

Comptroller and Auditor General

Recommendations

Project Specification

Background

The Code of Audit Practice issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2020 (Section 5) states that the C&AG shall, as part of their annual programme:

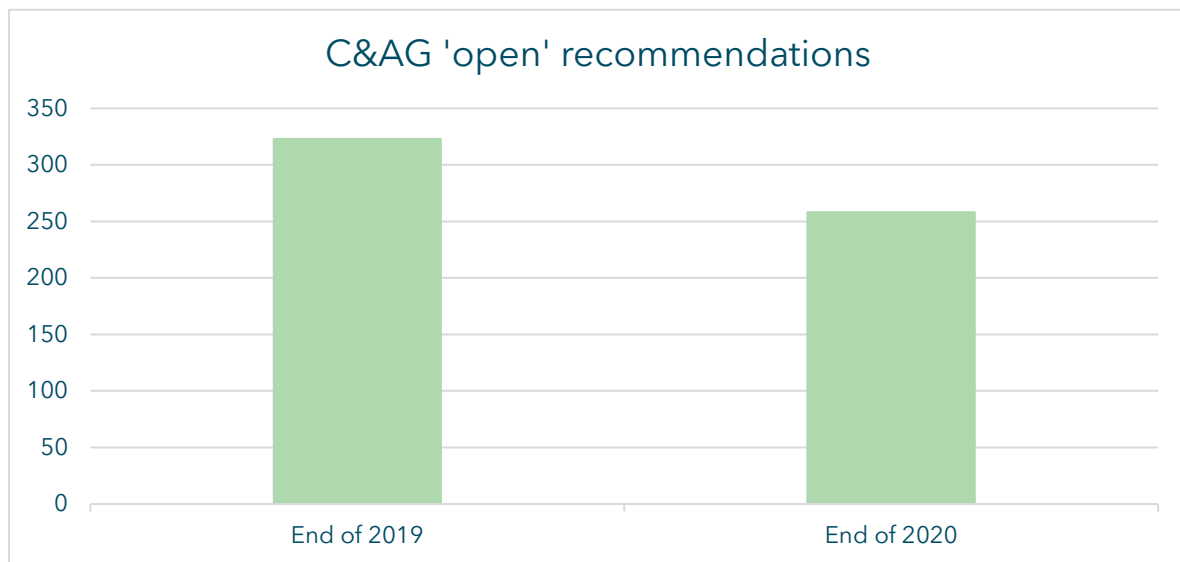
- assess the adequacy of arrangements for considering their recommendations and those of audit firms they appoint and, where it is decided to accept recommendations, the arrangements for monitoring their implementation
- on a sample basis, evaluate the implementation and/or impact of previous recommendations made by them or audit firms they appoint; and
- report the results of their work.

The States of Jersey, independently audited States bodies and States aided independent bodies have a duty to:

- consider recommendations made by the C&AG and auditors appointed by the C&AG
- determine whether to accept recommendations and, if so, what action to take
- monitor implementation of agreed audit recommendations and the impact secured; and
- take corrective action where appropriate.

During 2019, the Government of Jersey introduced a tracker system to monitor the progress being made in implementing recommendations made by the C&AG and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Exhibit 1 shows data from the Government of Jersey tracker at the end of 2019 and the end of 2020.

Exhibit 1: C&AG Recommendations Tracker



Source: Government of Jersey Recommendation Tracker

The Government of Jersey tracker indicates that there is considerable work still required to implement C&AG recommendations made.

The Functions of the C&AG

Article 11 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014 requires the C&AG to:

- provide the States with independent assurance that the public finances of Jersey are being regulated, controlled, supervised and accounted for in accordance with the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005
- consider and report to the States on:
 - the effectiveness of internal controls of the States, States funded bodies and Funds
 - the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the way the States, States funded bodies and Funds use their resources; and
 - the general corporate governance arrangements of the States, States funded bodies and Funds; and
- make recommendations to bring about improvement where improvement is needed.

Objectives of this review

The review will evaluate:

- the arrangements established to manage, monitor and report on implementation of agreed recommendations through the recommendation tracker
- the key reasons for delays in implementing agreed recommendations
- the extent to which the changes made have been evaluated to ensure they address the improvement areas identified before recommendations are shown as complete and are closed on the tracker; and
- the adequacy of plans to monitor the implementation of outstanding recommendations.

Scope

This review will consider the arrangements made by the States of Jersey to monitor and implement agreed recommendations made by the C&AG. It will not consider:

- the implementation of recommendations by States controlled and States established entities; or
- the implementation by the States of Jersey of recommendations made by other auditors such as external auditors and the internal audit function.

The review will provide assurance as to the arrangements for tracking recommendations. It will not focus on or provide assurance on whether individual recommendations have been implemented.

Approach

The review will commence with an initial documentation request. The findings of the document review will be followed up by interviews with key officers.

The detailed work will be undertaken by an affiliate engaged by the C&AG.

Fieldwork will take place in phases. The first phase is planned to commence at the end of April 2021 and will evaluate the design of overall arrangements. The second phase is planned to commence in November 2021 and will evaluate the robustness of arrangements, key reasons for delays in undertaking planned actions and the adequacy of plans to monitor the implementation of outstanding recommendations.



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