



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE: 02 November 2017

JERSEY BOARD SEEKS INDEPENDENT MEMBER

Jersey member sought for the Board of Governance of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General

The role of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) is to report to the States Assembly on the use of public funds. But it is important that the Office of the C&AG can itself demonstrate that it has used public funds properly and secured value for money.

Two years ago, the States adopted a recommendation from Karen McConnell, the C&AG, that her Office should be placed under the scrutiny of an independent Board. That led to the establishment last year of a Board with two independent members who have experience of serving on the boards of the public audit bodies in Wales and Scotland.

Now the States are seeking – at the Board’s request – to recruit a further independent member to broaden their collective experience. In particular, they hope to recruit someone who would bring direct experience of living and working in Jersey.

Peter Price, Chair of the Board of Governance, said:

“The Board has made a good start, putting in place the structures and working methods which are appropriate for the role. Now we want to advance by adding more skills and perspectives.

“Ideally, we would like to have a Jersey based Board member, since I and my independent member colleague bring experience from Wales and Scotland. Both are relatively small nations and a Jersey person would give us an even better sense of what fits Jersey’s size and context.

“Effective public audit promotes value for money and accountability in public spending. It should be seen as positive – helping Jersey to attain the best attainable results. So, the successful applicant will be contributing to a very worthwhile activity.”

The Board keeps under review whether the C&AG is using the resources provided by the States properly, efficiently and effectively.



Karen McConnell, the C&AG, said:

“The Board is an important means of ensuring that there is accountability for the use of the public funds made available to my Office. I welcome the initiative to recruit a further member and am particularly keen to see somebody from the Island on the Board.”

**Application details can be found on the JAO website at:
<https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je/governance-board/>
The closing date is 20 November 2017.**

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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.
- Following a recommendation in the C&AG's 2013 report 'Public Audit in Jersey', the Board of Governance was established in 2014. It has a statutory duty to keep under review whether the C&AG has used and is using the resources provided to him or her under Article 9 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014 properly, efficiently and effectively.
- The Chairman of the Board is Peter Price. Mr Price has had an extensive career in law, politics, and wider public service, including 15 years as a member of the European Parliament, where he served as Chair of the Budgetary Control Committee. He is currently a non-executive Board Member of the Welsh Audit Office.
- The Office of Comptroller & Auditor General is known as the 'Jersey Audit Office'.
- Contact details are: Jersey Audit Office, de Carteret House, 7 Castle Street, St Helier, JE2 3BT.
- T: 716800 / E: enquiries@jerseyauditoffice.je
- All public information, including press releases and reports, is accessible on the Jersey Audit Office website at www.jerseyauditoffice.je