



22 March 2018

FURTHER ENHANCEMENTS IN POLICE GOVERNANCE PROPOSED

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Karen McConnell, has today (22 March 2018) published a report on Police Governance.

The C&AG has undertaken a review of the effectiveness of the current governance arrangements for the States of Jersey Police. It is important that the governance arrangements both protect the operational independence of the police service and secure its accountability. The current arrangements are complex with various functions split between the Chief of Police, the Police Authority, the Minister, the States Employment Board and others.

Karen McConnell concluded that further steps should be taken to enhance the accountability and operational independence of the States of Jersey Police by:

- strengthening the resources of the Police Authority;
- committing to routine independent inspection as a key mechanism for holding the States of Jersey Police to account and driving improvement;
- developing the skills and capacity of members of the Police Authority;
- clarifying the overarching responsibilities of the Police Authority;
- changing the allocation of responsibilities between the Police Authority, the Minister and the Chief of Police; and
- establishing and documenting revised non-statutory arrangements for the governance of the States of Jersey Police, including replacing the role of the Chief Executive as line manager of the Chief of Police and enhancing the role of the Police Authority.

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Karen McConnell said:

"The States of Jersey established a Police Authority four years ago, a step not taken in any other Crown Dependency or Overseas Territory. I strongly support the establishment of the Police Authority but now is a good time to draw on the experiences of the former Chief of Police and the former Chairman of the Police Authority as well as those currently in post to secure further improvements in arrangements."

"The changes I have proposed are important to enhance effective oversight and scrutiny of the police service whilst at the same time protecting its operational independence. I have found all parties to be very open to change and supportive of the recommendations I am making. I look forward to seeing real progress."

"I also welcome the recent announcement of an independent inspection of the States of Jersey Police to be undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services. Independent inspection is an important mechanism for driving accountability and improvement. I have recommended that inspections are routinely undertaken going forward."

The report will be available on the Jersey Audit Office's website from 0930 on 22 March at (www.jerseyauditoffice.je).

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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
- The Office of Comptroller & Auditor General is known as the 'Jersey Audit Office'
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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, where set, will be at 0001 hours on the day of publication - for 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 where set
- 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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