



JERSEY AUDIT OFFICE

COVID-19 test and trace and vaccination programmes

Project Specification

Background

The test and trace programme

Towards the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic an Island wide testing programme was established. Alongside this, a programme for contact tracing was also established. Both programmes have continued to operate throughout the pandemic.

The Government of Jersey spent significant sums on the test and trace programme during 2020 and is forecasting even greater expenditure on the programme during 2021:

Exhibit 1: Actual and forecast expenditure on the test and trace programme

Cost item	£
Health and Community Services 2020 costs - Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing, serology testing and equipment	541,082
Justice and Home Affairs 2020 costs - testing and tracing programme phase 2:	
- test to travel	13,227,139
- isolation and enforcement	667,501
- programme support costs	416,563
- on Island testing capacity	719,100
- contact tracing digital app	180,638
Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance 2020 costs:	
- programme management, project management, communications, minor staff IT costs and other administration costs	192,396
- mass serology testing	628,507

Cost item	£
- healgen testing kits	720,291
Total 2020 costs	17,293,217
2021 forecast costs on test and trace programme	39,000,000
Overall forecast expenditure to 31 December 2021	56,293,217

Source: States of Jersey Annual Report and Accounts 2020 and 2021 Mid-Year Review

The vaccination programme

The vaccination programme is a key strategic tool to fight the COVID-19 virus and help reopen the economy. The roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine in Jersey began in December 2020 and is aligned to the vaccination programme roll-out in the UK.

At 3 October 2021, the Government of Jersey reported that:

- over 157,000 doses have been administered in total
- 87% of the resident population aged 18 years and over has been administered a first dose, and 85% has been fully vaccinated
- 49% of the population of 16-17 year olds has received a first dose; and
- 5,337 third doses have been administered, with 41% of those aged over 80 having received a third dose.

Three COVID-19 vaccines are currently in use in the vaccination programme across the UK and in Jersey. These are:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Pfizer BioNTech
- COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca; and
- COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna.

The Jersey vaccination programme to date has been delivered in three ways:

- through appointments booked at the vaccination centre at Fort Regent
- through a mobile unit which has visited care homes and individuals who are not able to access the vaccination centre; and
- through 'rock-up' clinics run at specific times in popular and easily accessible locations.

£383,000 was spent on the vaccine programme during 2020. An additional £8 million is planned to be spent on the COVID-19 vaccine programme during 2021.

The Functions of the Comptroller and Auditor General (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:

Test and trace programme

- set up of the programme including:
 - initial planning and decision-making
 - objectives and purpose of the programme; and
 - planning, delivery and performance management of the tests
- governance of the programme
- changes to objectives and purpose of the programme as the pandemic progressed
- funding of the programme

- the commercial arrangements put in place
- testing capacity, activity, performance and effectiveness – including planning and forecasting and performance against key commitments
- advice given to the public in the event of a positive test
- contact tracing capacity, activity, performance and effectiveness – including planning and forecasting, effectiveness of communications and performance against key commitments
- the impact of the programme on children, young adults, those with learning disabilities, ethnic minority groups; and
- the monitoring of inequalities.

Vaccine programme

- the Government’s approach to the identification and authorisation of potential vaccines
- set up of the vaccine programme including initial planning and decision-making, objectives and targets
- governance of the programme
- liaison with delivery agencies
- funding of the programme
- the commercial arrangements put in place
- the arrangements for deployment of the vaccines
- effectiveness of communications
- performance and effectiveness of the programme
- monitoring of vaccine safety
- the impact of the programme on children, young adults, those with learning disabilities, ethnic minority groups
- the monitoring of inequalities; and
- the challenges that the Government needed to manage as it deployed the vaccine.

Scope

The review will extend to those departments involved with the test and trace and vaccine programmes, including:

- Health and Community Services
- Justice and Home Affairs; and
- Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance.

The objectives and/or scope of the review may be amended in the course of the review in the light of emerging findings or other matters arising.

Approach

The review will commence with an initial documentation request encompassing both publicly available and internal documents. The findings of the document review will be followed up by interviews with key officers and potentially with other stakeholders.

The detailed work will be undertaken by an affiliate engaged by the C&AG. Fieldwork is planned to commence in November 2021.



JERSEY AUDIT OFFICE

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