

Wednesday 27 April 2022

Progress has been made in developing governance arrangements for the States of Jersey Police

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment, has today, 27 April 2022 published a report on the ***Governance of the States of Jersey Police - Follow Up***.

The follow up report focusses on the implementation of the recommendations agreed following the 2018 C&AG review of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the governance arrangements for the States of Jersey Police.

Lynn Pamment found that ten of the 14 recommendations made in the 2018 C&AG report have been fully or partially implemented. Amendments to the States of Jersey Police Force Law 2012 (the amended Law) were adopted by the States Assembly in its sitting on 11 May 2021.

However the C&AG noted that the enhanced role of the Police Authority, to monitor and oversee the States of Jersey Police and to promote and support continuous improvement, is in its early stages.

The C&AG found that, whilst the Police Authority is working well with the States of Jersey Police, the capacity and expertise to develop plans, set targets, analyse budgets and hold the States of Jersey Police to account have not been available. The Police Authority also needs further support so that it can discharge its functions more effectively in respect of police budgets and expenditure.

The amended Law requires the Minister for Home Affairs to set policies in relation to the key aims and objectives of the States of Jersey Police. The amended Law also requires the Police Authority to prepare both an Annual Policing Plan and a Four-Year Policing Plan which consider the key aims and objectives set by the Minister, the efficiency and effectiveness of the States of Jersey Police and the resources available to the States of Jersey Police. The Police Authority does not currently set out performance objectives for the States of Jersey Police. Neither is there any evidence of high-level targets set by the Minister for Home Affairs for the States of Jersey Police.

LYNN PAMMENT

Whilst a Four-Year Policing Plan was developed for 2020-23, it has not been updated on a rolling basis and is now out of date. Further work is also required to develop a more detailed Annual Policing Plan. Annual Policing Plans have not been developed in detail since the 2020-23 Four-Year Policing Plan and have not been laid before the States Assembly as required by the Law.

The C&AG noted that an Annual Report covering two years (2019 and 2020) was published on 28 March 2022, significantly after the statutory deadline of three months after the end of the relevant financial years. An Annual Report for 2021 has not yet been produced.

Lynn Pamment said:

“Overall, progress has been made in addressing many of the recommendations set out in the C&AG report of 2018. The legislative changes in the States of Jersey Police Force (Amendment No. 3) Law 2021 have strengthened the independent operation of the States of Jersey Police from the Government.

At this stage, however, the Police Authority has not had sufficient resources to undertake the role envisaged in the recommendations of the C&AG report of 2018. The Police Authority is not yet adequately resourced and supported in a way that enables it to undertake its functions. There should be a further assessment in due course as to whether the planned additional resources will enable the Police Authority to undertake all its functions effectively.”

The report *Governance of the States of Jersey Police – Follow Up* can be found at: <https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je>

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For further information, please contact:

Rozena Pedley
M: 00 44 7797 733553 / T: 00 44 1534 629800
E: rozena.pedley@jerseyauditoffice.je

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, corporate governance, internal control and wider consideration of public funds, often expressed as ‘value for money’
- The 2022 Audit Plan can be found at: www.jerseyauditoffice.je
- Lynn Pamment took up the Office of C&AG on 1 January 2020 for a fixed term of seven years. Following the introduction of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014 the term of office is fixed at seven years and is non-renewable.
- The Office of Comptroller and Auditor General is known as the ‘Jersey Audit Office’.
- Contact details are: de Carteret House, 7 Castle Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3BT / T:716800 / E: enquiries@jerseyauditoffice.je

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