

17 April 2026

Jersey's cyber security is being strengthened through the implementation of the new Cyber Security Law and the supporting Framework

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment CBE, has today, 17 April 2026, issued her report on Critical Infrastructure Resilience – Cyber Security

Ensuring the security and resilience of Jersey's critical infrastructure is a responsibility shared by the States, infrastructure owners and operators. Each have different responsibilities for critical infrastructure depending on the system and/or the nature of the threats to be mitigated.

Cyber resilience is the overall ability of systems and organisations to withstand cyber events and, where harm is caused, recover from them. Critical infrastructure systems are prime targets for cyber-attacks due to their vital role in society. Potential cyber security threats do not just affect data and systems in government and business, but also critical infrastructure, including energy, health, transport, water and emergency services. In January 2026 the States Assembly passed a new Cyber Security Law (the Cyber Law).

The C&AG found that the Cyber Law sets out clearer expectations for governance, incident reporting, and resilience planning. It also requires stronger co-ordination between government, regulators, and industry. The Cyber Law will place greater demand on the Jersey Cyber Security Centre and on Operators of Essential Services (OESs). The C&AG has considered arrangements for cyber security at four OESs and found varying levels of cyber security maturity at these entities. All entities reviewed have work to do to ensure compliance with the new obligations placed on them.

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Late in 2019, the Government commenced a Government-wide Cyber Security Programme (CSP 1.0), with the bulk of the work planned to be delivered in two, 12-month tranches. Tranche one was originally scheduled for completion by March 2021. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health measures and restrictions inevitably led to some programme delays at that time. CSP 1.0 essentially ran from 2020 to 2023.

The stated aim of CSP 2.0 was to lift the Government to a maturity score of 3.0 across all National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) core functions.

The C&AG found that, since CSP 2.0 was established the focus of the team has shifted to address critical operational weaknesses, rather than substantive implementation of defined deliverables. The shift has been as a result of growing global cyber security threats, including threats to Jersey.

The continued dependency on legacy infrastructure slows implementation of CSP 2.0 and increases the complexity of planned initiatives. This has been recognised and the IT Infrastructure Improvement Programme is running in parallel to CSP 2.0 with close coordination between the two programmes.

Commenting on the findings of the audit, the C&AG Lynn Pamment CBE, said:

“Jersey’s cyber security is being strengthened through the implementation of the new Cyber Security Law and the supporting Framework. It is essential for the States and for Operators of Essential Services to ensure that their arrangements meet the requirements and expectations placed on them under the new Law.

“While Government has taken action to improve its own cyber security resilience there remains considerable work to be undertaken to ensure that the arrangements in place meet minimum expected maturity standards.”

The report on the Critical Infrastructure Resilience – Cyber Security is available on the Jersey Audit Office website <https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je>

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