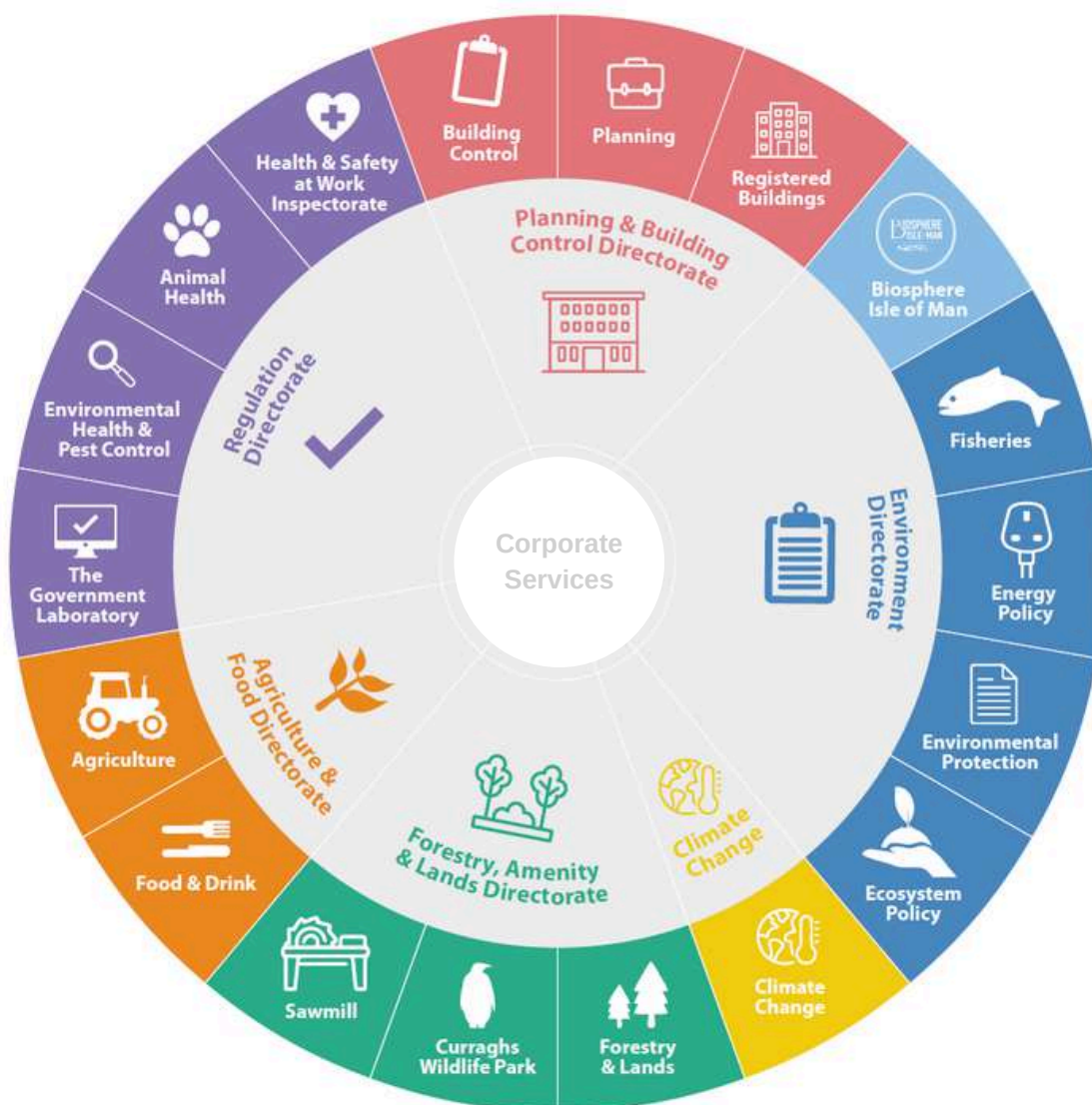
Furthermore, the Department takes the lead in the UNESCO Biosphere, actively promoting the vision of “an Island where people and the rest of the nature have a sustainable future.” The ambitions associated with this vision ultimately aim to benefit the Isle of Man's economy, environment, and community.

We are committed to serving the needs of our community, and fostering a friendly and professional environment in all our interactions.



Our Areas of Responsibility

Ny Curmyn as Obbyr Ain



Regulatory Services Sponsored by the Department

DEFA supplies staff and resources through service level agreements to operate the legally separate bodies of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Road Transport Licensing Committee (RTLC) which also operate from the Thie Slieau Whallian site in St Johns. DEFA is the political sponsor for the OFT and RTLC. This plan does not include objectives or actions for OFT or RTLC.

Office of Fair Trading

The OFT is an independent Statutory Board which works to provide the appropriate legislation, advice, and compliance services to benefit and protect our Island's consumers and businesses from unfair trading practices.

Road Transport Licensing Committee

The RTLC is an independent body of government with responsibility for regulating the operators, vehicles and drivers who transport passengers on public roads as well as regulating goods vehicles over 3,500kg and the people who operate them.

