



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

April 23, 2019

Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Parliament
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Levels G-8, Tower D
International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
Port of Spain

Dears Ms. Sampson-Meiguel

The Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial year 2017

Your letter of reference Parl: 5/1/2 dated February 18, 2019 on the subject at caption, refers.

Please see the attached response to your request. An electronic copy has been forwarded as requested.

Yours sincerely

.....
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Colonial Life Building, 39-43 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I.

Telephone: (868)-623-2608

www.social.gov.tt

Follow us: Facebook





Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Comments of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services on The Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2017

Specific Recommendations

• Rent/Lease – Office Accommodation and Storage

The Ministry continues to maintain communication with Properties and Real Estate Services Division (PRESD) on this matter. The latest from PRESD dated April 4th, 2018 maintained that updated Valuation reports for all buildings, and reminders were forwarded to the Commissioner of Valuations. The Ministry followed up reminders to PRESD dated August 3rd, 2018 and February 13th, 2019. To date the situation remains the same. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to liaise with the PRESD on the status of the requested Cabinet Approvals for the continuation of lease arrangements for the properties rented by the Ministry. Note that the Ministry vacated the premises and re-assigned all personnel and assets that were at the Piparo Community Centre. The termination date was February 28th, 2019.

• Access to information on deaths MOU with Registrar General

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Legal Affairs (Registrar General) and the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services on October 2nd, 2017. Following the signing, the Memorandum was operationalized on May 22nd, 2018 and May 31st, 2018. We have since received eleven (11) reports following the initial report on a monthly basis. This has allowed the Ministry to stop payments being made to 4,786 persons where there were full matches (ID Card, Date of Birth and Names). A further 1,095 with partial matches were flagged for further investigation before further action is taken on these matters. This information was used to cross-reference the following databases:

- Senior Citizens' Pension;
- Disability Assistance Grant;
- Public Assistance Grant; and
- Food Support