

Thursday, 02 April 2015

CHANGES TO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ESSENTIAL TO DRIVE REFORM

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Karen McConnell, has today (02 April 2015) published a report into Financial Management.

Karen McConnell has undertaken a review of financial management within the States of Jersey. This review focuses on:

- The allocation of and accountability for the use of resources
- Financial governance and leadership
- Financial planning.

She found significant improvement was required in the arrangements for accountability for resources and for financial planning and that there was too much focus on departmental responsibility at the expense of collective strategic leadership. Her report sets out a demanding agenda for change.

She concluded that:

- the current system for the allocation of resources lacked transparency and led to behaviours which were not always in the best interests of good financial management; and
- the current system of financial planning was not fit for purpose and acted as a barrier to reform.

However, what was needed most was cultural change. The States faces significant budgetary pressures and it needs better financial management to respond to these in a considered way.

Karen McConnell said:

“The States face a challenging agenda. Much needs to be done and effective financial management is essential to that change. The Treasurer of the States is supportive of my recommendations but will need time and the active engagement of the Ministers and Corporate Management Board to make the necessary changes.”



The report will be available on the Jersey Audit Office's website from 0930 on 02 April 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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