Our People - 215

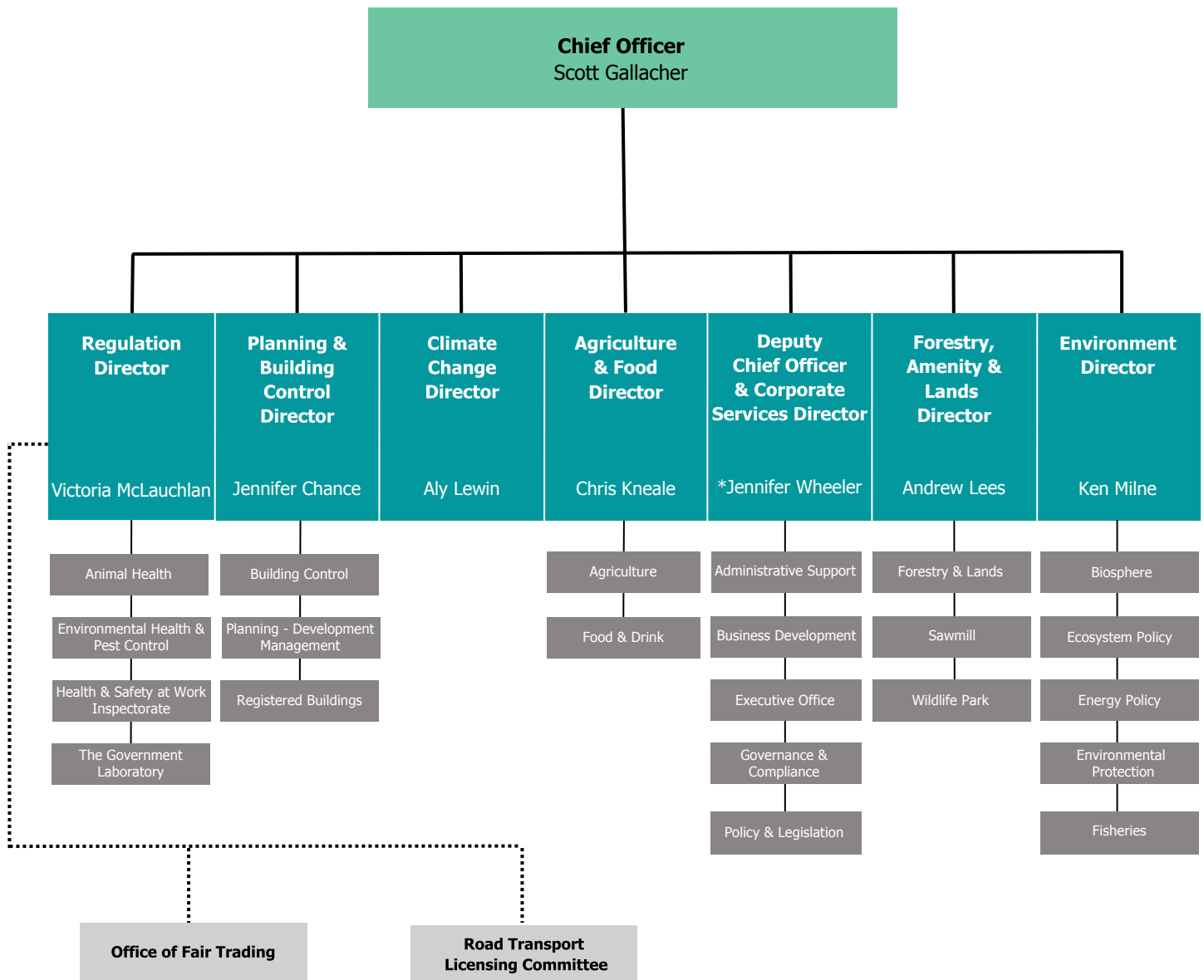
Yn Pobble Ain - 215

Figures reflect the number of people employed across the Department, accurate as of 26 July 2024:



Our Structure

Yn Strughtoor Ain



*The Deputy Chief Officer is currently on secondment.

DEFA FACT SHEET FOR 2023

All statistics in this factsheet are true as of Dec 2023

11,098
Hens

5,302
Beef Cows

136
Beef
farmers

54
Goats

343
Active farmers*

163
Sows

192
Registered
Bee Holdings

8
Quarries

Air quality monitored at
63 sites

Sulphur dioxide and
nitrogen dioxide
levels significantly
below the UK/EU
target

Wetland
186.2 km²

56
Manx Registered Fishing
Vessels

46,679
Ewes

204
Sheep farmers

Loaghtan Ewes
1,501

28
Dairy farmers

4,292
Dairy Cows

1800
Registered
Food
Businesses

50+ Species in the
Wildlife Park

49,000
Visitors to the Wildlife park

38 HA
Peatland
restoration work undertaken

18
Glens

20k
Trout reared at
the fish farm

Intertidal
16.54 km²

Upland
74.87 km²

Plantations
27.92 km²

Scallops
1455.1

Crab
535.6

Nephrops
0.3

White fish
5.2

Catch landed to Manx ports (tonnes)

Queenies
672.7

Lobster
29.7

Whelk
321.2

Herring
100

11.23 HA
Trees planted

1242
Planning applications
approved

860
Building Control
applications approved

98%

Good chemical classification
(of monitored watercourse sites)

8
Designated bathing
waters

£9.4m
provided in
financial support to
farmers and food
businesses

25
ASSI
24.94 km²

Reached by EES:
3224 9%
Households Island

19%

of monitored watercourse
sites had Atlantic salmon
juvenile fish populations

62%

of monitored watercourse
sites had brown trout

10
Marine Nature
Reserves
431 km²

Total Territorial Sea:
3970 km²

BIOSPHERE
ISLE OF MAN

KEY:

EES - Energy Efficiency Scheme
ADS - Agricultural Development Scheme
ASSI - Areas of Special Scientific Interest

*Farms in receipt of ADS support

Intertidal - area above water level at low tide & underwater at high tide

Achievements Reddyn Coilleenit



Climate Change

Caghlaa Emshyraght

- Commenced a new partnership agreement to develop a bespoke Farm Carbon calculator to assist the farming community in better understanding the emissions and sequestration potential of their land.
- Introduced Carbon Literacy training to integrate climate action across Government.
- Facilitated the Gaia exhibition, a unique art installation in Douglas to inspire climate and nature action, with 13,000 visitors.
- Delivered reports and updates for the Isle of Man and strong programme of delivery.



