



Wednesday 25 September 2013

## **COMPTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL PUBLISHES FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON 'LIME GROVE HOUSE'**

The Comptroller & Auditor General ('C&AG'), Karen McConnell has today (25 September 2013) published a report entitled 'Management of Major Property Transactions: Learning from the proposed acquisition of Lime Grove House'.

In her report, Karen makes Recommendations for future action to be taken by the States in relation to the **overall management of major property transactions**. The recommendations are based on an examination of the issues surrounding the proposed acquisition of Lime Grove House ('LGH') as a headquarters for the States of Jersey Police during the period 2009 to 2011 and the eventual failure of the transaction.

The failed acquisition generated controversy but there has not been a clear focus on the lessons to be learnt. This report therefore builds on the enquiries undertaken by Karen's predecessor. The focus of this report is the project management aspects of LGH and what can be learnt by the States in relation to the management of major property transactions in the future.

In the report, the C&AG makes it very clear that any project can fail. The risks of failure are increased by poor project management. In the case of LGH, the report identifies weaknesses within the States at the time, which increased the risk of the failure of the transaction.

However, in the report Karen also examines what has been put in place by the States since that time, and what can still be done to make further improvements.

The C&AG calls for the implementation of a consistent and systematic approach across the States for the management of major projects from start to finish. Karen also recommends a consistent framework across the States, which sets out the roles and responsibilities of Chief Officers and Ministers in relation to the management of major projects.

### **Commenting on the report, Karen McConnell said:**

"The examination of the issues surrounding the proposed acquisition of Lime Grove House has undoubtedly highlighted failings within the system at the time. Some improvements have been made since then but more needs to be done.

“My recommendations are designed to improve the management of major projects through the introduction of comprehensive States-wide standards. These changes, together with investment in skills and expertise necessary to implement those standards, should help to reduce the risk of projects failing in the future.”

To access the report please click on: [www.jerseyauditoffice.je](http://www.jerseyauditoffice.je) or ‘Reports’ in <http://www.statesassembly.gov.je/Pages/default.aspx>

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

Rozena Pedley, Concept Communications Limited.  
M: 00 44 7797 733553 / T: 00 44 1534 629800 / E: [rozena@concept-comms.com](mailto:rozena@concept-comms.com)

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

**Comptroller & 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 happy, on an occasional basis, to prepare 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](http://www.jerseyauditoffice.je)

**ENDS**