

Monday 24 August 2020

ORGANISATIONS SHOULD IMPROVE THE CONTENT AND ACCESSIBILITY OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report and a good practice guide

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment, has today (24 August 2020) published a report on ***Annual Reporting***.

The report considers the annual reports and, where available publicly, the annual accounts produced by the States of Jersey and 37 Jersey entities. These entities are either identified by the States of Jersey as controlled by the States or are established by the States Assembly and required to prepare an annual report and/or accounts. The report compares the annual reports reviewed to a set of good practice criteria developed by the C&AG.

Lynn Pamment found that the States of Jersey has implemented an inconsistent set of requirements in respect of content, timely submission and public availability of entities' annual reports and accounts. For a significant number of entities, annual accounts are not published on the entities' websites and limited financial information is reported publicly.

The C&AG noted that annual public reporting should be improved by inclusion of more comprehensive governance and accountability information; more comprehensive reporting on workforce and staff related matters; better remuneration reporting; and more comprehensive reporting on risks, operations and measures of success.

The C&AG has also today published a ***Good Practice Guide on Annual Reporting*** which draws out examples from better performing entities to assist all entities in improving their performance.

Lynn Pamment said:

“High quality annual reports are fundamental to effective accountability. The best reports demonstrate and communicate impact and value for money in an open, balanced and engaging way.

“There is value in developing a coherent framework for annual reports of public sector and publicly funded entities. Appropriate financial information should be available publicly alongside or with the annual report of the entity.

“All entities should aspire to improve the content and accessibility of their public annual reports. Strategic objectives should be reported transparently, should be assessed against risks and should be measured against relevant, quantifiable key performance indicators on a consistent basis.”

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The Annual Reporting report and Good Practice Guide are available at <https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je/our-work/2020/>

Annual Report:

<https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CAG-Report-Annual-Reporting.pdf>

Good Practice Guide:

<https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CAG-Good-Practice-Guide-to-Annual-Reporting.pdf>

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For further information, please contact:

Rozena Pedley

T: 00 44 1534 629800

E: rozena.pedley@jerseyauditoffice.je

M: 00 44 7797 733553

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, corporate governance, internal control and wider consideration of public funds, often expressed as 'value for money'.
- The 2020 Audit Plan can be found at:
<http://www.jerseyauditoffice.je/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/JAO-Audit-Plan-2020-July-2020-update.pdf>
- Lynn Pamment took up the Office of C&AG on 1 January 2020 for a fixed term of seven years. Following the introduction of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014 the term of office is fixed at seven years and is non-renewable.
- The Office of Comptroller & Auditor General is known as the 'Jersey Audit Office'.
- Contact details are: de Carteret House, 7 Castle Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3BT / T:716800 / E: **enquiries@jerseyauditoffice.je**

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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 Lynn Pamment or the staff 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**