

Friday 30 December 2022

There are identifiable weaknesses in arrangements that compromise the governance and accountability of some independent bodies and office holders

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest Thinkpiece

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment, has today, 30 December 2022 published a Thinkpiece on **Governance and Accountability of Independent Bodies and Office Holders**.

The Thinkpiece considers the governance and accountability arrangements of the following independent entities (independent bodies and office holders) established by the States of Jersey that undertake activities of a regulatory, audit, oversight and challenge nature.

- Charity Commissioner
- Children's Commissioner for Jersey
- Competition Regulatory Authority
- Comptroller and Auditor General
- Data Protection Authority
- Director of Civil Aviation
- Financial Services Commission
- Gambling Commission
- Independent Prison Monitoring Board
- Jersey Appointments Commission
- Jersey Care Commission
- Office of the Financial Services Ombudsman
- Official Analyst
- Police Authority
- Police Complaints Authority
- Statistics User Group

Lynn Pamment found that there are opportunities to:

- strengthen operational independence of the bodies and office holders
- enhance the accountability of the bodies and office holders; and

- review and consolidate the support services used by many independent bodies and office holders.

Lynn Pamment said:

“Current arrangements for the governance and accountability of independent bodies and office holders are fragmented. In some instances there are identifiable weaknesses in arrangements that compromise the governance and accountability of independent bodies and office holders. As many of the elements of good governance and accountability are common to all or most independent bodies and office holders, there is scope for the development of arrangements that would apply to all independent bodies and office holders or to groups of them, except where there are compelling reasons that they should not apply.

I strongly encourage the States of Jersey to take forward the areas for consideration that I have outlined, in order to provide greater assurance as to the protection of the independence of the bodies and office holders reviewed as part of this Thinkpiece. At the same time, there are opportunities for independent bodies and office holders to drive greater efficiency in arrangements through shared support services.”

The Thinkpiece *Governance and Accountability of Independent Bodies and Office Holders* can be found at: <https://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, 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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- Press releases will be published by the Jersey Audit Office to accompany the publication of each report
- Embargo times, where set, will be at 0001 hours on the day of publication - for 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 where set
- 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 Lynn Pamment or the affiliates 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