



**Response to Questions Pursuant to Rule 14
of the Rules of Procedures of the States of Deliberation and their Committees**

Subject: Commercial workspaces

States Member: Deputy Le Brun

Date Received: 28th August 2026

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Question 1

Q: Who within the Committee *for* Economic Development is the designated lead for engagement with the construction sector and related industries and local artisanal producers, makers, craftspeople and small-scale manufacturers, and what steps is the Committee taking to support those hands on sectors who require affordable workspace?

A: Deputies Kazantseva-Miller and Humphreys are both the leads for the Committee *for* Economic Development ('the Committee') in relation to construction. It is not a requirement for the Committee to designate 'leads' for each and every business sector and sub-sector. There is not a designated lead for artisanal producers, craftspeople or small-scale manufacturers but this does not prevent these businesses from engaging with the Committee, and many businesses from smaller or niche sectors have done so.

Question 2

Q: The Digital Greenhouse was established to support entrepreneurship, innovation and the growth of Guernsey's digital and creative sectors, including the provision of collaborative, flexible and affordable workspace for desk based startups and developing businesses.

What consideration has been given to developing affordable workshop, studio or light industrial space for local producers, makers and construction-related enterprises that are increasingly competing with larger national and international organisations and developers and investors for a limited supply of commercial premises at rental levels that are beyond the reach of small local businesses?

A: The Committee's view is that providing workspaces such as desks for start-ups, while arguably appropriate at the time that the Digital Greenhouse was established, is

no longer something that requires government involvement and can be supported well by the private sector as it is in many other jurisdictions.

The Committee has not formally considered intervening on the provision of studios, workshop or light industrial space. It has not been lobbied by businesses to do so, and in light of a compelling case to change its view it would consider this a matter for the market and not one where direct government intervention is a priority.

The Committee was the first to publish its Work Plan¹ and has been open about what areas it is prioritising at this time. The priority areas have been chosen with the aim of progressing initiatives that have cross-sector benefits as much as possible. This approach is intended to maximise the benefits of the limited resources of the Committee (and of the States generally) for the economy.

¹ <https://gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=202600&p=0>