Agriculture & Food

Eiryns as Bee

- Undertook a rapid response to the Tesco/Shoprite announcement, supporting local businesses through a strengthened funding and grants scheme, focused on local producers being able to access markets.
- Delivered approximately £7m of financial support to the farming and food industry.
- Continued to deliver positive Environmental and Climate Change mitigation actions via the Agri-Environment Scheme.
- Supported the Food and Drink Sector with strategic investments encouraging and supporting entrepreneurial behaviour.



Regulation Directorate

Boayrd-stiuree Gurneil

- Carried out a rapid response to a biosecurity threat which saw us placing a ban on live imports to combat the spread of Blue Tongue in the UK.
- Made The Animal Welfare Act 2023, under which we developed and introduced Codes of Practice for kept animals.
- Recognition by Chief Constable in his annual awards ceremony, for the efforts of two of our staff in responding to an emergency.
- Strengthened the Island's status of its varroa disease-free status and strengthened the preparedness for non native species such as Asian Hornets.
- Updated health and safety legislation to align with best practice elsewhere, namely the Health and Safety at Work Order 2024.
- Developed and published the Isle of Man's first Radon Action Plan, outlining our commitment to meeting the requirements of the Ionising Radiation Regulations 2019.
- Undertook a Radon survey on all state schools, and co-ordinated the provision of mitigation advice to DHSC in respect of any results above the action level.
- Agreed the terms for the undertaking of a Radon Homes Survey by UK Health Security Agency, the results of which will be used to develop a Radon map for the Isle of Man.
- Our private drinking water testing initiative has received positive feedback, empowering homeowners by raising awareness on the purity and quality of their supply and whether it is fit for domestic purposes, which benefits health protection through early identification of issues.



Forestry, Amenity & Lands

Keylljyn, Buill-hoccar as Thallooyn

- Commenced the Peatland restoration programme with works carried out within the upper Laxey and Sulby river catchments.
- Established the Manx Peat Partnership which has encouraged extensive engagement with stakeholders.
- Commenced the Forest to Bog Restoration project at Slieau Mooar Plantation.
- Installed technology to collect site visitor numbers from key natural amenity sites.
- Modernised the Department's timber harvesting contract, encompassing greater environmental awareness, wildlife protection and health and safety elements.
- Successful breeding season at the Wildlife Park, which included the birth of a baby Gibbon and 9 penguin chicks.
- New mill equipment investment with a multi rip saw, to improve productivity, cost efficiency and effectiveness.
- Achieved (retained) Woodsure accreditation for woodchip heating fuelwood.
- Three volunteer work parties – heather brash spreading and placing coir netting and logs.
- Undertaken a project to restore and renew fencing, pathways, benches and buildings, to enhance the appearance of the Wildlife Park from a visitor perspective.
- The Uplands Team hosted two separate, and oversubscribed, events as part of Manx Wildlife Week. Several attendees of the events have since attended volunteer work parties.
- More than 50 timber leaky dams installed within the River Neb catchment to help reduce downstream flooding, re-wet habitats and trap contaminated silt high up in the catchment.
- Greatly increased the number of peat depth and extent survey points within the uplands. There are now over 4,000 individual peat depth records embedded within our online mapping project.
- Installed a boardwalk at Black Hut built to protect the bog from recreational use.
- Renovated the disused classroom at the Wildlife Park to a standard which will allow it to be used again for school workshops.



Island Plan Completed Actions

Obbyr Jeant er Plan yn Ellan

- Developed a plan for Energy Security for our Island, and published it in July 2023.
- Delivered the Climate Change Annual Report to July Tynwald.
- For a full list of legislation delivered please see page 15-16.



Environment

Chymmyltaght

- Signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the UK and other jurisdictions on the management of respective territorial waters, with a very strong recognition of the Isle of Man's rights.
- Established a recreational fisheries management board to promote the protection and management of the Isle of Man recreational marine and freshwater fisheries.
- Continued strong delivery of the Energy efficiency scheme, reaching a further 1235 homes and receiving positive customer service feedback.
- Continued recognition from agencies and conservation groups around the strength of our fisheries management regime.
- Closed areas for a 2 year trial within the Western Irish Sea Mud-belt to bottom trawling fishing which will protect species, habitats and rich carbon deposits and also allow the development of a new sustainable langoustine market.
- Implemented the ban on some of the most commonly used single-use plastic items, including cutlery, plates and straws.
- Shipped 30,000 trout eggs to Jersey to assist with recreational fishing.
- Carried out a rapid response to a biosecurity threat in the marine environment with the discovery of tubeworms in Peel Harbour.



