

Public Consultation on “Value For Money” audit programme

The Saint Helena Audit Service is reviewing its programme of “Value For Money” (VFM) audit reviews across Government operations and now seeks contributions from the public suggesting areas for inclusion.

VFM reviews provide an independent opinion on areas of Government activity with the principle objective of ascertaining the level of economy, efficiency and / or effectiveness being achieved. Recommendations are then made to address any shortcomings.

Public opinion is a critical part of how review areas are identified – and is considered alongside requests from other interested parties including the Public Accounts Committee, individual Councillors, Management and staff within Saint Helena Government, the private sector and donor aid organisations.

By understanding where areas of genuine concern and / or potential for improvement exist, the Audit Service is able to allocate its limited time and resource in the most efficient way possible.

VFM Auditor, Helena Bennett, comments;

“We welcome and consider suggestions for areas to include on our programmes at all times during the year, but getting them in to us during our annual planning phase – which runs from now up until the end of April – is the best way of maximizing the chance that a suggested review will be carried out in the very near future.”

All ideas for possible review areas relating to the operations of Saint Helena Government, however big or small they may seem, are welcome. Contributors are asked to contact the Audit Service by e-mail, vmf@audit.gov.sh, through the web site at www.audit.gov.sh, or via telephone on (00 290) 2107.

Background information for editors:

1) Further information relating to VFM audit can be found within our “Brief Guide to VFM Audit Services” which can be downloaded from the Audit web site.

2) Schedules of upcoming VFM reviews are not made widely available to avoid the risk of service areas embarking on a ‘beautification’ exercise ahead of the review to present a picture which may be misleading and not representative of a normal situation.

Contact for more information: *Andy Bonner, Chief Auditor, chief.auditor@sainthelena.gov.sh, Tel 2107*

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