

**Tuesday 19 January 2021**

# The States should implement a more consistent assurance framework

## Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment, has today (19 January 2021) published a 'Thinkpiece' on Public Audit in Jersey.

The Thinkpiece draws on her experience from her first year in office and a public consultation which took place during 2020. It is designed to stimulate debate and sets out proposals in respect of:

- annual reporting by States established and States controlled entities;
- entities to which the C&AG appoints auditors;
- assurance arrangements for other States established and States controlled entities;
- the assurance framework; and
- the governance of the Office of the C&AG.

In respect of annual reports, the Thinkpiece builds on the C&AG's report on *Annual Reporting* (August 2020). The C&AG observes that the availability of published financial information in respect of States controlled and States established entities varies. She emphasises the need for a consistent framework for the production of annual reports and accounts for States established and States controlled entities. She also suggests that there should be a consistent definition in legislation of States established and States controlled entities with a list maintained of entities that meet this definition.

To accompany the framework for annual reports and accounts, the C&AG recommends a consistent and coherent statutory framework for the provision of independent assurance on the reported results of those entities.

In particular, she suggests that the States should consider the appointment by the C&AG of independent examiners for smaller entities alongside the appointment of auditors by the C&AG for larger entities.

The Thinkpiece also makes a number of recommendations to improve the resilience of the governance arrangements for the Office of the C&AG.

**Lynn Pamment said:**

“The importance of public audit has been embraced in Jersey since the constitutional reforms introduced in 2005. Public audit provides independent assurance to the people of Jersey on the extent to which public money is spent economically, efficiently and effectively and on whether the controls and governance arrangements in place within public bodies demonstrate value for money. Delivering that assurance requires that the framework for public audit is comprehensive and robust.

“High quality audit is facilitated by high quality financial and associated non-financial reporting. Further consideration should be given to the requirements for disclosure and audit of relevant financial information in respect of the entities listed in the Thinkpiece, given that most of the entities operate with some degree of independence from the States of Jersey. A starting point to a more consistent framework for reporting is to require those entities that do not publish an annual report or financial information to do so on a consistent basis.

“Independent appointment of auditors is a fundamental principle of effective public audit. Giving the C&AG responsibility for the appointment of auditors of the financial statements of all entities established or controlled by the States would provide a greater degree of independence.

“For all States established and States controlled entities that publish financial information, there should be an assurance requirement for at least an independent examination by an examiner appointed by the C&AG. Larger entities should fall into an audit regime with auditors appointed by the C&AG.”

The report *Public Audit in Jersey - a Thinkpiece* can be found at:  
<https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je>

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

Rozena Pedley

M: 00 44 7797 733553 / T: 00 44 1534 629800

E: [rozena.pedley@jerseyauditoffice.je](mailto:rozena.pedley@jerseyauditoffice.je)

**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 2021 Audit Plan can be found at: [www.jerseyauditoffice.je](http://www.jerseyauditoffice.je)
- 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](mailto:enquiries@jerseyauditoffice.je)

**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](http://www.jerseyauditoffice.je)