Planning & Building Control

Plannal as Gurneil Troggal

- over 1200 planning applications determined (approx. 90% by officer and 10% by Planning Committee).
- Average about 90% approval rate.
- 25 Registered Building applications determined (100% approved).
- Over 100 applications to discharge conditions approved.
- Over 800 Building Control applications received.
- Approx 4000 building control site inspections carried out.
- Over 600 completion certificates issued.
- Town and Country Planning Act amendment now in branches.
- Development Procedure Order and Fees Order adopted.
- Permitted Development Order, Definition of Development Order, and Registered Building Regulations consultation.
- Customer service improvements – updated website and guidance documents.

Island Plan Delivery

Cur ayns Bree Plan yn Ellan Ain

An updated version of Our Island Plan for 2024-25 sets out six clear redefined strategic priorities for the year:



Energy security: including progress on offshore and onshore wind power generation



Financial Discipline



More homes occupied



Residency, migration and security



Economic Development



Travel connectivity: air and sea

The following actions are assigned to the Department through the Island Plan:

Strategic Programme	Milestones	Target Completion Date
Building Great Communities		
Built Environment Reform Programme	Improve the planning process: Develop faster and more proportionate planning processes.	Mar-25
	Improve the planning process: Provide a modern and responsive service.	Nov-24
	Improve the planning process: Proactively respond to Climate Change.	Jun-24
An environment we can be proud of		
Climate Change Action Plan	Climate Change - Annual Report to Tynwald (then each July from 2024).	Jul-24
Implement Waste Strategy	Report on International Environmental Waste Standards.	Dec-25
Energy Strategy	Annual Energy Strategy Update.	Nov-24
Environment Strategy	Updated environmental policies and legislation drafted for debate.	Apr-26
	Undertake and complete a trial for year round air quality monitoring (2 year trial).	Oct-25
UNESCO Biosphere Periodic Review	Prepare for UNESCO Biosphere Periodic Review.	Sep-25
	Submission for UNESCO Biosphere Periodic Review.	Sep-26
Agricultural Strategy	Publish a Plan for the Future of Agriculture.	Mar-24
Food Security Strategy	Develop and publish a Plan for Food Security.	Mar-24

The timescale for delivery and progress against delivery of these actions is reported quarterly, and any changes to milestones or target completion dates are included in the update. For further information visit: [Islandplan.im](https://islandplan.im)

2024 Department Objectives

2024 Deany'n y Rheynn

The 2024 Department objectives are included below. Amendments to the 2023 objectives are noted on pages 20-22.

Department Objective	Target Completion Date
Forestry, Amenity & Lands	
Develop a master plan for the wildlife park to ensure its long term sustainable future.	Mar-25
Working with DfE, in particular Visit Isle of Man, support and enable our community and visitors to access, and maximise the benefits from the use of our lands and natural amenities to support leisure, health and wellbeing and increase the visitor economy whilst preserving or enhancing biodiversity.	Mar-25
Agree a sustainable future model for Sulby Claddagh.	Dec-24
Corporate Services	
Develop and enhance the Department's Enforcement Policy.	Nov-24
Identify the specialist roles and skills shortage within the Department and consider succession management within the Department. Connect with DfE and DESC on an ongoing basis.	Oct-24
Working with the Cabinet Office in the development of the strategic plan, to consider ways in which the plan can consider sustainable living.	Mar-25
Review and report to Tynwald on all DEFA and OFT retained EU legislation as required by Section 11 of the EUTA 2019.	Dec-25
Regulation	
Update the Bovine Identification and Traceability System to provide a reliable and functional system that will fulfil our legal obligations, ensure food safety and enable trade to continue.	Jul-25
Work with local businesses to ensure they comply with new Veterinary Medicine Regulations to enable them to continue to trade in Veterinary medicines.	Dec-24
Undertake risk assessments and water testing on private supplies in commercial premises and produce a private drinking water report.	Dec-24
Review the need for Manx legislation on composting materials.	Jul-25
Bring forward Health & Safety regulations to regulate offshore energy projects and ensure a suitable competent authority is established to oversee the regulation.	Mar-25
Work with UKHSA to complete the Radon survey of IOM homes and DEFA workplaces and develop a Radon Map of the Isle of Man. Provide construction industry with upskilling opportunities to prepare for potential demand for Radon mitigation works. Start to co-ordinate support and advice for home owners on mitigation activities that can be undertaken to reduce exposure to Radon for Island residents.	Jun-25
Agriculture & Food	
Continue to deliver the Food Matters Strategy to support the local Food and Drink industry with promotion and support, whilst developing the next strategy.	Jun-25
Environment	
Develop a long-term management plan for the queen scallop fishery in collaboration with the IOM Scallop Management Board.	Dec-25
Review the species listed in the non-native legislation.	Mar-25
Develop and deliver a new scheme to provide the benefits of the net zero transition into Island homes, replacing existing energy efficiency support schemes and launching in Q1 2025.	Apr-25
Review the Biodiversity Strategy Actions with regard to the Global Biodiversity Framework.	Jun-25
Continue to deliver the single use plastic reduction plans.	Dec-25
Bring forward Environmental Protection regulations to regulate offshore energy projects and ensure a suitable competent authority is established to oversee the regulation.	Mar-25
Planning & Building Control	
Review and develop our policy and secondary legislation on registered buildings, ensuring the right balance between protecting heritage and enabling economic progress.	Mar-25
Bring forward proposals to further improve Building Regulations (such as standards for new builds) by setting the standards to match the new Future Homes Standard being implemented in the UK.	Apr-25
Climate Change	
Facilitate the delivery of the Climate Change Plan 2022 – 2027, reporting on progress, risks and barriers.	Dec-27
Produce an annual Progress Report which outlines progress made on emissions reductions, deliverables and targets.	Jul-24
Implement the Climate Change Act, 2021 to ensure we deliver our statutory targets.	Ongoing

