



MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

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20th November, 2017

The Clerk of the House,
The Public Administration and Appropriations Committee,
Levels G-9, Tower D,
The Port-of-Spain International Waterfront Centre,
1A Wrightson Road,
Port-of-Spain.

Attn: Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel

Dear Madam,

Re: Recommendations in respect of the examination of the system of Internal Audit within the Public Service

Your Letter reference Parl.: 5/7/43 dated October 4th, 2017 with an attached report on the subject at caption refers.

Please find attached the Ministry's response with respect to the recommendations of the Committee outlined at pages 33 and 34 of the Report.

Respectfully,

H. Yearwood

Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
Ministry of Works and Transport

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT



Corner Richmond and London Streets, Port of Spain

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Staffing of Internal Audit Unit

"The Ministry should provide a Status Report to the Committee on the progress made with respect to the strengthening of the Internal Audit Unit by November 30, 2017."

Response:

It was previously reported that the Internal Audit Unit was understaffed by five (5) persons according to the establishment. The Department of Personnel Administration was approached and to date four posts have been filled.

2. Training of Internal Audit Staff

"The Accounting Officer should develop a training programme for Internal Audit staff to ensure compliance with updated International Standards for Professional Practice and submit to the Committee, a report on the progress made in training internal audit staff by November 30, 2017."

Response:

Fortnightly training sessions are usually held in house by senior officers at the unit. However, the assistance of the Ministry of Public Administration is being sought to have external training provided to ensure compliance with updated International Standards.

3. Internal Audit Performing other Administrative Functions

"The Ministry of Works and Transport should seek to separate the administrative duties from the Internal Audit Function and acquire the services of administrative staff to assist the Internal Audit Unit by November 30, 2017."

Response:

At the point of the initial review the complement of administrative staff was severely depleted. In the ensuing period a clerical officer has been assigned and other administrative duties redistributed amongst existing non-auditing staff. Further attempts are being pursued with the Service Commissions Department to obtain additional staff.