TAG Annual Report 2026

Office of the Tynwald Auditor General

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

A report made under section 12(2) of the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011

2 July 2026

PP 2026/0135

About the Tynwald Auditor General / Ard Scruyteyder Tinvaal

Tynwald established the Office of Tynwald Auditor General / Ard Scruyteyder Tinvaal (TAG) in the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011. This Act, combined with the Audit Act 2006, creates the statutory framework under which the TAG carries out their functions.

The TAG is an officer of Tynwald and is therefore independent of the Isle of Man Government. He is not a civil servant and exists to serve Tynwald first and foremost.

The general functions of the TAG are to:

- carry out value for money inspections;
- consider matters referred to them by members of the public, Tynwald or members of Tynwald;
- appoint auditors and assurance reviewers under the Audit Act 2006;
- consult with and support the Tynwald Public Accounts Committee (PAC); and
- identify matters that may be appropriate for investigation by the Tynwald PAC.

The TAG is supported by two Assistant Auditors General/Ard Scrudeyter Coonee Tinvaal (AAG) by an Office Manager/Reireyder Offish. The Office operates under the name Audit Vannin.

This is the third Annual Report issued by the TAG.

Table of contents and purpose of this report

The 2026 Annual Report tells the story of the Office of the Tynwald Auditor General (also known as Audit Vannin). It sets out Audit Vannin's performance, leadership arrangements and finances for the year and is designed to enable Tynwald to hold us to account. It covers the areas set out in the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011. Tynwald has not issued any direction in relation to the content of the 2025 Annual Report and Accounts.

In due course it will sit alongside the Audit Vannin Audit Quality Transparency Report which I will publish annually. This will describe the results of my quality monitoring and assurance processes. All Audit Vannin reports will be available on the website www.auditvannin.im.

This Annual Report also discharges any reporting obligations placed upon me in statute including the Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Regulations 2025.

If you need a version of this report in an alternative format for accessibility reasons, or any of the exhibits in a different format, please contact enquiries@tynwaldauditorgeneral.im with details of your request.

Foreword

I am pleased to be able to present my Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026. It has been another busy year as I have further sought to develop Audit Vannin. I am supported by a part-time Assistant Auditor General and continue to receive assistance from the UK's National Audit Office through a part-time secondee to provide additional capacity as a second Assistant Auditor General.

My programme of value for money inspections is underway and I keep the content of the programme under review to ensure it provides a balanced and appropriate programme of work over the totality of bodies that fall under my remit. I have created an Affiliate Programme to support the delivery of value for money inspections and other work. Recruitment to the programme has been slower than I had anticipated and consequently the programme has been delayed. I now have suitably qualified affiliates in place to deliver priority work on Manx Care and I have also tasked my leadership team to take a direct role in undertaking other inspections.

I have continued to work closely with the Tynwald Public Accounts Committee in supporting its activities and also drawing on its insight, support, and challenge as I have sought to develop the Auditor General Function. I am grateful for the positive engagement I have had with members of Tynwald throughout the year.

My work has so far identified at least £504,000 of savings which represent 132 per cent of Audit Vannin's annual costs. I provide more detail on this later in this report.

I remain of the view that the legislation under which public audit on the island, including my own Tynwald Auditor General function operates, needs significant reform as the current framework falls short in some key areas of recognised international standards. I welcome the forthcoming Tynwald debate on the reforms and I stand ready to work with Tynwald to facilitate the necessary changes to create an up-to-date legal framework which embodies best current practice as well as being capable of responding to the rapid pace of change in audit practice.

My ambition remains for Audit Vannin to be an exemplar of public audit combining an unbending commitment to the very best of professional practice in the financial audits where I appoint the auditors with a proportionate and flexible approach to meeting my wider statutory responsibilities. I am close to finalising the outcomes of my re-procurement of financial audit services for the bodies within my remit and will report the outcome as soon as possible.

Public audit is about much more than whether the financial statements are true and fair. My goal is to ensure that Tynwald and island residents continue to see the benefits of the work of my Office. That will be my priority for the coming year.

Stephen Warren

Tynwald Auditor General / Ard Scruyteyder Tinvaal

2 July 2026

Section 1: My work in the last 12 months

Introduction

1. In this section of my annual report, I provide an update on my work since my 2025 report. This content is organised against my statutory functions to help stakeholders understand the performance of my Office and aid their scrutiny of its work. Before I do so I will describe the progress made in establishing my Office.

Developing Audit Vannin

2. Audit Vannin is by design a small body. It currently comprises four individuals who each work on a part-time basis. In total this represents less than 2 Full Time Equivalent members of staff. The 'business as usual' responsibilities of the TAG which I discharge with the support of this team include:

    - Procuring auditors to undertake financial audits and assurance reviews of bodies within my remit.
    - Overseeing the work of those auditors and and assurance reviewers to satisfy myself as to the quality of the work undertaken.
    - Acting as a 'Prescribed Person' for the purposes of section 54 of the Employment Act 2006.
    - Considering and, where appropriate responding to requests from Tynwald or the public.
    - Developing a programme of VFM inspections and undertaking other work where warranted.
    - Managing the Audit Vannin Affiliate Programme which supports my VFM inspection activity.

3. In additional to these tasks Audit Vannin has also had to establish itself from scratch. This has involved recruiting appropriately qualified staff to support me. Developing our office accommodation in Douglas to provide an appropriate working environment. Developing and

implementing the necessary policies and procedures to support the effective business operations of Audit Vannin. Developing methodologies consistent with international standards to deliver VFM inspections and other work. Investment in these activities will naturally pay itself back over the lifetime of Audit Vannin but they have required significant organisational effort from within constrained resources. This, combined with discharging my other statutory responsibilities, has impacted upon my ability to take forward my programme of VFM inspections as quickly as I would have wished.

4. I have made further significant progress in developing Audit Vannin. I am pleased to be able to report that the developing core business processes and systems I described in my last report are now fully in place and running well. More widely, Audit Vannin is participating in the development of public audit through its engagement with EURORAI, with UK wide forums such as the ICAEW's Public Sector Audit Group, with other UK audit offices, and through bilateral discussions with other audit offices from smaller jurisdictions including Gibraltar and Jersey.

5. I am pleased to report that since my last report I have:

   - authorised the 'go live' of the Audit Vannin website (Audit Vannin - We are the Office of the Tynwald Auditor General);
   - attended all meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and generally provided support to the Committee and its members;
   - worked with Treasury on a new set of directions to improve the function of the inspection of local authority accounts on the island that have been approved by Tynwald;
   - consulted upon and agreed a programme of VFM inspections;
   - created an Affiliate Programme through which Audit Vannin can draw on the widest possible pool of knowledge and expertise in delivering its work;
   - received and acted on information provided to me including in my role under the Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Regulations 2025;
   - agreed an extension of the NAO secondment to fill one of the two Assistant Auditors General posts;

- completed the necessary works to create an acceptable working environment for Audit Vannin staff and contractors; and
- attended the PAC Network Conference in November 2025 hosted by the States of Jersey.

6. To provide an additional impetus to the delivery of my VFM inspection programme I am looking to appoint a part-time member of staff to oversee all aspects of the VFM programme. This role will be funded out of current and planned resources requiring no additional budget.

Other matters that I am required to report on under statute

Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011

Recommendation to Tynwald

7. In my 2025 report, and proceeding from my previous report Public Audit Isle of Man (2024) I made the following recommendation under the above Act arising from the exercise of my functions in the period:

   Tynwald should act to reform the public audit legislation as soon as is possible to ensure that the system of public audit in Man reflects the requirements of international standards and supports the effective operation of the public audit function in the Isle of Man context.

8. Tynwald considered and accepted my original recommendations after a debate on my report in July 2025. The Treasury then conducted a consultation on my recommendations. This consultation ran from November 2025 through to January 2026 with the results being published in March 2026. The Treasury Minister made a statement to Tynwald on 17 March 2026 setting out the results of the consultation and the Government's plans for the legislation. The Minister committed to reporting back to Tynwald in July 2026 to 'offer an additional perspective on the recommendations of the Tynwald Auditor General, informed by the feedback received during the consultation.'

9. It remains my view that my 2025 recommendation to Tynwald on this matter remains relevant for each of the reasons set out in my original 2024 report. Although I have continued to make progress in achieving the goals Tynwald set for me, I am concerned that the pace of progress is

slower than it might have been had the statutory framework within which I operate been updated. Audit Vannin has had to devote significant time for example to discharging my responsibilities to continue to provide a certificate on the adequacy of the inspection of accounts of over 20 bodies performed by auditors appointed by me. Removal of this requirement, as I recommended would release significant time that could be spent elsewhere in my remit.

10. For clarity and completeness, I therefore make the same recommendation to Tynwald on this matter as I did in my 2025 Annual Report, as follows:

    Tynwald should act to reform the public audit legislation as soon as is possible to ensure that the system of public audit in Man reflects the requirements of international standards and supports the effective operation of the public audit function in the Isle of Man context.

11. Notwithstanding the hiatus in implementing the wider reforms I believe to be necessary there have been beneficial changes in the public audit regime in areas that did not require new legislation. In the past year I have worked closely with Treasury on these reforms. I am pleased to record that the Audit Act 2006 (Inspection of Accounts)(Local Authorities, etc) Directions 2006 have been revisited as a consequence of this work. These changes improve the functioning of the public audit system for the affected local authorities and illustrate the benefits of modernisation including achieving savings. I am reporting separately upon the impact of those changes.

Requests received under sections 6 or section 10 of the 2011 Act

12. The 2011 Act also requires me to list all requests received under sections 6 and 10 of the Act and the action taken. On 24 April 2025 Tynwald made a request under section 6(2) of the Act that:

    … the Tynwald Auditor General carry out a value for money inspection of Manx Care in respect of all Manx Care's functions.

13. I considered this request carefully in the context of my work to identify areas for VFM inspections by my office. I was particularly mindful of the scope of this request in the context of the resources available to me. As a matter of principle, I had already decided to devote a

significant proportion of Audit Vannin's VFM inspection activity to Manx Care and its operations. Examining in detail areas of particular VFM risk in Manx Care is, in my view a more effective way for me to discharge my statutory duties.

14. Through time my approach will ensure that a growing proportion of Manx Care activity has been subject to review by my office whilst enabling me to examine other important areas of Government activity. I currently have VFM inspections relevant to Manx Care underway on fees and charges and off-island care. I am also considering a request from the Department of Health and Social Care to examine the procurement of endoscopy equipment. These will report in the 2026/27 year, and I will reflect my findings in my 2027 Annual Report.

15. I received a request from the Department of Health and Social Care for me to undertake a review of the procurement of endoscopy equipment. After considering the request carefully I am minded to include such a review – the scope of which to be consulted upon and agreed - in my programme of VFM inspections.

16. Tynwald has the power to issue directions to me as to the form and content of this annual report. No such directions have been issued in relation to the 2025/26 financial year.

Public interest disclosures

17. I am a 'Prescribed Person' for the purposes of section 54 of the Employment Act 2006 in respect of matters relating to the proper conduct of public business, value for money, fraud and corruption in public bodies. I am required by the Prescribed Persons (Duty to Report) Regulations 2005 to issue an annual report on such disclosures made to him. I am discharging this responsibility through incorporating this report on these matters into my Annual Report. I am relying upon Regulation 5 (1) (b) of the above regulations in doing so, noting that in making this report I am also meeting the requirement under Regulation 5(2) for the publication to be made by 30 September following the end of the financial year to which it relates.

18. I received two disclosures in 2025/26. A full report is included at Appendix 1, but the following provides a summary of the main points in relation to the disclosures received.

19. In relation to the first disclosure, I undertook some initial work in relation to the concerns raised before deciding whether to undertake an investigation under Section 10 of the Tynwald

Auditor General Act (the Act). Following that initial work, I decided not to undertake an investigation into the specific concerns raised under Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011.

20. In relation to the second disclosure, which was received in March 2026, I undertook some initial work in relation to the concerns raised and I am currently considering whether to undertake an investigation under Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act (the Act).

21. In accordance with Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011, I sent a statement of the reasons for the decision to the person making the request and the Public Accounts Committee. However, my initial enquiries highlighted potential issues that warranted further investigation in the public interest. Having carefully considered whether to undertake further enquiries, my view was that Audit Vannin was not the most appropriate body to undertake a more detailed investigation in this area. I therefore passed these potential issues to the Audit Assurance Division of the Treasury as, in my view, given its capacity, experience and expertise, it was better placed to undertake a more detailed investigation into these potential issues.

22. The disclosure led to a relatively significant amount of senior management time spent in undertaking initial enquiries to determine whether to undertake an investigation under Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act (the Act). Furthermore, as a result of the disclosure, Audit Vannin has also had to put in place arrangements for considering whether information received might constitute a protected disclosure.

Achievement of Tynwald's savings target

23. Tynwald has set a target for the TAG to achieve cashable savings in excess of its costs after three years of operation. I was appointed in May 2023, and the 2025/26 year is therefore the third year of Audit Vannin's operations. I agreed an approach to savings measurement with the Public Accounts Committee and have applied it here.

24. The budgeted cost of the TAG function in 2025/26 was £555,086, whilst in-year spending amounted to £380,924. Cashable savings identified through my work total £504,000 as follows:

- **Audit Reform:** implementation of changes to audit arrangements for joint boards, local authorities, joint committees and burial authorities – at least £504,000.

Audit Vannin and island life

25. In my last report I set out my planned activities in 2025/26 in relation to the five priorities set out in Our Island Plan. Audit Vannin's actions are summarised in the following exhibit.

Exhibit 1: Audit Vannin contributions to Our Island Plan priorities in 2025/26

Priority	Planned activities	Comments
Building great communities		
Public audit is an important public good and robust public audit provides islanders with assurance over the financial management of public business.	I will discharge my responsibilities under the public audit legislation ensuring that public bodies have a robust and timely audit.	I have taken steps in year to extend current contracts where that was necessary. I am in the final stages of completing a re-procurement for all financial audit engagements within my remit.
	I will discuss my findings with the Public Accounts Committee and report to Tynwald.	I have routinely attended meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and engaged with Tynwald on a range of matters.
	I will consider any requests to me by Tynwald, Members of Tynwald or members of the public.	I received a request from Tynwald and my response is detailed in this Report.
An island of health and well-being		
Tynwald is committed to the implementation of a		I am examining off-island care and considering a request to

Priority	Planned activities	Comments
transformation programme for health and social care in the island	I will examine the issue of productivity in the health and social care system.	examine the procurement of endoscopy equipment and will report on these during the current financial year.
An environment we can be proud of		
As a public body Audit Vannin will play its part by ensuring its operations are as sustainable as possible.	The Office's most significant environmental impact is the travel by Audit Vannin staff to the island. I will develop and publish a travel policy to ensure that the impact of this footprint is minimised.	With only my leadership team and Office Manager in post there has been no need to publish a formal travel policy. I and my leadership team use the most efficient means possible to travel within the options available. With the commencement of my affiliates, I will shortly publish a formal travel policy which will reflect our established ways of working. These include only travelling when there is a significant material advantage and combining activities to reduce instances of multiple journeys.
	Audit Vannin will not use paper other than in exceptional circumstances e.g. in response to	Audit Vannin minimises its use of paper and no paper filing is required.

Priority	Planned activities	Comments
	communications received in writing.	
A strong and diverse economy		
The Plan commits to ensuring that public services deliver within budgets and that the island's tax system and financial structures meet international standards. An effective public audit function contributes directly to both those goals.	I will continue to deliver my statutory functions and support the Public Accounts Committee in its work.	I have supported the work of the Public Accounts Committee throughout the year.
	A competitive procurement process is underway to secure public audit and assurance services.	This procurement is in its final stages and the outcomes will be reported in due course.
	Audit Vannin will look to purchase services from island-based suppliers wherever possible.	All current inspection suppliers are on island firms. Island-based suppliers have been used for the Audit Vannin website and for the fit out of my offices in Douglas whenever possible.
Outstanding lifelong learning and development		
The Plan commits to the development of learning and development opportunities across the island and its people.	Alongside delivering my statutory functions I will look for ways for Audit Vannin to support career opportunities in audit and public audit for islanders.	All Audit Vannin opportunities are available for suitably qualified individuals.

26. As I develop my strategy for Audit Vannin I will continue to seek opportunities for it to contribute further to the life of the island and the achievement of the priorities it has set for itself in Our Island Plan.

Section 2: Performance report

Strategy and performance

Audit Vannin's three-year strategy

27. I paused development work on this strategy to focus my available resources on meeting the day-to-day responsibilities of my office. I have set out details of my in-year activities in Section 1. It is still my intention to develop and consult on the strategy as soon as resources permit. My ambitions remain that Audit Vannin:

- Continues to build its reputation as an effective audit institution.
- Is a high-performing organisation, measured by a set of agreed indicators.
- Supports the work of Tynwald and its Public Accounts Committee.
- Makes a positive difference to the quality of governance and financial management within Government.

My programme of performance audit work

28. My programme of performance audit work has continued to reflect the matters that I set out previously in my Annual Reports for 2024 and 2025. My intention remains to publish at least four outputs a year of which two should be larger evaluative inspection reports. My ability to deliver my programme as rapidly as I had hoped has been constrained by the slower than anticipated recruitment of affiliates to my Affiliate Programme. This Programme exists to supplement the core capacity of Audit Vannin with expertise that will assist in the delivery of VFM inspections or other activity. I, and my Assistant Auditors General are doing further work to understand how our Affiliate Programme can be made more attractive. I am also looking at specific procurement for some of my planned inspections where technical knowledge is needed. In addition, I am in discussions with other bodies to explore the possibility of securing additional support through secondments or other measures.

29. In the 2025/26 year I have published the following reports:

- **Delays in completion of audits and assurance reviews of local government bodies** (September 2025)[1]: this report considered the reasons behind the ongoing delays in completing local government audit and assurance reviews and identified potential measures to reduce delays in future years.

- **Changes to the inspection arrangements for local government bodies** (July 2026)[2]: this report quantifies the savings achieved through the implementation of changes to the inspection regime as a consequence of my joint work with Treasury described earlier.

- **Responding to whistleblowing** (July 2026)[3]: this report examines Government arrangements for the management of whistleblowing and makes recommendations for improvements.

30. The following areas have inspections underway, planned, or under consideration.

Underway

31. **The Government's approach to the management of fees and charges**: this inspection is being conducted in two phases. The first, which is nearing completion considers the general policy framework for this area together with two areas of Manx Care activity. The second phase, which is already underway considers a series of case studies of individual areas where the Government levies fees and charges. Both reports will be finalised in the early Autumn of 2026.

Planned

32. **Review of the Department of Infrastructure's approach to fleet management**: this inspection aims at examining the effectiveness and value of money of the Department's management of the Government's vehicle fleet. I intend to publish this report in the late Autumn of 2026.

33. **Review of Manx Care's approach to the management of tertiary care**: this inspection will evaluate Manx Care's management of this area against accepted best practice and identify

[1] TAG 2025/0001
[2] TAG 2026/0001
[3] TAG 2026/0002

opportunities to improve transparency and value for money. I intend to publish this report in the late Autumn of 2026.

34. **Procurement of common goods and services**: the aim of this project is to evaluate Government's approach to procurement against good practice in public procurement identifying opportunities for improvements in value for money. I intend to publish this report in the Autumn of 2026.

Under consideration

35. **Review of the procurement of endoscopy equipment**: this review would be in response to a request made to me by the Department of Health and Social Care under the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011. I will be discussing this request with Government and will, if required develop a draft project brief upon which I would consult in the usual way.

Performance measures

36. It remains my intention to publish a small number of performance measures for Audit Vannin. These will assist the Public Accounts Committee and Tynwald in assessing my progress in achieving my strategy and Tynwald's ambitions for my function. In developing these measures I will draw on the practice of other similar audit offices. I will discuss and agree these measures with the Public Accounts Committee.

Risk management

37. I reported last year that I had identified four main domains of risk:

- Quality
- People
- Business performance
- Stakeholders

38. The following sections provide an update on the mitigations I identified last year as being necessary to help manage the risks.

39. **Quality**: for VFM work I have established an Affiliate Programme to provide expert assistance in delivering this work. For financial statements inspections I have actively engaged with the audit suppliers to ensure that there is sufficient appropriate capacity to deliver the work necessary. I have continued to engage ICAEW to undertake quality reviews of accounts inspections and fed back the results to suppliers. I have also discharged my responsibilities to provide a certificate for each inspection confirming my satisfaction with the quality of the audit work undertaken. I intend to publish a transparency report summarising the quality results in due course.

40. **People**: the core of Audit Vannin's staffing provides significant public audit experience for both local public bodies and Government. My Affiliate Programme aims to supplement this resource with external expertise to deliver specific pieces of VFM work. The recruitment to this programme has been slower than I had anticipated based on experience in other jurisdictions. I am undertaking work to understand why this should be the case. In the meantime, the Assistant Auditors General have stepped in to take forward the delivery of work with knock-on impacts upon the policy development work with which I had tasked them. I have also decided to recruit a part-time member of staff to provide additional capacity to oversee the VFM inspection programme and the Affiliate Programme. This post will be funded within currently agreed resources. This recruitment will begin shortly and I will update the Public Accounts Committee on my progress. I am also seeking support from other sources.

41. **Business performance**: Audit Vannin's financial outturn for 2025/26 is significantly under budget (subject to audit). In-year spending was £380,924 against a budget of £555,086. This reflects the issues described above in the paragraph above on people risks.

42. **Stakeholders**: I have engaged with the Public Accounts Committee and Tynwald more generally throughout the year. Each body with my remit now has a named relationship manager who meets routinely with them to ensure that issues are identified and resolved as quickly as possible. I use the intelligence gathered through these interactions to inform my work.

Section 3: Accountability report

Introduction to the Accountability Report

43. The Accountability Report provides key information to Tynwald. It comprises the following elements:

- The **Corporate Governance Report** which describes Audit Vannin's governance structures and how they support the achievement of its objectives. It contains the TAG's Report, the Statement of Responsibilities of the TAG and the Governance Statement; and
- The **Remuneration and Staff Report** which provides unaudited information about the remuneration of the TAG and the TAAGs.

The Corporate Governance Report

The Tynwald Auditor General / Ard Scruteyder Tinvaal's report

44. I was appointed as the TAG/AST on 1 May 2023. I personally direct the activities of Audit Vannin with the support of the TAAGs/ASCTs.

45. Audit Vannin operates without a Board. These arrangements are appropriate to the scale of Audit Vannin's activities at present. I meet regularly with the Public Accounts Committee and liaise as appropriate with the Tynwald Management Committee and the Treasury. Under current legislation these two bodies must consent to decisions I make on contracting and appointing staff, although these arrangements impinge upon my independence they have granted a priori of wide-ranging consents. In addition, I am also required to engage with the Audit (Consultative) Committee established under section 18(1) of the Audit Act 2006. I reported in 2024 on these arrangements and other matters; and Tynwald has committed to revise the relevant public audit legislation. I made a recommendation in my 2025 report in connection to this matter, and I have made the same recommendation in this report.

Statement of Responsibilities of the Tynwald Auditor General / Ard Scruteyder Tinvaal's report

46. I am required by the 2011 Act (Schedule 1, paragraph 17) to keep accounts. I am not required at the moment to include inspected accounts in this annual report these will be laid in Tynwald as soon as possible after the completion of the inspection. I have recommended that the Annual Report and the Accounts should be subject to the same timetable to enhance transparency and accountability for my Office.

The Governance Statement

47. My responsibility as the TAG is to maintain effective governance and a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of Audit Vannin's policies, aims and objectives while safeguarding public funds and assets that Audit Vannin uses.

48. Considering the size of the Office I operate without a formal management team. I have allocated responsibilities for the day-to-day conduct of business to the two TAAGs and retain certain functions for myself. The conduct of the business is assisted by the Office Manager/Reireyder Offish.

49. As an officer of Tynwald and therefore outside of the government I am not bound to comply with policies and procedures issued by the Isle of Man Government. However, given the small size of Audit Vannin it is my intention to comply voluntarily with such policies and procedures as I consider reasonable and necessary to support a sound system of internal control and governance. This system includes:

    - preparing, communicating and implementing appropriate policies and procedures in areas such as complaints and information governance;
    - maintaining an overview of the risks Audit Vannin faces, implementing mitigations and monitoring their effectiveness;
    - to the extent appropriate to the circumstances of Audit Vannin, using the financial and other systems of the government of the Isle of Man;

- monitoring and forecasting expenditure against budget;
- seeking professional advice from the Isle of Man Government were necessary and appropriate, including from the Attorney General, the Treasury and other departments;
- maintaining a gifts and hospitality register and in due course a contracts register; and
- reviewing and reporting on the performance of appointed auditors and assurance reviewers.

Remuneration and staff report (unaudited)

50. As set out in Exhibit 2, in the 2025/26 financial year three senior staff were in post.

Exhibit 2: Remuneration of senior staff

	2025/26 Basic pay	2024/25 Basic pay	2023/24 Basic pay
Tynwald Auditor General / Ard Scrudeyter Tinvaal	£130,103	£126,314	£111,335
Tynwald Assistant Auditor General / Ard Scrudeyter Coonee Tinvaal*	£81,885	£35,476	-
Total	**£211,988**	**£161,790**	**£111,335**

* The first Assistant Auditor General took up his post on 22 October 2024 and works part-time equivalent to 0.5 FTE. The second Assistant Auditor General took up his post on a part-time secondment from the UK's National Audit Office on 1 April 2025. He works the equivalent of 0.33 FTE. The TAAG figures for 2025/26 include the total invoiced cost of that secondment.

51. Neither the TAG nor any employees of Audit Vannin received bonuses, non-cash benefits or pension benefits in 2024/25. The remuneration of the TAG was determined by Tynwald ahead of his appointment.

Stephen Warren

Tynwald Auditor General / Ard Scruyteyder Tinvaal

2 July 2026

Appendix 1: Prescribed Persons (Duty to Report) Regulations 2025 – Office of the Tynwald Auditor General (Audit Vannin) Annual Report

Reporting period: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

1. This report is published in accordance with the Prescribed Persons (Duty to Report) Regulations 2025 and published as part of my Annual Report to Tynwald.