Climate Change Commitments

Gialdynnyssyn Caghlao Emshiraght

The Department delivers on three different levels towards the delivery of the Climate Change Plan 2022-2027:

1

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture significantly supports, leads and enables change across our Island to deliver the Climate Change Plan 2022-2027, through the climate change transformation team who are stationed within the department. The actions for this team are set out at a high level in the Department Objectives, page 13, and in detail on page 21. For further information - Climate Change Plan 2022-2027.

2

As a Government Department, DEFA is obliged to report on its own carbon emissions, through the public body reporting framework. Following our first report, published earlier this year, we have established a working group to develop the Department's Carbon Emissions Action Plan which will deliver emissions reductions, align decision making to the duties and increase sequestration. Whilst this plan has yet to be finalised, as a Department we are already committed and taking action to:

- Implement the Climate Impact Assessment tool and integrate into our policy development processes; and
- Take all our teams through the Carbon Literacy training.

3

Our teams across the Department are also playing a role in delivering the Climate Change Plan through our own policies, and direct implementation of the actions in the plan itself. The actions that our teams are responsible for contributing to the delivery of, are listed in the table in Appendix 2.

Legislative Five Year Programme

Claare-obbyr Slattyssagh son

Queig Bleeaney

Legislation Title	Purpose	Directorate	Introduction Target Date	Status
Energy Act 2023	To provide measures that will provide additional guarantees of security of gas supply to Island consumers, in light of the ongoing volatility in global energy markets.	Environment	Introduced	Complete
Animal Welfare Act 2023	To overhaul our principal law relating to animal welfare. It will ensure owners and keepers have a duty of care to their companion and kept animals, and animal needs are met. This enabling legislation is aimed at keeping pace with a fast-evolving landscape on animal welfare law in the UK.	Regulation	Introduced	Complete
Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill	To clarify what constitutes development, simplify Conservation Area approvals and improve provision for Registered Buildings.	Planning & Building Control	Jun-24	In Branches
Agricultural Marketing Bill	To review and update the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act 1934.	Agriculture & Food	Oct-25	Policy Development
Environmental Protection Bill	To safeguard the Islands natural heritage. It will reflect the Departments commitment to sustainable practices, ensuring that our community remains resilient in the face of environmental challenges.	Environment	Jan-26	Policy Development

Legislation delivered in 2023/24

Included in the 2023 Department Plan:

- Building Control (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Endangered Species Order 2023
- **Energy Act 2023**
- Pig Premium (Amendment) Scheme 2023
- Sea Fisheries (Licensing) (Fees) Regulations
- Sea Fisheries (Requirements) (Inland Vessel Monitoring System) Regulations 2023
- Town and Country Planning (Application and Appeal Fees) Order 2023

Legislation delivered in 2023/24

Included in the Aug - Oct 2023 Quarterly Update:

- Animal Health (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2023
- Architects (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Ayres National Nature Reserve (Departmental Land) (Amendment) Byelaws 2023
- Energy Act (Appointed Day) Order 2023
- European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Amendments) (DEFA) (Animal Health) Regulations 2023
- European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Amendments) (DEFA) (Plant Health) Regulations 2023
- Official Controls (Plant Health) (Frequency of Checks) Regulations 2023

Included in the Nov 2023 - Jan 2024 Quarterly Update:

- African Swine Fever (Importation Controls) Order 2023
- **Animal Welfare Act 2023**
- Artificial Insemination (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Building (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Energy Efficiency (Amendment) Scheme 2023
- European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Amendments) (DEFA) (Food & Feed) Regulations 2023
- European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Amendments) (DEFA) (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2023
- Gas Safety (Installation, Use and Management) (Application) Order 2023
- Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Sea Fisheries (Requirements) (Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers) Regulations 2023
- Sea Fisheries (Restrictions) (ICCAT) Regulations 2023
- Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) Order 2023
- Wild Animals (Restriction on Importation Etc) Act 1980 (A) Order 2023

Included in the Feb - Apr 2024 Quarterly Update:

- Trade in Animals and Related Products Declaration of Special Measures (Chronic Wasting Disease)
- Trade in Animals and Related Products Declaration of Special Measures (Bulgaria and Spain)
- Trade in Animals and Related Products Declaration of Special Measures (Greece)
- Climate Change Act 2021 (Appointed Day) (No.2) Order 2023
- Fossil Fuel Heating System Regulations 2023
- Energy Efficiency (Amendment) (No.2) Scheme 2023
- Climate Impact Assessment Regulations 2023
- Health and Safety at Work Order 2024

Further legislation delivered:

- Animal Welfare (Appointed Day) Order 2024
- Animal Welfare (Codes of Practice) Order 2024
- Animal Welfare (Complaints Retention) Regulations 2024
- Town & Country Planning (Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order 2024
- Town and Country Planning (Application and Appeals Fees) (Amendment) Order 2024

