Ministry of Planning and Development
Office of the Permanent Secretary

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PD: 6/12/3 Vol. I

October 30, 2017

Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Levels G – 9, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
Port of Spain

Dear Ms. Sampson-Meiguel

Fourth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on Examination of the System of Internal Audit within the Public Service

Reference is made to your letter Parl.: 5/7/41 dated September 29, 2017 on the above subject.

Attached is the response of the Ministry of Planning and Development with respect to the recommendations made by the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee.

Yours respectfully,

Joanne Deoraj

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning and Development

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Response to Recommendations

Recommendation:

- **The Ministry of Planning and Development should provide a Status Report to the Committee on the progress made with respect to the restructuring and strengthening of the Internal Audit Unit by November 30, 2017**

Response to Recommendation:

The Public Management Consulting Division, in Cabinet Minute #452 (2nd Session) dated December 17, 2015, created one (1) post of Auditing Assistant which was required for the strengthening of the Internal Audit Unit. The post was reflected in the 2017 Draft Estimates of Expenditure. The Internal Audit Unit now comprises:

- One (1) Auditor II
- One (1) Auditor I
- Three (3) Auditing Assistants

The Ministry will be approaching the Service Commissions Department to have the post filled and, in the interim, will make arrangements for the next eligible officer to act in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Public Service Commission Regulations.

Training of Internal Audit staff:
Internal Audit staff have been exposed to some training at this level however, more training is required in several areas. Training sessions were facilitated through the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications and the Institute of Internal Auditors Trinidad and Tobago Chapter. Additional training will be continuously pursued.

Despite the limitation on the Audit functions, in accordance with Financial Regulation and Instructions, Audit and Exchequer Act, the exposure of the audit staff to different techniques and principles of auditing allows for more critical assessment of the procurement and related areas of auditing, to improve good governance practices at the Ministry.