

**STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FINANCE AND
ECONOMICSCOMMITTEE ON 29th NOVEMBER 2005**

In November 2004, the States approved a Proposition of Deputy A. Breckon to commission an investigation into Court and Case Costs and the costs of the Les Pas Inquiry, and the Finance and Economics Committee was instructed to engage suitable consultants and present a report to the States in due course. Following a tender process, the Committee appointed the National Audit Office (NAO) to carry out this work, and their finalised report was delivered to the States Treasury last week. It has been tabled today for information, having previously been circulated to all States members.

At its meeting last Thursday, the Finance and Economics Committee considered an action plan to address the issues raised in the report, many of which were already implemented or in the course of implementation. The Committee is proposing that the Public Accounts Committee considers reviewing ongoing progress on this plan, and it is also proposed that the Comptroller and Auditor General includes in his work programme a review of progress against the recommendations made in the NAO report.

The Committee is pleased to note that the impending introduction of the new Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005, will make it mandatory for all departments, including those responsible for Court and Case Costs, to appoint an Accounting Officer (who will normally be the Chief Officer of the department concerned) who will be responsible for, and accountable for, all such future expenditure.