

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Monday 31 March 2025

Government encouraged to take more timely action on C&AG recommendations for improvement

The C&AG has today, 31 March 2025, issued her Annual Report of Findings for 2024 and has unveiled plans for the 20th anniversary of the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General

At a briefing for States Members and the Public Accounts Committee earlier today, Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment CBE launched her Annual Report of Findings.

This Report brings together the recommendations that the C&AG has made throughout 2024. It also highlights the status of these recommendations and those from previous years that have either been implemented, or accepted by Government for action but are not yet implemented.

The C&AG advised States Members and the Public Accounts Committee that:

- The eight C&AG reports issued in 2024 identified 77 recommendations
- The Government accepted 59 and partially accepted nine of the 77 recommendations. The Government rejected nine recommendations
- Over the last three years, the Government has added 296 of C&AG recommendations to the Tracker it uses to monitor recommendations, and closed 426. As a result, the number of open (not yet implemented) recommendations recorded on the Tracker has reduced significantly.

In the Report, Lynn Pamment expressed some concerns over decisions to close some recommendations in 2023 and 2024 but also noted important areas where the Government has taken action to implement recommendations and the positive impact that this has had.

Key areas identified by the C&AG for improvement but are yet to be actioned include corporate governance (29% of open recommendations), internal control (33%), financial management (11%) and value for money (27%). Open recommendations yet to be implemented date back as far as a C&AG report published in 2014.

The C&AG also unveiled plans to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General, which was established by the States Assembly in 2005.

There will be a series of good practice sharing events and speaking engagements to celebrate the Anniversary. Events will include an awards ceremony celebrating progress in public accountability and transparency through improvements in the production of publicly available Annual Reports by States owned and States controlled entities.

Lynn Pamment CBE said:

“We are delighted to mark 2025 as the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG). The purpose of the C&AG, fulfilled through the Jersey Audit Office (JAO), is to provide 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.

“Recommendations made in my reports are designed to improve corporate governance, value for money, financial management and internal control. When recommendations are implemented, benefits are delivered and risks are reduced.

“Recommendations that remain open represent opportunities for improvement that are not being fully realised. This is also true for recommendations that are accepted but not implemented and are closed without due consideration of the risk associated with non-implementation.

“I recognise that Jersey is a leading jurisdiction in the way in which it tracks the implementation of C&AG recommendations. I am also pleased to see an ongoing reduction in the number of open recommendations. However, there are still too many recommendations that date back a number of years and are yet to be implemented by the Government. I encourage the Government to take action to tackle the identified opportunities for improvement on a more timely basis.”

The Report: Annual Report of Findings 2024 can be found 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 2025 to 2028 Audit Plan can be found at: www.jerseyauditoffice.je
- Lynn Pamment CBE took up the role of Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) for Jersey from 1 January 2020. 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