

STATES OF JERSEY



COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL: APPOINTMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 12th July 2005
by Deputy S.C. Ferguson of St. Brelade

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

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

in accordance with Article 41 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005, to appoint Mr. Christopher Swinson as Comptroller and Auditor General for a period of 3 years with effect from 1st October 2005.

DEPUTY S.C. FERGUSON OF ST. BRELADE

Note: The Policy and Resources Committee supports this proposition.

REPORT

1. Acting in my capacity as the Shadow Chairman of the Shadow Public Accounts Committee (Shadow P.A.C.), I am pleased to propose the appointment of Mr. Christopher Swinson to the position of Comptroller and Auditor General. This proposal has the full support of the Policy and Resources Committee.
2. Members will recall that the States have already approved the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005, and this is due to come into force at the end of this year. The Policy and Resources Committee and I consider that it would be helpful if the appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General could be made in advance of the ministerial system, as this will enable the postholder to familiarise himself with the duties of the post before the new system comes into effect.
3. It has accordingly been agreed with the Finance and Economics Committee that the States should be asked to approve draft Regulations (the *Draft Public Finances (Comptroller and Auditor General) (Jersey) Regulations 2005* -) which will bring into force the relevant parts of the Public Finances Law to enable the appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General. The draft Regulations are being lodged separately on 12th July 2005 by the Finance and Economics Committee.
4. The process for the recruitment of the Comptroller and Auditor General has been managed by the States Human Resources Department with the full involvement of the Appointments Commission. The post was advertised on a part time basis of 100 days per annum, and advertisements were placed in the local and national press, together with a professional publication, 'Public Finance'. 21 completed applications were received, and 5 applicants were shortlisted for interview. The Selection Board comprised John Boothman – Appointments Commission, Bill Ogley – Chief Executive of Policy and Resources, Tony Grimes – a member of the Shadow Public Accounts Committee and a fully qualified accountant, and myself in my capacity as Shadow Chairman of the Shadow Public Accounts Committee.
5. The unanimous decision of the Selection Board was to recommend the appointment of Christopher Swinson as the Comptroller and Auditor General. Mr. Swinson graduated in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Wadham College, Oxford University and is a fully qualified accountant (Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants) and a Fellow of the Institute of Internal Auditors. He has had a career in Chartered Accountancy in the United Kingdom and has recently retired as Senior Partner with BDO Stoy Hayward, a leading firm of Chartered Accountants. He holds public appointments with H.M. Treasury, the Commission for Local Administration in England, and The Pensions Regulator, and previously with the Audit Commission. He is also a member of the Finance Committee of the Royal College of Nursing. His current commitments include acting as an expert witness and mediator and lecturing on auditing at Exeter University. He is the author of many professional publications and textbooks.
6. Funding has been identified for the appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General and supporting team of 2 Value for Money Auditors and administrative support with effect from 1st October 2005. There are no further manpower or financial implications for the States arising from this appointment.