Key Performance Indicators

Cowraghyn Cooilleenee Smoo Scanshoil

Key Performance Indicator	Measure
Proactively engaging, informing, upskilling and assisting the Food and Farming industry	Hosting at least 6 events for the sector to either engage, up skill, inform, or provide assistance
Encourage innovation and entrepreneurial behaviour in the agriculture sector	Support/host at least 4 events/activities in the next 12 months
Ensure that commercial harvests of king scallops are effectively regulated through a comprehensive management plan, taking account of the advice provided by the Department's independent scientific advisor and the Isle of Man Scallop Management Board	Publish an end of season report on the king scallop fishery including monitoring of uptake and landings per unit effort
Publish biodiversity action plans (BAPs) which form an agreed list of priorities that aim to help protect and preserve key habitats and species	Total of 25 BAPs published by July 2025 (currently 19)
Increase the number of households benefitting from Energy Efficiency support	Reach a further 1,000 homes by July 2025 (currently 3,477 homes)
Increase the number of visitor counters at key locations to understand recreation usage to evaluate further investment opportunities	Install a further 10 counters across 3 sites before January 2025 (currently 4)
Wildlife Park visitor numbers	Increase by at least 5% on year (currently 48,825)
Demonstrate technical competence in the Government Laboratory by maintaining the annual proficiency testing rate	Achieve annual proficiency testing failure rate of less than 5%
Improve efficiency of determination of simple (Type 1 and 2) planning applications	Increase speed of determination of simple applications (currently 65% determined within 8 weeks)
Demonstrate efficiency in Building Control site inspections	Time taken to undertake site inspections – within 2 days of request, except drainage and completions – within 5 days
Increase the number of public service officers trained in Carbon Literacy	Increase the number of staff who are Carbon Literate to 5% (currently 4%)

These key performance indicators will be reported against from July 2024 to July 2025, and have been updated since our most recent 2023 Department Plan. Key performance indicator and Department objective updates will be available quarterly and progress on strategies annually.

For further information visit: www.gov.im/DEFA

Department Financial Position

Stayd Argidoil y Rheynn

Looking ahead to 2024/25 and the forthcoming financial, and performance year the budget provided to the Department, by division, is set out below;

£22,728,000

Gross Expenditure



£4,493,000








Gross Income (variable as demand led)



£18,234,000

Net Expenditure

DEFA GROSS EXPENDITURE 2024/25 (£'000)

 Agriculture & Food	£7,647	 Regulation	 Environment	 Planning & Building Control	£1,951
 Forestry, Amenity & Lands	£4,644			 Climate Change	£913
				 Corporate Services	£880

APPENDIX 1. 2024 Climate Change Plan Actions

Objective
Electricity
Policy and legislation reviewed and updated to support delivery of carbon neutral and renewable energy while protecting the natural environment.
Buildings
Develop and implement a Low Carbon Heating Strategy, which will deliver a 15% sector reduction by 2027, to be underway by the end of 2023.
Incentivise efficiency measures via grants and schemes, prioritising a fabric-first approach and supporting the transition to low-carbon heating.
Policy and legislation (eg. planning & building control) reviewed and updated to support the delivery of the Low Carbon Heating Strategy, as set out in the Climate Change Act 2021, to ensure that future development supports biodiversity net-gain and delivery of our climate goals.
Introduce Energy Performance Certificates to drive improvements to the efficiency of the Island's housing.
Amend Building Regulations to ensure new build properties are 97% energy efficient.
Agriculture, Land & Sea
Agricultural Strategy to deliver a 15% reduction in sector emissions by 2027, to be underway by 2023.
Commission and implement a Land Management Framework and Carbon Sequestration Plan to increase carbon sequestration by 10% by 2027, linking in with the Agricultural Strategy.
Undertake and facilitate tree planting, peatland restoration and other nature-based solutions, where possible leveraging private sector investment.
Complete Phases 1a and 1b of the Blue Carbon Project and develop a Blue Carbon Strategy based on the results.
Establish improved baseline agricultural emissions to ensure the impacts of strategies, actions and policies can be accurately monitored.
Waste
Support the reduction of single-use plastics.
Adaptation & Resilience
Deliver an Adaptation Strategy, taking account of climate impacts across all areas of society, the economy and natural environment.
Add appropriate reporting requirements, for public bodies, in relation to adaptation to existing climate change reporting timetables.
Establish an adaptation working group to ensure interdependencies are recognised and opportunities for collaboration maximised.
Obtain an independent assessment to characterise each climate change-related risk or opportunity and score the degree of urgency it poses to the Island in the next five years.
Fair Change
Ensure that public bodies (e.g. Government departments and local authorities) are supported in implementing the Fair Change Framework. This action runs for the duration of the Plan period.
Maximise social inclusion in policy development, ensuring meaningful engagement with people and businesses affected by the change.
Leading by Example
Develop training to support and enable relevant officers across government and public bodies to develop the knowledge they need to deliver effective climate action.
Support public bodies in achieving compliance with their legal climate change duties by providing guidance, information and coordinating collaboration.
Government-wide policy review to ensure that existing practices do not restrict our ability to meet our climate goals.
Explore legislative options to support long-term sustainable development, eg. the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
Investing in our Future
Invest in the right forms of public support (e.g. schemes, grants, information, training etc.) at the right times to best support the most vulnerable and achievement of our climate goals.
Maximise private sector contribution by providing opportunities which align with Environmental, Sustainability and Governance criteria.
Engagement & Awareness
Continue to raise awareness and understanding of climate change and sustainability at all stages of education.
Explore whether climate change and sustainability should be included as required content in the curriculum, ensuring all Island children learn about the causes and effects of climate change and the roles they can play in the Island's transition to a net zero society.
Ensure learning and training is available that prepares students for employment in the low carbon economy of the future.
Net Zero Engagement Strategy to provide a framework for engaging the Island's citizens in the transition to net zero.
Develop awareness and educational campaigns to help ensure people understand the climate emergency, reduce climate anxiety, empower positive action and increase awareness of the Isle of Man Government's actions in addressing climate change.
Work closely with a wide range of respected and responsible partners to ensure we raise awareness of climate change in all parts of our community.

