



JERSEY AUDIT OFFICE

27 March 2014

CENTRAL PROCUREMENT HAS DELIVERED BENEFITS BUT MORE CAN BE ACHIEVED

Comptroller & Auditor General issues latest report

The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Karen McConnell, has today (27 March 2014) published a report into the procurement procedures of the States of Jersey (the States).

The C&AG's report examines whether central procurement arrangements meet with recognised best practice, considers whether arrangements for identifying and monitoring savings are effective and reviews compliance with internal policies.

The review focuses on how the States secures value for money for its higher value procurement processes (over £100,000); but does not extend to the procurement of major capital projects or the procurement savings targets in the Comprehensive Spending Review. The C&AG plans to consider other elements of procurement in future reviews.

Karen McConnell acknowledges areas of good practice and recognises that there have been some considerable developments since the central procurement function was established. However, she says that the good practice needs to be consistently applied across States departments and that the Corporate Procurement Strategy needs to be updated in the light of experience and changes in the environment.

The C&AG advises that learning from different procurement exercises, coupled with feedback from contractors, will promote good practice, potentially help streamline processes and reduce the risk of mistakes being repeated. She recommends that this learning is shared across the States in a structured way to strengthen the role of the central function and help individual departments achieve value for money from their procurement.

The C&AG looked at the Corporate Travel and Managed Print contracts in more detail. She found evidence that both delivered planned savings but that there is scope to improve processes for estimating and monitoring the delivery of savings.

Karen McConnell said:

“The central procurement team has made good progress in developing appropriate and proportionate arrangements for higher value procurement which compare well with good practice. Steps are being taken to make improvements. The time is now

right to revisit the corporate procurement strategy and to ensure that good procurement principles are followed across the States as a whole.

“A positive approach is needed to learn from past procurement exercises and from suppliers, to secure savings and to streamline processes. This will require the central procurement team and departments to work together constructively and for a culture of corporate learning to be fostered by the Corporate Management Board.”

The report will be available on the Jersey Audit Office’s website from 0930 on 27 March at: www.jerseyauditoffice.je

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Notes to Editors:

- The Office of Comptroller & Auditor General (‘C&AG’) was established in 2005 under the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005
- 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 to the Post in February 2013, on a two year contract
- 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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- 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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