

Thursday 17 September 2020

SOME PROGRESS MADE IN IMPROVING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment, has today (17 September 2020) published a report on ***Management Information in Education: Follow Up***.

The Report follows up on the progress being made by the Government of Jersey in implementing the recommendations contained in the 2016 Report from the then C&AG. In particular, it evaluates the extent to which progress has been made in:

- specifying management information requirements;
- arrangements for securing data quality;
- the effective use of management information; and
- securing improvements in management information.

Lynn Pamment found that some progress has been made towards implementing the recommendations contained in the 2016 Report. However, none of the twelve recommendations made in 2016 have been implemented fully. Whilst the introduction of the Government Plan in December 2019 and the Jersey Performance Framework published in January 2020 have been catalysts for the Government taking a strategic approach to management information, the roll out of the corporate performance management agenda has been delayed due to COVID-19.

The C&AG noted that action has been taken to strengthen management information in relation to pupil and school attainment and the Jersey Premium. There remains, however, some way to go to ensure that management information requirements are specified effectively throughout the education function, not just at senior management level.

Whilst a new Code of Practice for Statistics was published in October 2018, a corporate data strategy and data quality standards are yet to be developed.

Lynn Pamment said:

“There has been some progress made towards implementing the recommendations from the 2016 Report. However, the progress that has been made has been ad-hoc and reactive rather than executed as part of any overall co-ordinated plan, driven by the Department for Children, Young People, Education and Skills Leadership Team, to improve management information in the education function.

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“The Government Plan recognises that a new performance management framework is required, to provide strategic performance management and insight, to benchmark Government impact and to support senior and departmental teams to continuously improve public services. It set a target date to achieve this by 2023.

“To improve management information, clear co-ordination and leadership of the management information agenda is needed. To be effective this will require an adequately resourced training and development programme, benchmarking against those identified as best in class and the fostering of an environment where learning and development are rewarded.”

The Management Information in Education: Follow Up report will be available on the Jersey Audit Office’s website from 0930 on 17 September 2020 at <https://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, 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’.
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- 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
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