



STATE OF THE ISLANDS

2026 - REVIEW 2

HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

ISLEFACT

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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main focus of this Review is the provision of island health and long-term care. 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 30/40 page downloadable Review features a selected topic, chosen for its significance to island-based organisations. Island best practice is also highlighted whenever relevant and, over a twelve months' rolling cycle, 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 topics are planned to be covered over the next twelve months' period:

Population & Demography	On-island Infrastructure
Health and Longterm Care	Education and Skills
Fiscal Challenges	Visitor Economy
Latest International Overview 1	Latest International Overview 2
Transport Connectivity	Climate Change Mitigation
Economic Performance	Security and Law & Order

Throughout this ongoing Programme, attention will also be given to the challenges posed by critical mass and economies of scale, recognising these as constant factors influencing island development and policy.

Published Reviews are available 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

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