

# STATES OF JERSEY



## COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL: APPOINTMENT

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Lodged au Greffe on 28th December 2012  
by the Chief Minister

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STATES GREFFE

## **PROPOSITION**

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –**

to appoint, in accordance with the provisions of Article 41(1) of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005, Ms. Karen McConnell as Comptroller and Auditor General with effect from 1st February 2013 and until 31st December 2014.

CHIEF MINISTER

Note: In accordance with the requirements of Article 41(1) of the Public Finances (Jersey) 2005 this proposition is brought with the endorsement of Deputy T.A. Vallois of St. Saviour, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

**“41 Appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General**

- (1) The office of Comptroller and Auditor General shall be held by a person appointed by the States on a proposition signed by the Chief Minister and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.”

## **REPORT**

The post of Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) fell vacant in July 2012.

The appointments panel consisted of Senator Ian Gorst, Chief Minister, Deputy Tracey Vallois, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. John Richardson, Chief Executive, Mr. Brian Curtis, Chairman of the Jersey Appointments Commission, Mr. Julian Rogers, Appointments Commissioner and Mr. Mark Sinclair, Director of Human Resources. Independent external professional advice to the panel was provided by Dr. Robert Black, C.B.E., retired Auditor General, Scotland.

A recruitment consultant was retained to undertake a search on behalf of the States of Jersey. Advertisements were placed in the Jersey Evening Post on 2 occasions, the Sunday Times on one occasion, and the post was widely advertised on both the States of Jersey's website and the recruitment consultant's website. Four candidates were invited for interview and interviews took place in Jersey on 30th November 2012 and on 13th December 2012. The same panel interviewed all candidates against the same question areas.

Ms. Karen Janet McConnell was assessed as a suitable candidate for the role.

Ms. Karen McConnell has been a full member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) since 1986 and has a BSc (Hons) in Bacteriology from Newcastle University. After a period with the NHS as a trainee Accountant, Karen joined the Audit Commission in 1985 and remained in their employment until 30th November 2012 when the Audit Practice was closed. Over her 28 year career with the Audit Commission she has held the positions of District Auditor, Head of Audit, Director of Professional Practice, Regional Director and Senior Director. Her most recent appointment has been as Senior Director and Acting Managing Director, Audit Practice.

### **Financial and manpower implications**

This proposal does not have any additional resource implications. The office of the C&AG is already established and includes provision for a small Jersey based team and a budget is already in place for the costs associated with the running of the office.

The budget for the C&AG, as published in the Medium Term Financial Plan is –

£751,400 for 2013;  
£768,700 for 2014.

### **Recommendation**

The Chief Minister requests that the States approves his recommendation to appoint Ms. Karen McConnell as Comptroller and Auditor General for a period until 31st December 2014. This request is fully supported by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.