



**UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 0001 ON THURSDAY 04 JULY 2013**

## **AUDIT OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN JERSEY**

A Jersey Audit Office has been established in the Island, under the leadership of the Comptroller & Auditor General ('C&AG'), Karen McConnell. In her first report, published today, Karen examines the current function of the C&AG in Jersey and makes recommendations on a number of areas relating to Public Audit.

Appointed in February 2013, Karen has been working with senior members of the States, Civil Servants and senior figures in public audit. She has reviewed the remit, governance and management arrangements for the Office of C&AG and made recommendations, which include the establishment of a 'Jersey Audit Office' to strengthen the function of public audit in Jersey, as well as the establishment of a Board to ensure accountability of the C&AG.

Karen has formed policies for the good governance and management of the Jersey Audit Office, drawing parallels with legislation and best practice in other jurisdictions. She has researched a programme of works to be undertaken, including existing and new matters, in relation to the audit of financial statements and wider consideration of public funds.

A review of the separate pieces of legislation under which the Office of the C&AG currently operates has been undertaken, and recommendations made to consolidate, at a future opportunity, the Island's public audit legislation in a separate Law.

Part of Karen's three year strategic plan will include measures to strengthen the independence of the C&AG, through both legislation and changes in policy and practice, which are based on international principles followed by auditors general worldwide.

The current remit of the C&AG has also been examined. Recommendations have been made to streamline processes relating to the different functions undertaken and reinforce the independent power of the Office, written in a Code of practice to be followed by the Jersey Audit Office.

The Jersey Audit Office will operate from St Helier (31 Broad Street) and will be launching a website in the summer. To access the report please click on 'Reports' in <http://www.statesassembly.gov.je/Pages/default.aspx>

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

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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'
- The Postal address is: Lincoln Chambers (First Floor), 31 Broad Street, St Helier JE2 3RR.

**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
- Going forward, all public information, including press releases and reports, will be made available on the Jersey Audit Office website - which will be launched in the summer.

**ENDS**