



STATE OF THE ISLANDS

HEALTHCARE RESILIENCE

2026 REVIEW

ISLEFACT

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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main focus of this Review is how resilient islands need to be in relation to healthcare. Arguably, this is the most important service that all island communities with self-governing responsibilities have to support. However, it has ever-escalating costs to meet and resources to find.

The Review looks at the strengths and opportunities as well as the weaknesses and threats of a number of islands around the world with developed economies. It highlights the increasing demands on island healthcare services in the short and medium term as a result of ageing populations, health inflation, obesity-related diseases, and other issues such as the growing awareness of mental health challenges.

Public expectations for ever-higher standards of health service delivery and the quality of facilities have also got to be factored in. Additionally, while the majority of islands have introduced preventative health policies to combat the world obesity crisis, these policies to-date only appear to be marginally successful.

REVIEW PROGRAMME

The *State of the Islands* Review Programme is designed to support and stimulate island strategic and operational decision-making and provide clear, evidence-based guidance for policymakers and business leaders.

Each Review features a selected topic, chosen for its significance to island-based organisations and individuals. Island best practice is also highlighted whenever relevant and a broad sample of islands including the three Crown Dependencies will be referenced.

There is a high degree of synergy between the Reviews and the following key island subject areas will form the structure of the Programme schedule over a twelve months' cycle:

Economic Sector Performance	Climate Change Mitigation
Government Finance	Education and Skills
Health & Long-term Care	Digital Development
Transport Connectivity	Security and Law & Order
On-island Infrastructure	Social Care
External Collaboration	Culture & Leisure
Labour & Employment	Population & Demography

In addition, periodic Briefing Papers (minimum of two over a twelve months' rolling cycle) covering latest international trends impacting island communities will also be available.

Full details of the Review Programme including how to subscribe to the service can be found at: www.islefact.com/reviews



Located in Guernsey, we have extensive knowledge of and practical experience in how islands operate globally. There are a wide range of island economic and social models adopted and it is essential that data and information are benchmarked accurately. Full details of all our services can be found at: www.islefact.com

ISLEFACT LIMITED
Digital Greenhouse
2 Market Street
Guernsey GY1 1HB

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(NB. Every effort has been made to ensure the contents of this Review are accurate at the time of drafting (June 2026).)