TRINIDAD & TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE
Office of the Commissioner of Police

TO PROTECT AND SERVE WITH PRIDE

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Our Ref:COP 1/1/11

November 20, 2017

Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Parliament
Level G-8, Tower D
Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

Dear Mrs. Sampson-Meiguel,

Re: The 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 correspondence dated October 4, 2017, your ref PARL: 5/7/38 on the subject matter. Attached is the submission as per your request.

Yours sincerely,

Commissioner of Police

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE (TTPS)

Response to Request for Comments on

FORTH REPORT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

TTPS SYSTEM OF INTERNAL AUDIT WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Head 64 – Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

I. Staffing of Internal Audit Unit:

- **The Ministry's Internal Unit comprised of ten (10) Junior Auditors and one (1) Head of Internal Audit Unit. The Department's written submission indicated that the Accounting Officer was not satisfied with the work of the Unit. The structure of the Unit was inadequate and a revised structure was being considered. Additionally, the TTPS intends to add nine (9) additional positions to the Internal Audit Unit.**

Recommendation:
The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service should provide a Report to the Committee on the restructuring and strengthening of the Internal Audit Unit by November 30, 2017.

Response

A TTPS Monitoring, Evaluation & Compliance (MEC) Unit, which falls under the ambit of Executive Management Services was established in May 2017, when a Manager was hired for the Unit. An officer to support administrative operations was assigned in October 2017 and at present staff members for the Unit are currently being recruited. A core function of this Unit is to establish robust monitoring, evaluation & compliance capacity across the TTPS. It is envisaged that the Internal Audit Unit will work closely with the MEC Unit to strengthen the monitoring, evaluation and compliance capacity of the TTPS.

Although there is a significant reduction in the budgetary allocation for the hiring of Contracted Staff, the Internal Audit Unit will continue to pursue its restructuring and strengthening via the Human Resource Branch. It is to be noted that the Internal Audit Unit is staffed entirely by Contracted Personnel.

II. Training of Internal Audit Staff:

- **The Ministry's (sic TTPS) Internal Audit staff received minimal training and was therefore in need of sufficient training.**

Recommendation

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

TTPS Response

The Head, Internal Audit is at present participating in a Management Training Program entitled "Bullet-proof Manager" conducted by Crestcom Limited.

Two (2) members of staff were exposed to a three (3) day workshop on "Risk Assessment and Audit Programs" facilitated by the Ministry of Public Administration (Central Training Unit).

All members of the Internal Audit Unit participated in an intense three (3) day workshop on Monitoring, Evaluation & Compliance. This was facilitated by the Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation with a view to informing and strengthening how future Internal Audit activities are planned and executed.

Four members of the Internal Audit Unit staff who are currently pursuing the ACCA designation have participated in programs conducted by ACCA Caribbean, but this has been at their own expense since funding has not been available because of Budget constraints.

III. Efficiency of Internal Audit Checks on Specific Areas

- **The TTPS's Internal Audit Work Programme did not cover all areas of the Department's functions. Some areas of the TTPS's functions were outside the remit of the Internal Audit Unit. For example, none of the Internal Audit staff was precepted and as such were debarred from handling and auditing arms and ammunition and all other related accessories. However, in an effort to ameliorate this situation, the decision was made to use precepted officers to audit arms and ammunition. To date, four (4) officers have been appointed to audit the TTPS's arms and ammunition. According to evidence received from the TTPS, the Department was of the view that these officers were adequate to audit the TTPS on an ongoing basis.**

Recommendation:

- ***The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service should provide a report to the Committee on the implementation of audits on arms and ammunition by November 30, 2017.***

Response

Several firearm and ammunition audits have been conducted in various Police Stations across Trinidad and Tobago. A comprehensive report will be compiled once all the pertinent information have been reviewed.