

Audit Service Staffing Update

A number of staff changes are currently taking place within the Saint Helena Audit Service.

Andy Bonner, Chief Auditor, begins a period of leave on 13th July, which will continue up until the confirmed end of his contract on 6th September.

From 13th July, Bronwen Yon who is currently serving as Internal Audit Manager, will take on the additional responsibility of being the "Responsible & Accounting Officer" for the Audit Service, up until the arrival of the next Chief Auditor. In this role she will be responsible for all financial and personnel arrangements within the Service.

The necessary recruitment processes to identify the next Chief Auditor are underway and are being managed by the Department for International Development. It is expected that recruitment advertisements will be placed in appropriate professional journals, and on the Audit Service web site, www.audit.gov.sh, in the near future. At the same time, an Interim Chief Auditor with the necessary professional qualifications to produce audit certificates and management letters for financial statement audits, is being sought on the expectation that a temporary candidate, being subject to less onerous and time demanding recruitment processes, will be available to fill the gap between Chief Auditors and avoid any delays to the annual financial reporting process.

In other developments, Helena Bennett, Value For Money Auditor, is temporarily serving as Acting Value For Money Manager ahead of the planned recruitment later in the year to this vacant post (previously covered by the Chief Auditor). As part of this role, Helena will serve as a member of the Audit Management Team and be the primary contact point on Value For Money issues.

Charlene Young, Lead Auditor for the annual financial audits of Tristan Da Cunha, St Helena Development Agency and the Public Solicitor's Office, will temporarily leave the Audit Service on 9th August to accompany her husband on an overseas training assignment until her expected return in March 2007. Her responsibilities will be temporarily re-assigned and the arrangements communicated to affected clients in the near future.

The Audit Service will strive to ensure that it remains 'business as usual' in terms of meeting our client expectations. With the scale of the changes experienced it is unavoidable that there may be some temporary disruption to normal services and response times, for which we apologise and seek your understanding of in advance.

Background information for editors:

1) The Chief Auditor post on St Helena is currently filled through the availability of DFID Technical Co-operation monies which enable the funding of a temporary contract worker. The Saint Helena Audit Service envisages that this situation will continue until a suitable local candidate for the post can be developed and / or identified.

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