



Thursday 30 April

SHARPER MANAGEMENT FOCUS NEEDED FOR PRIVATE PATIENT ACTIVITY

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Karen McConnell, has today (30 April 2015) published a report into Private Patients Income^(*) in the Health and Social Services Department (HSSD) of the States of Jersey. In 2014 private patient income amounted to £6.8million.

Karen McConnell found good practice in relation to budget setting for this area and effective management of private patient income once billed. However, much needs to be done to ensure the private patient activity is well managed, costs fully recovered and to be able to demonstrate that the activity does not detract from public provision. She concluded that work needs to be completed on the integration of longer term planning in this area with other planning within HSSD. Steps also need to be taken to address time consuming and potentially ineffective systems. HSSD officers have responded constructively to the recommendations contained in the report.

Karen McConnell said:

"This report echoes some of my findings from earlier reports, particularly the weaknesses in policies and procedures to secure and use high quality information. It is very important that decisions are based on good information and this should be a priority for HSSD and the States more widely".

The report will be available on the Jersey Audit Office's website from 0930 on 30 April at: www.jerseyauditoffice.je

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Notes to Editors:

(*) Charges made by the Health and Social Services Department for the costs of undertaking private medical treatment using States facilities. The charges are designed to cover the costs of HSSD facilities, equipment, medical supplies and services (excluding the services of consultants who are permitted to undertake private work so long as they fulfil their contracted hours for publicly funded work and who charge for their time separately).

- 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'
- Contact details are: Lincoln Chambers (First Floor), 31 Broad Street, St Helier JE2 3RR T:716800 / E: enquiries@jerseyauditoffice.je

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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