Thursday 19 November 2026

The Jersey regulatory landscape is complex and fragmented and does not allow for the delivery of value for money to be assured

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment CBE, has today, 19 November 2026, issued her report on Delivering Effective Regulation

Effective regulation protects the rights and safety of citizens, supports fair markets and ensures the delivery of public goods and services meets defined standards. Regulation is distinct from direct government provision or commissioning of services, because it relies on using incentives and sanctions to drive behaviour change in individuals or organisations outside of government's direct oversight.

The audit has evaluated the current landscape of regulation in Jersey to identify whether there are any overlaps or gaps in the design of regulation to achieve public policy aims in an effective way.

The focus of the audit has been on the design of regulation and whether the design supports the delivery of effective regulation. The audit has not analysed the markets or issues being regulated or considered the intervention mechanisms being used in practice. The areas of regulation considered by the audit include public services, public health, environmental standards, planning, building standards, and economic.

Effective regulation requires:

- clarity and simplicity
- proportionality
- consistency

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- stakeholder engagement; and
- monitoring and enforcement.

The audit found the regulatory landscape to be complex and complicated. Regulation in Jersey has developed over a long period and has been driven by different imperatives. In many cases regulation has been reactive, created in isolation of other regulation. This has resulted in 'layering' of regulations and potential areas of regulatory duplication. In comparison with other jurisdictions Jersey also has some areas where there are potential gaps in regulation.

At the time of the audit Jersey had no established criteria or framework against which to make decisions about what to regulate and how, and what not to regulate. The C&AG understands that the Council of Ministers has since approved a Regulatory Framework that was published on 18 November 2026.

To date there has been no established process to routinely take stock of Jersey's regulatory requirements – individually and as a whole – in the context of clear evidence of need, based on an up to date understanding of current and emerging risk.

Currently, roles and responsibilities for regulation are fragmented and there has been no coherent approach. Until the appointment of a Minister for Planning and Regulation in July 2026, there has been no single point of regulatory leadership. The new Minister is clear about the need to implement an evidence-based system and process of regulation, designed to address specific opportunities, issues and risks. At the time of the audit an ambitious work programme was being discussed although no timetabled or prioritised plan was yet established.

The audit noted a wide variation in how regulators report against their aims and objectives. All independent regulators publish annual reports, but the content of these is not consistent. Government and non-Ministerial departments vary in the extent to which they publicly report on performance. Currently, there is no clear set of minimum criteria against which to report performance and enable comparison across regulators and with other jurisdictions.

Comptroller and Auditor General, Lynn Pamment CBE, said:

"Jersey does not have a coherent approach to designing and implementing regulation. The landscape is complex and fragmented and does not allow for the delivery of value for money to be assured.

"The appointment of the Minister for Planning and Regulation in July 2026 has provided a single point of regulatory leadership. The Government is developing an ambitious programme to introduce an evidence-based framework for regulation. This provides an opportunity to redefine regulation around the minimum assurance requirements needed to minimise harm and protect the public interest.

"Developing an evidence and risk based approach also provides the opportunity to ensure regulation in Jersey is proportionate, targeted, consistent and accountable."

The report Delivering Effective Regulation is available on the Jersey Audit Office website https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je

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Notes to Editors:

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- 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 2026 - 2029 Audit Plan can be found at: www.jerseyauditoffice.je
- Lynn Pamment CBE 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
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