APPENDIX 2. 2023 Department Objective Amendments

Department Objective	Target Completion Date	RAG Status *see over	Explanation for requested changes
Forestry, Amenity & Lands			
Agree a sustainable future model for Sulby Claddagh.	WAS Apr-24 NOW Dec-24	Red	Awaiting final development costs and Departmental sign off. Target completion date has been updated to Dec-24.
Review the benefits and costs associated with the Curragh's Wildlife Park, developing a long term strategy. Develop a master plan for the wildlife park to ensure its long term sustainable future.	WAS Dec-23 THEN Sep-24 NOW Mar-25	Green	Objective updated as the master plan for procurement has been updated to include a two-year financial plan to minimise costs, as well as the requirements for EAZA/BIAZA re-accreditation.
Support and enable our community and visitors to access, and maximise the benefits from the use of our lands and natural amenities to support leisure, health and wellbeing and increase the visitor economy whilst preserve or enhance bio-diversity.	Jan-24	Green	There is a crossover between these objectives so they have been combined to the following objective: 'Working with DfE, in particular Visit Isle of Man, to support and enable our community and visitors to access, and maximise the benefits from the use of our lands and natural amenities to support leisure, health and wellbeing and increase the visitor economy.' Target completion date of Mar-25.
Develop a long term strategy for the Island's glens and plantations that supports the current visitor strategy.	Jul-25	Green	
Work with visit Isle of Man to enable the growth of the visitor proposition; maximising the use of our community spaces and increasing the available visitor accommodation.	Jan-26	Green	
Work with the Department for Enterprise to explore the opportunities to support the development of a motorhome network.	TBC	Green	
Develop Forest Management Plans.	Jul-26	Green	Removing this objective as it is now considered business as usual.
Corporate Services			
Contribute to the development of a Regulatory Authority on the Isle of Man.	Dec-22	Blue	Removing this objective as the Department collaborated with the Cabinet Office and provided a scoping paper to be considered. The Department is no longer being asked to contribute to this outcome but stands ready to support with any future work as required.
Work with the Cabinet Office to understand the opportunities available to develop a sustainable living policy.	Oct-23	Blue	Removing this objective as the Department collaborated with the Cabinet Office to explore opportunities for a sustainable living policy. This objective was complete however further collaboration between the Department's was agreed and a further objective was included in the 2023 Department Plan to support the development of the policy which Cabinet Office would be leading on.
Identify the specialist roles and skills shortage within the Department and consider succession management. Connect work with DfE and DESC on an ongoing basis to consider how these skills are developed on-island.	WAS Jul-24 NOW Oct-24	Amber	This objective has been amended as the focus in the Department includes succession planning and there has been the development of the Skills Board who have a new strategy looking at how skills are developed on-island so the Department's role is more liaising with DfE and DESC. Target completion date has been updated to Oct-24.
Work to understand the implications of the UK's new Border Target Operating Model and Single Trade Window on Manx businesses and DEFA as Competent Authority for Sanitary and Phytosanitary matters.	Oct-24	Green	Removing this objective as the majority of changes have been implemented, only Single Trade Window outstanding which can be considered business as usual.

Department Objective	Target Completion Date	RAG Status *see over	Explanation for requested changes
Corporate Services (continued)			
Develop and enhance the Department's Enforcement Policy.	WAS Dec-23 THEN Jun-24 NOW Nov-24	Red	This objective is delayed as other projects have been prioritised. Target completion date has been updated to Nov-24.
Review and report to Tynwald on all DEFA and OFT retained EU legislation as required by Section 11 of the EUTA 2019.	Dec-25	Green	
Support the development of a Sustainable Living Policy. Working with the Cabinet Office in the development of the strategic plan, to consider ways in which the plan can consider sustainable living.	WAS Jul-24 NOW Mar-25	Amber	This objective has been amended due to awareness of the strategic plan where sustainable living can be considered rather than a stand alone objective. Target completion date has been updated to Mar-25.
Work with the Cabinet Office to understand the IOM's commitments to trade partners required by new UK Free Trade Agreements.	Ongoing	Green	Removing this objective as it is now considered business as usual.
Regulation			
Provide guidance on conforming to current Manx regulations and EU standards, through the Government Analyst Laboratory.	Apr-23	Blue	Removing this objective as it is now considered business as usual.
Update health and safety legislation to align with best practice elsewhere namely the Health and Safety at Work Order 2023 and Management regulations.	WAS Mar-24 NOW Dec-24	Green	Some delay to the drafting of the Management Regulations but now in progress. Objective part completed (Health and Safety and Work Order 2023 was completed within the period).
Work with local businesses to ensure they comply with new Veterinary Medicine Regulations to enable them to continue to trade in Veterinary medicines.	Dec-24	Green	
To introduce a food hygiene ratings scheme for food premises on the Island	Dec-24	Red	Removing this objective as we do not have the resource. Minister has committed to return to Tynwald in October 24 with an update for the regulation of food businesses on Island.
Undertake risk assessments and water testing on private supplies in commercial premises and produce a private drinking water report.	Dec-24	Green	
Update the Bovine Identification and Traceability System to provide a reliable and functional system that will fulfil our legal obligations, ensure food safety and enable trade to continue.	WAS Mar-24 NOW Jul-25	Green	There have been significant delays in getting the contract with ScottEID finalised and approved by all parties. The time required for system development was also under-estimated. It is expected that once approved this will take at least 9 months to develop.
Review the need for Manx Legislation on composting materials.	Jul-25	Green	
Agriculture & Food			
Continue to deliver the Food Matters Strategy to support the local Food and Drink industry with promotion and support, whilst developing the next strategy.	Jun-25	Green	
Work with Isle of Man Meat Company Board of Directors, as shareholders, to secure a financially sustainable and well governed Meat Plant.	Jul-25	Amber	This objective was previously categorised under Corporate Services.
Environment			
Develop a sea fisheries strategy providing a long-term fisheries management framework to ensure sustainable fisheries and diversification for the sector.	WAS Dec-23 NOW Apr-24	Blue	Removing this objective as it is complete.

