

Thursday 22 September 2016

ENCOURAGING IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S USE OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) Karen McConnell has today (22 September 2016) published her report into Management Information in Education.

The report focuses on how well the Department:

- has specified its management information requirements;
- assures the quality of its data; and
- uses the information in decision making.

It also highlights the steps taken to secure improvements and the challenges that remain.

The C&AG found that the Department has made important progress in developing and using management information, including by putting in place an expert team to work within the Department and across schools and colleges. The Department has also been driving the development of data sharing between departments, something that is crucial to joining up service planning and delivery.

There is of course more to do. Work is required to ensure that management information, including financial information, is aligned with the Department's strategic and operational objectives. This need to align information to objectives is a theme that has featured in previous C&AG reports including those on financial management.

Karen McConnell said:

"I welcome the approach of the Education Department to understanding the value and power of management information to help secure efficient and effective services and outcomes for children, young people and life-long learners. The priority given to this area is refreshing."

"There is more to do but I am optimistic that the right building blocks are in place."

The report is available on the Jersey Audit Office's website at (www.jerseyauditoffice.je).

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Notes to Editors:

- The Office of Comptroller and Auditor General ('C&AG') was established in 2005 and operates under the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014
- The remit of the C&AG includes the audit of financial statements and wider consideration of public funds, often expressed as 'value for money'
- Karen McConnell was appointed in 2013 and the term of office was extended in 2014 to December 2019.
- Formerly of the UK Audit Commission ('the Commission'), Karen held a variety of senior positions, including leading the Audit Practice
- The Office of Comptroller & Auditor General is known as the 'Jersey Audit Office'
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Comptroller and Auditor General's Policy regarding issue of reports and contact with the media:

- Press releases will be published by the Jersey Audit Office to accompany the publication of each report
- Embargo times will be set at 0001 hours on day of publication for both press releases, reports, and all other information pertaining to the publication date
- Other press releases/ statements may be made on an occasional basis, and not necessarily dependent upon the publication of a report. They will be subject to the same embargoes
- With any report issued, the opportunity is available for members of the press to request factual clarification, by email, of points contained therein
- Any comments made additional to any reports, will be included within any press release(s) as issued by the Jersey Audit Office, in the form of a quotation by the C&AG. These comments will be available for publication; but there will not be any supplementary live or pre-recorded interviews offered or undertaken by either Karen McConnell or the employees of the Jersey Audit Office
- The C&AG is prepared, on an occasional basis, to provide articles for publication in the local media, following a specific request and consideration of the relevant topic
- All public information, including press releases and reports, are accessible on the Jersey Audit Office website at www.jerseyauditoffice.je

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