

Te Pūrongo a te Kaiarotake – Independent Auditor’s report

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

Independent Auditor’s Report Te Pūrongo a te Kaiarotake tū Motuhake

To the readers of the Department of Internal Affairs’ annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020

The Auditor-General is the auditor of the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) and group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Stephen Lucy, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out, on his behalf, the audit of:

- the financial statements of the Department and group on pages 69 to 110 and 137, that comprise the statement of financial position, statement of commitments, and statement of contingent assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2020, the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity, and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- the performance information prepared by the Department for the year ended 30 June 2020 on pages 15 to 49 and 150 to 189;
- the statements of expenses and capital expenditure of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2020 on pages 138 to 148; and
- the schedules of non-departmental activities which are managed by the Department on behalf of the Crown on pages 112 to 134 that comprise:
 - the schedules of assets; liabilities; commitments; and contingent assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2020;
 - the schedules of expenses; and revenue for the year ended 30 June 2020;
 - the statement of trust monies for the year ended 30 June 2020; and
 - the notes to the schedules that include accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Department and group on pages 67 to 110 and 137:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - their financial position as at 30 June 2020; and

- their financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards.
- the performance information of the Department on pages 15 to 49 and 150 to 189:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, for the year ended 30 June 2020:
 - what has been achieved with the appropriation; and
 - the actual expenses or capital expenditure incurred compared with the appropriated or forecast expenses or capital expenditure; and
 - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.
- the statements of expenses and capital expenditure of the Department on pages 138 to 148 are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of section 45A of the Public Finance Act 1989.
- the schedules of non-departmental activities which are managed by the Department on behalf of the Crown on pages 112 to 134 present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Treasury Instructions:
 - the assets; liabilities; commitments; and contingent liabilities and assets as at 30 June 2020; and
 - expenses; and revenue for the year ended 30 June 2020; and
 - the statement of trust monies for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Our audit was completed on 16 November 2020. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below, and we draw attention to the impact of Covid-19 on the Department and the activities it manages on behalf of the Crown. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Chief Executive and our responsibilities relating to the information to be audited, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Emphasis of matter – Impact of Covid-19

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the disclosures about the impact of Covid-19 on the Department and group as set out in note 27 to the financial statements and pages 44 to 47 of the performance information.

Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General’s Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing

(New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of the Chief Executive for the information to be audited

The Chief Executive is responsible on behalf of the Department and group for preparing:

- financial statements that present fairly the Department and group's financial position, financial performance, and its cash flows, and that comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.
- performance information that presents fairly what has been achieved with each appropriation, the expenditure incurred as compared with expenditure expected to be incurred, and that complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.
- statements of expenses and capital expenditure of the Department, that are presented fairly, in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance Act 1989.
- schedules of non-departmental activities, in accordance with the Treasury Instructions, that present fairly those activities managed by the Department on behalf of the Crown.
- The Chief Executive is responsible for such internal control as is determined is necessary to enable the preparation of the information to be audited that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the information to be audited, the Chief Executive is responsible on behalf of the Department and group for assessing the Department and group's ability to continue as a going concern. The Chief Executive is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the Department and group, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Chief Executive's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the information to be audited

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the information we audited, as a whole, is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures,

and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers, taken on the basis of the information we audited.

For the budget information reported in the information we audited, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Department's Strategic Intentions 2019-2023, Estimates, Supplementary Estimates and Addition to the Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations 2019/20 for Vote Internal Affairs, and the 2019/20 forecast financial figures included in the Department's 2018/19 Annual Report.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the information we audited.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the information we audited, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department and group's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Chief Executive.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Department's framework for reporting its performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Chief Executive and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Department and group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the information we audited or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Department and group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the information we audited, including the disclosures, and whether the information we audited represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- We obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial statements and the performance information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements and the consolidated performance information. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Chief Executive regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other information

The Chief Executive is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 2 to 13, 51 to 62, and 191 to 197, but does not include the information we audited, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the information we audited does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the information we audited or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Department and group in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests, in the Department or its controlled entity.



S B Lucy
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand