



**AUDITOR GENERAL**

**REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Levels 2-4, Tower C, Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre, 1, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain

Phone: (868) 625-6585; 627-6727 Fax: (868) 222-8972

Caribana Building, Bacolet Street, Tobago Phone: (868) 639-2886 or (868) 639-4935 Fax: (868) 639-2886

Website: <http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/>

*Please address your response to the Auditor General and quote the reference particulars below.*

*By Hand and Electronic Mail*

Ref: AGD: 4/3/25 Vol. 2

September 26, 2023

Clerk of the House  
Office of the Parliament  
Parliamentary Complex  
Cabildo Building  
St. Vincent Street  
**PORT OF SPAIN**

Dear Clerk of the House,

**The Fourteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee on an Examination of the Implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee from the Eleventh Parliament on the Processing of the payment of Pensions and Gratuities of Retired Public Officers and Contracted Employees.**

Reference is made to your letter dated July 20, 2023 in which a written response concerning the recommendations directed to the Auditor General's Department (AGD) on pages eighteen (18) and nineteen (19) of the captioned Report was requested.

Presented below is the written responses of the AGD.

**Status of the Legislative and Regulatory Amendments needed to remove the Auditor General's Department (AGD) from the pensions processing process.**

**Recommendations:**

- **The Auditor General's Department should provide a status update to Parliament by September 29, 2023:**

- **on whether any meetings have taken place to consult, draft and finalise the regulatory amendments required to effectively remove the Auditor General's Department from computing and checking the pensions and gratuities calculations;**
- **whether a Note to Cabinet to effect those regulatory amendments has been drafted, finalized and submitted to Cabinet for approval.**

Following the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC) meeting held on November 16, 2022, correspondence was exchanged between the Auditor General's Department (AGD) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and copied to the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO) in relation to amending the regulations of the various pieces of legislation to remove the AGD from the pension checking function. The correspondence contained the history and reasons for requesting the removal of the AGD from the pension checking function along with a draft Note to Cabinet prepared by the AGD.

Subsequently, the MOF agreed with the AGD that the pre-review of pension files does not accord with the role of the Auditor General as contained in the Constitution. The MOF found it necessary to develop a formal plan to implement the transition of the pension checking function from the AGD to the Treasury Division since it impacted on the organizational structure and overall function of the MOF. By letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, the MOF requested details on the AGD's Pensions Unit in order to assist in initiating the transition. The requested information was provided to the MOF by letters dated 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 and 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 respectively.

The finalisation and submission of the Note to Cabinet is within the purview of the MOF and as such they are in the best position to provide the timeliest update on the Note to Cabinet.

**The AGD's improvements to the pension processing process while it is still a stakeholder.**

**Recommendation:**

- **The Auditor General should submit an update to Parliament by September 29, 2023 on:**
  - **the inclusion of the date of retirement field in its pension verification and tracking database and the benefits derived; and**
  - **its attempts to overcome its human resource constraints including the means which it shall ensure that the efficiency in the pension verification process is not hindered because of its human resource constraints.**

AGD: 4/3/25 Vol. 2  
Letter to: Clerk of the House  
26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

---

Updates to the AGD Pension Database which included the insertion of a date of retirement field was completed on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. The benefits derived include the ability to analyze the database and give priority to persons whose files are received years after the retirement date.

The AGD is currently consulting with the Public Management Consulting Division (PMCD) of the Ministry of Public Administration before approaching Cabinet to create contract positions of Pension and Leave Checking Officers to facilitate pension verification. In the interim, clerical staff have been utilized within the Pensions Unit. The clerical staff, coupled with the additional updates made to the database for prioritizing, have improved the efficiency in the pension verification process.

I hope the above information is to your satisfaction. Should you require further information on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Jaiwantie Ramdass**  
**Auditor General (Ag.)**