



| States Assembly

States Greffe

Deputy Kristina Moore
Chief Minister
Government of Jersey

BY EMAIL

14th December 2023

Dear Chief Minister,

Public Accounts Committee – Terms of Reference

I am writing to you in response to your recent comments in the States Assembly in relation to the role and function of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). I am sure that you did not intend to mislead the Assembly, however, I wish to clarify one of the points that you raised in respect of the operation of the PAC. Within your speech you stated that the PAC was only able to undertake work in respect of 'historical' matters.

I would draw your attention to Standing Order 132 which states the following in relation to the role of the PAC:

- c) to assess –
 - i. whether public funds have been applied for the purpose intended by the States, and
 - ii. whether extravagance and waste are being eradicated and sound financial practices applied throughout the administrations of the States;

The PAC's work is focused on the implementation of policy and recommendations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General and also assessing the value for money of projects and programmes throughout the Government. There is no reference made within the Terms of Reference for the PAC that this should be historical. I would be grateful if you could correct your comments in line with the information above.

Furthermore, I wish to respond to your comments in relation to the PAC requesting information which is deemed 'Policy in Development', specifically in relation to comments made by myself about requests made for any business cases relating to the Cabinet Office restructure. Given the remit of the PAC as described above, and noting that the Cabinet Office restructure is not policy in development, I would highlight that this is information which should be provided to the PAC for the purposes of its work.

For your reference I have appended the Terms of Reference for the PAC (as per Terms of Reference) to this letter. Please do let me know if you would like to discuss any of this further. Please note it is also the intention of the PAC to publish this letter on the States Assembly website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Feltham', written in a cursive style.

Deputy Lyndsay Feltham
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

132 Public Accounts Committee: terms of reference

- 1) The terms of reference of the PAC are –
 - d) to receive reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General on –
 - i. the results of the audit of the annual financial statement of the States,
 - ii. the results of any other audits by the Comptroller and Auditor General,
 - iii. the annual accounts of the Social Security Fund, the Social Security (Reserve) Fund and the Health Insurance Fund, and to report to the States upon any significant issues arising from those reports;
 - e) to receive reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General on the results of investigations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness achieved in the use of resources by –
 - i. States bodies,
 - ii. independently audited States bodies (apart from those that are companies owned and controlled by the States), and
 - iii. States aided independent bodies;
 - f) to assess –
 - iii. whether public funds have been applied for the purpose intended by the States, and
 - iv. whether extravagance and waste are being eradicated and sound financial practices applied throughout the administrations of the States;
 - g) to receive reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General on the adequacy of the corporate governance arrangements within –
 - i. the States,
 - ii. States bodies,
 - iii. independently audited States bodies, and
 - iv. States aided independent bodies.

2) In this standing order –

“Health Insurance Fund” has the same meaning as in the Health Insurance (Jersey) Law 1967; “independently audited States bodies” and

“States aided independent bodies” have the same meaning as in the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014;

“Social Security Fund” and “Social Security (Reserve) Fund” have the same meaning as in the Social Security (Jersey) Law 1974;

“States bodies” has the same meaning as in the Public Finances Law.