



## Value For Money Report – SHG Use of Consultants

The Saint Helena Audit Service today publishes their report that concludes the Value For Money review of Saint Helena Government's framework for using consultants which are commissioned to either supplement existing staff expertise or fill an important resource gap. The concluding audit opinion is that the established framework is "generally conducive to achieving Value For Money" but notes that some enhancements could be made.

Acting VFM Audit Manager, Helena Bennett, writes;

*"I was surprised that, contrary to common perception, the majority of Government departments sampled were delighted with the outcome of their consultancies. There was evidence that careful planning and control has achieved the desired objectives.*

*A sturdy framework is being operated by Government that ensures robust justifications are produced and appropriately approved before the procurement of consultants. The consultants typically work along side of the departments and are required to give feedback on their progress at key stages which helps ensure that the ultimate end product is of a high standard and improves Government operations.*

*Two main areas where we could see scope for improvement was with the inclusion of management responses in final reports and / or the prompt agreement of a time-tabled way forward to help ensure that what should get done does get done – and also ensuring that the experience and expertise of the Personnel Department are drawn upon in all cases of consultant procurement."*

The full report including recommended enhancements is available for download at the Audit Service web site at [www.audit.gov.sh/publications.htm](http://www.audit.gov.sh/publications.htm), and a copy has also been placed for reference in the Public Library, Jamestown.

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### Background information for editors:

- 1) All Value For Money audit reports undertaken by the Saint Helena Audit Service in the public interest are issued into the public domain as soon as the final report is concluded. This has been the case since February 2006 and follows Audit Service recognition that the public are a primary audience for all of our Value For Money activities and conclusions.
- 2) A guide to Value For Money auditing can be downloaded from the publications page of our web site at [www.audit.gov.sh](http://www.audit.gov.sh)
- 3) Any member of the public can put forward ideas and suggestions for future areas to be covered by VFM reviews simply by contacting the Audit Service and speaking to either Helena Bennett (VFM Auditor) or Andy Bonner (Acting VFM Manager).

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