Department Objective	Target Completion Date	RAG Status *see over	Explanation for requested changes
Environment (continued)			
Take forwards actions within the 2023 energy strategy and prepare for the next iteration of the annual strategy in summer 2024.	WAS Aug-24 NOW Nov-24	Green	Removing this objective as it is also included in the Island Plan.
Explore options for supporting the industry to diversify into “quota fisheries” following UK Government decision to allocate additional quota to the Isle of Man, and ensure that activity is sustainably managed and compliant.	Dec-24	Blue	Removing this objective as it is complete. Obtained herring and nephrop quota and provided diversification grants. Further work is business as usual.
Review the species listed in the non-native legislation.	WAS Dec-23 NOW Mar-25	Green	
Develop and deliver a new scheme to provide the benefits of the net zero transition into Island homes, replacing existing energy efficiency support schemes and launching in 2024 Q1 2025.	WAS Dec-24 NOW Apr-25	Green	
Deliver the biodiversity strategy and when appropriate use Area of Specific Scientific Interest to protect sensitive areas. Review the Biodiversity Strategy Actions with regard to the Global Biodiversity Framework	WAS Dec-25 NOW Jun-25	Green	The target completion date has been brought forward to align with the requirement to report our commitments to the UK.
Develop a long-term management plan for the queen scallop fishery in collaboration with the Isle of Man Scallop Management Board.	WAS Dec-23 NOW Dec-25	Green	Target completion date amended as this objective is far more complex than initially anticipated.
Continue to deliver the single use plastic reduction plans.	Dec-25	Amber	This objective is reported as amber due to resourced tasks being restricted to Regulations and occasional meetings.
Establish recreational fisheries management boards.	TBC	Blue	Removing this objective as it is complete.
Planning & Building Control			
Develop a plan for implementing the planning obligations within the Climate Change Act.	WAS Mar-24 NOW Jun-24	Blue	Removing this objective and marking as complete as the the newly updated Development Procedure Order will come into effect as soon as an updated Strategic Plan or National Policy Directive is introduced.
Provide a modern and responsive planning and building control service.	WAS Mar-24 NOW Nov-24	Green	Removing this objective as it is also included in the Island Plan.
Develop faster and more proportionate planning processes.	WAS Sep-24 NOW Mar-25	Green	Removing this objective as it is also included in the Island Plan.
Review and develop our policy and secondary legislation on registered buildings, ensuring the right balance between protecting heritage and enabling economic progress.	WAS Jan-24 NOW Mar-25	Red	This objective was incorporated into the wider legislative changes that have been and are being brought forward to meet the Built Environment Reform Programme objectives. Those have included proposals to amend the primary act which is now going through the branches; an amended DPO has been completed; an updated Permitted Development Order is currently being consulted upon; and a draft Definitions of Development Order and draft Registered Building Regulations are with the Attorney General Chambers prior to consultation in the Autumn. Target completion date has been updated to Mar-25.
Bring forward proposals to further improve Building Regulations (such as standards for new builds) by setting the standards to match the new Future Homes Standard being implemented in the UK.	WAS Apr-24 NOW Apr-25	Red	Further work needs to be undertaken with regard to the future of Manx SAP v incorporation into England's Standard Assessment. Target completion date has been updated to Apr-25.

*RAG Status Definitions

Colour	RAG Definitions (one or more statement for each criteria determines RAG)
Blue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete• Transferred
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On budget• On time• Expertise and resources available• No bottlenecks or handover delays• No political exposure• No international exposure• Happy stakeholders
Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant over budgeting• Significant delays against critical milestones• Lack of expertise or resources• Noticeable bottlenecks• Some political exposure• Some international exposure• Unsatisfied stakeholders
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serious over budgeting• Serious delays against critical dates• Unacceptable lack of expertise or shortage of resources• Very long delays, unresolvable dependencies and bottlenecks• Serious political exposure• Serious international exposure• Very unhappy stakeholders



Isle of Man

Government

Ryffys Ellan Vannin