

Public Accounts Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 28th April 2014

Meeting No: 46

Present	Deputy T. Vallois, Chairman Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy G.C.L. Baudains Deputy R. Rondel Mr. I. Ridgeway Mr. J. Mills, C.B.E. Mr. R. Parker
Apologies	Mrs. K .McConnell, Comptroller and Auditor General
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. S. Warren, Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General Mr. I. Clarkson, Officer to the Public Accounts Committee Mrs. E. Turner, Scrutiny Officer, States Greffe

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The records of the meetings held on 31st March and 10th April 2014 were approved and signed.</p>	
<p>Item 2 31.03.14</p>	<p>2. Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>	
<p>Item 3 31.03.14</p> <p>1443/10 (57)</p>	<p>3. Comptroller and Auditor General Report: Public Audit in Jersey (R.77/2013)</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Committee that she had written to the Chief Executive on 9th April expressing the Committee's growing perception that the executive was reluctant to implement the recommendations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in her report R.77/2013. This was notwithstanding the Chief Minister's assurance, given to the Chairman during October 2013, that he endorsed the recommendations.</p> <p>The Committee remained concerned that the necessary reforms would not be achieved during 2014. In this regard, the Committee was mindful that the Chief Minister was seeking to lodge a proposition to re-appoint the Comptroller and Auditor General in advance of the necessary legislative changes and, further, that the Chairman was reluctant to endorse any such proposition until such time as the legislative framework governing the office of Comptroller and Auditor General had been suitably reformed.</p> <p>The Committee reaffirmed its endorsement of the stance taken by the Chairman on the matter of the recommendations made in R.77/2013 and the reappointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General. It further noted and endorsed the Chairman's proposal to seek</p>	

	clarification of the position by way of an oral question to the Chief Minister without notice during the States Assembly meeting commencing on 29th April 2014.	Chair-man
Item 3 02.09.13 512/1(30)	<p>4. Working Practices</p> <p>The Committee considered a discussion paper concerning the working practices of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledged that the Integrated Care Records review had been broad in scope and had necessitated a labour-intensive review of several large files of documentary evidence. It nevertheless recalled that the review had been relatively unusual insofar as it had been launched by the Committee unilaterally in the absence of a prior report by the Comptroller and Auditor General.</p> <p>The Committee identified a need –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to raise the standard of background material submitted by States departments in response to initial information requests from the Committee, (b) to utilise electronic storage of Committee documentation with the aim of improving accessibility and improving administrative efficiency, and (c) to allow sufficient preparation time before the commencement of public hearings. <p>Regarding item (b) above, the Committee was concerned to learn that ongoing attempts by the States Greffe to facilitate a trial of revised panel/committee support arrangements, in which review documentation would be made securely and remotely accessible to members online, had hitherto been unsuccessful. Although the Committee was advised that Information Services, Chief Minister’s Department had not yet been able to make the necessary services available on the States network, the Committee noted that suitable services had been implemented at the Jersey Audit Office with assistance from Information Services.</p> <p>The Committee determined –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that all background information requests forwarded to States departments by the Committee’s officer should henceforth make clear that a structured written departmental summary of the review topic was required, to which relevant evidential background material should be appended, • that documentation should be submitted to the Committee on a digital first basis until further notice, and • that it should receive a briefing paper at its next meeting confirming when the Committee would be provided with dedicated and secure online storage. 	IC IC IC
	<p>5. Scrutiny Matters Newsletter</p> <p>The Committee considered its draft entry in the forthcoming Scrutiny Matters newsletter. Having made a series of minor amendments, the Committee approved the entry.</p>	IC
Item 4 31.03.14 512/18	<p>6. Canbedone Productions Limited Grant</p> <p>The Committee received from the Chief Minister’s Department the executive response to PAC.1/2014 (£200,000 Grant to Film Company:</p>	

	<p>Supplementary Report').</p> <p>The Committee was disappointed to note that the response had been received over one week after the deadline set in the Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee. It further noted that the response constituted an interim response insofar as certain actions recommended had not yet been completed.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the report should be presented to the States as soon as possible. It further agreed that a comment should be appended to the report confirming that the Committee looked forward to receiving a further response by June 2014.</p>	IC
<p>Item 1 10.04.14</p> <p>512/20</p>	<p>7. Integrated Care Records</p> <p>The Committee received and reviewed transcripts of the public hearings held on 10th April 2014, together with a draft transcript of the public hearing held by the Health, Social Security and Housing (HSSH) Scrutiny Panel on 14th April 2014, before which the Clinical Lead for Information Technology, Health and Social Services Department had appeared.</p> <p>The Committee concluded that it possessed sufficient evidence to allow for the production of a draft report, save that it would require sight of the outline business case for the Informatics Strategy that had reportedly been submitted to the Treasury and Resources Department as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016-2018 development process. No further public hearings would be required.</p> <p>In relation to the draft transcript of the public hearing held by the HSSH Scrutiny Panel, the Committee noted the account given of the circumstances leading to the production of the new Informatics Strategy.</p> <p>It was agreed that the draft report would, amongst other things, need to draw out certain corporate governance issues highlighted by the evidence received.</p> <p>The Committee instructed its officer to prepare a draft report for circulation at or before the Committee's next scheduled meeting.</p>	IC
<p>Item 6 31.03.14</p> <p>512/1(8)</p>	<p>8. Comptroller and Auditor General: work programme</p> <p>The Committee –</p> <p>(a) gave further consideration to the Comptroller and Auditor General's report on internal audit (R.36/2014 refers), and</p> <p>(b) received an oral update on progress against the audit plan.</p>	
<p>Item 8 28.04.14</p> <p>1443/10 (60)</p>	<p>9. Internal Audit Review</p> <p>The Committee, having given further consideration to the Comptroller and Auditor General's report on internal audit (R.36/2014 refers), formally commenced a review of the internal audit function and, in this regard –</p> <p>(a) delegated to the Chairman responsibility for finalising the terms of reference and scoping document for submission to the Chairmen's Committee, and</p> <p>(b) agreed to hold a public hearing on the afternoon of 21st</p>	Cttee / IC

	May 2014, to which the Chief Executive, the Treasurer of the States and the Chief Internal Auditor would be invited.	
Item 7 31.03.14	<p>10. Future meetings</p> <p>The Committee –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) agreed that it should hold a preparatory meeting at 12.30 pm on 21st May in Blampied Room and prior to the commencement of the formal public hearing, and (b) noted that its next scheduled meeting would commence at 12.30 pm on 2nd June in Blampied Room. 	