

The Public Accounts Committee

The Anguilla House of Assembly

Atlin Noraldo Harrigan O.B.E. Parliamentary Building
P.O. Box 60
The Valley, Anguilla



PRESS RELEASE

31st August, 2016

INQUIRY INTO THE FINANCIAL REPORTING OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The Public Accounts Committee of the Eleventh Anguilla House of Assembly will be conducting an inquiry into “the Financial Reporting of Government Agencies” during the month of September.

The issue of the financial reporting of government agencies was raised by the Chief Auditor of Anguilla in his report on the 2012 accounts of the Government of Anguilla. The extent of the issues was summarized in paragraphs 82-89 of the report. As reaffirmed by the Chief Auditor In paragraph 85 of the report, the timely preparation and audit of financial statements is recognized internationally as a good indicator of organizational strength and the development of good financial management.

The Agencies selected for scrutiny have been identified by the Chief Auditor as being of particular concern and or benefit from significant financial support from the Government of Anguilla. These are the Health Authority of Anguilla, the Anguilla Air and seaports Authority, the Anguilla National Trust and the Water Corporation of Anguilla.

The inquiry will seek to:

1. Underscore what is best practice in financial reporting with respect to government agencies in Anguilla
2. Consider the existing arrangements and practice for financial reporting with respect to the named agencies.
3. Identify existing impediments or shortcomings if any in the implementation of best practice within the named agencies.
4. Determine the causes for the impediments or shortcomings identifies in 2.3
5. Establish and propose remedial action as necessary to achieve best practice in financial reporting.
6. Examine any other related matters

The objectives of the inquiry will be achieved through a combination of desk research and a series of oral evidence sessions. The oral evidence sessions will involve the calling of accountable persons within the agencies; and accounting officers within the Public Service, with direct responsibility for oversight of government funds disbursed to the named agencies, to provide evidence to the committee. The Committee will also seek to call persons within the community with a relationship and understanding of the functioning of the various agencies to give evidence. The oral evidence sessions will be open to the general public and will be broadcast on Radio Anguilla Live.

It is expected that the committee will publish a report of its findings by September, 22, 2016.

The terms of reference of the inquiry, a schedule of the oral evidence sessions and a list of confirmed witnesses are attached for your information.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

INQUIRY INTO THE FINANCIAL REPORTING OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

1.0 Background

1.1 Section 66A of the Legislative Assembly (Procedure Rules) 1976 provides for the establishment of the Public Accounts Committee as a Standing Committee of the Anguilla House of Assembly.

1.2 The Financial Administration and Audit Act , R.S.A. c. F27 defines “government agency” as:

“government agency” means any corporation—

(a) all of the members of which, or all of the members of the board of management, board of directors or governing board of which, are appointed by—

- (i) an Act of the Legislature,
- (ii) the Governor,
- (iii) the Governor in Council,
- (iv) a minister, or
- (v) any combination of subparagraphs (i) to (iv); or

(b) prescribed by regulation as a government agency for the purpose of this definition; “law” means—

- (a) any Act of the United Kingdom that is applied to Anguilla by statutory instrument or otherwise;
- (b) the Constitution of Anguilla or any other statutory instrument made under an Act or power of the United Kingdom that applies to Anguilla; or
- (c) this or any other Act of the Legislature

1.3 The Chief Auditor in his April 2016 “Report and Accounts of the Consolidated Fund 2012” paragraphs 82-89 highlights the situation as it regards the financial reporting of government agencies.

1.4 Paragraph 85 of the report underlines the importance of financial reporting on the part of government agencies.

1.5 The Agencies identified for scrutiny have been noted by the Chief Auditor of Anguilla as being of particular concern and or benefit from financial support from the Government of Anguilla.

2.0 Objective of the Inquiry

- 2.1 Underscore what is best practice in financial reporting with respect to government agencies in Anguilla
- 2.2 Consider the existing arrangements and practice for financial reporting with respect to:
 - (a) The Health Authority of Anguilla
 - (b) The Anguilla Air and Seaports Authority
 - (c) The Water Corporation of Anguilla
 - (d) The Anguilla National Trust
- 2.3 Identify existing impediments or shortcomings if any in the implementation of best practice within the named agencies.
- 2.4 Determine the causes for the impediments or shortcomings identified in 2.3
- 2.5 Establish and propose remedial action as necessary to achieve best practice in financial reporting.
- 2.6 Examine any other related matters

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SCHEDULE OF ORAL EVIDENCE SESSIONS AND LIST OF WITNESS BY AGENCY INQUIRY INTO THE FINANCIAL REPORTING OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Session 1: Wednesday September 7th, 9:30am

Health Authority of Anguilla

1. Mr. George Browne, Chief Executive Officer
2. Mr. Fritz Smith, Chairman of the Board of Directors
3. Dr. Bonnie Richardson-Lake, Permanent Secretary Health and Social Development
4. Mr. Claudel Romney, BDO Anguilla

Session 2: Thursday September 8th, 9:30am

Anguilla National Trust

1. Ms. Farah Mukhida, Executive Director
2. Ms. Avon Carty, President of the Board
3. Ms. Aurjul Wilson, Permanent Secretary, Home Affairs
4. Mr. Ron Connor, Past President 2007-2011

Session 3: Wednesday September 14th, 9:30am

Water Corporation of Anguilla

1. Mrs. Evelyne Hodge, Chief Executive Officer
2. Mr. Chris Richardson, Chairman of the Board
3. Mr. Larry Franklin, Permanent Secretary (MICUH)
4. Mr. Rommel Hughes, Former Chief Executive Officer

Session 4: Thursday September 15th, 9:30am

Anguilla Air and Seaports Authority

1. Mr. Vanroy Hodge, Chief Executive Officer
2. Mr. Marcel Fahie, Chairman of the Board
3. Mr. Larry, Franklin, Permanent Secretary (MICUH)
4. Kenn Banks, Chairman AASPA, 2009-2012
5. Mr. Claudel Romney, BDO Anguilla