

Wednesday 9 November 2022

Most entities have made improvements to their annual reports

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment, has today, 9 November 2022 published her third report on **Annual Reporting**.

The report considers the latest annual reports produced by the States of Jersey and by 37 States established or States controlled entities. It compares annual reports to a set of best practice criteria developed by the C&AG. The report also assesses progress being made in improving annual reports following the recommendations made by the C&AG in her first report *Annual Reporting* published in August 2020 and her second report *Annual Reporting* published in November 2021.

Lynn Pamment was pleased to note that most entities reviewed have made improvements to their 2021 annual reports, some significantly:

- three-quarters of 2021 annual reports set out information on performance, accountability and (where relevant) their finances in single annual reports. This compares to just over half in 2020
- 66% of 2021 annual reports' overall content (43% in 2020) is fair or good compared to best practice; and
- 79% of annual reports (62% in 2020) demonstrated fair or good compliance with best practice principles.

The C&AG found however that progress in respect of accountability and sustainability reporting has however been slower:

- more than 40% of accountability reports are still poor or very poor compared to best practice. In particular, over 70% of remuneration and staff reporting (including disclosure of directors' pay and directors' interests) fell below best practice; and
- just under half of annual reports made no reference to climate issues and only five reported on sustainability using a relevant sustainability framework.

In terms of timeliness of reporting, the C&AG notes that 14 entities published their 2021 annual reports in an earlier month than for the previous year compared to 10 that published their annual reports in a later month. More entities missed their deadlines for their 2021 annual reports than for their 2020 annual reports and fewer annual reports were published by 31 July in 2022 than has been the case in 2021 and 2020.

The C&AG has also today published her third ***Annual Reporting Good Practice Guide*** updated for 2022 which draws out examples from better performing entities to assist all entities in improving their performance.

Lynn Pamment said:

"Annual reporting is fundamental to ensuring accountability of public entities.

I am pleased with the improvements I have seen in the annual reports of many States controlled and States established entities. I encourage entities to consider the issues raised in this report and my *Good Practice Guides* and continue to make further improvements.

The States of Jersey have an opportunity to build on the progress made by individual entities by specifying the requirements for annual reporting. In doing so, the States should pay particular attention to accountability reporting (especially staff and remuneration disclosures) and sustainability reporting."

The report *Annual Reporting* and the *Annual Reporting Good Practice Guide* 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

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 2022 Audit Plan can be found at: 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 and 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

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 affiliates 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