Section 1. Organisational overview

2. Tynwald established the Office of Tynwald Auditor General / Ard Scruyteyder Tinvaal (TAG) in the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011. This Act, combined with the Audit Act 2006, creates the statutory framework under which I carry out my functions.
3. I am an officer of Tynwald and am therefore independent of the Isle of Man Government. I am not a civil servant and I exist to serve Tynwald first and foremost.
4. My general functions are to:
    - carry out value for money inspections;
    - consider matters referred to me by members of the public, Tynwald or members of Tynwald;
    - appoint auditors and assurance reviewers under the Audit Act 2006;
    - consult with and support the Tynwald Public Accounts Committee (PAC); and
    - identify matters that may be appropriate for investigation by the Tynwald PAC.
5. I am supported by two Assistant Auditors General/Ard Scrudeyter Coonee Tinvaal (AAG) by an Office Manager/Reireyder Offish. The Office operates under the name Audit Vannin.

Section 2. Prescribed Functions

6. My role as a prescribed person arises from my designation under the Employment Act 2006 as an appropriate external body to receive whistleblowing disclosures as detailed in the Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Order 2025. The Public Interest Disclosure arrangements provide protections for certain persons making disclosures. I consider such disclosures under my powers in the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011 having regard to factors such as:

- the proper conduct of public business;
- value for money; and
- fraud and corruption.

7. In assessing any disclosures made to me I also consider whether there are other individuals or agencies that are better placed to take forward action in relation to the concerns raised.

Section 3. Disclosure data and action taken

8. During the reporting period I received one disclosure that was reasonably believed to be a protected disclosure.

Category	Number
Disclosures received that were reasonably believed to be protected disclosures	1
Disclosures where further action was taken	1
Disclosures received that were outside of the prescribed remit	0

9. In relation to this disclosure, I undertook some initial work in relation to the concerns raised before deciding whether to undertake an investigation under Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act (the Act). Following that initial work, I decided not to undertake an investigation into the specific concerns raised under Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011.

10. In accordance with Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011, I sent a statement of the reasons for the decision to the person making the request and to the Public Accounts Committee.

11. However, my initial enquiries highlighted potential issues that warranted further investigation in the public interest. Having carefully considered whether to undertake further enquiries, my view was that Audit Vannin was not the most appropriate body to undertake a more detailed investigation in this area. I therefore passed these potential issues to the Audit Assurance

Division of the Treasury as, in my view, given its capacity, experience and expertise, it was better placed to undertake a more detailed investigation into these potential issues.

12. During the reporting period I also received one disclosure that was not reasonably believed to be a protected disclosure.

Category	Number
Disclosures received that were not reasonably believed to be protected disclosures	1

13. In relation to this disclosure, I undertook some initial work in relation to the concerns raised before deciding whether it met the definition of a qualifying disclosure under Section 50 of Part IV of the Employment Act 2006. Section 50 defines a qualifying disclosure as any disclosure of information which the worker making the disclosure reasonably believes ought to be disclosed in the public interest and has the tendency to show one or more of the following:

    (a) that a criminal offence has been committed, is being committed or is likely to be committed;
    (b) that a person has failed, is failing or is likely to fail to comply with any legal obligation to which he or she is subject;
    (c) that a miscarriage of justice has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur;
    (d) that the health or safety of any individual has been, is being or is likely to be endangered;
    (e) that the environment has been, is being or is likely to be damaged; or
    (f) that information tending to show any matter falling within any one of the preceding paragraphs has been or is likely to be deliberately concealed.

14. Having completed my initial enquiries, my view was that the disclosure did not exhibit one or more of the six characteristics set out in Section 50 of the Employment Act 2006.

15. However, the disclosure highlighted potential weaknesses in governance arrangements in a Government Department that warranted further investigation under Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act (the Act). I am therefore considering whether to undertake a review into

the issues highlighted by the disclosure under Section 10 of the Act as part of my future programme of work.

Section 4. Learning from disclosures

15. Audit Vannin is a small organisation with only four part-time staff in post, equivalent to less than two FTE employees.

16. The disclosure led to a relatively significant amount of senior management time spent in undertaking initial enquiries to determine whether to undertake an investigation under Section 10 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act (the Act).

17. Furthermore, as a result of the disclosure, Audit Vannin has also had to put in place record keeping arrangements for dealing with potential protected disclosures, which were not necessary before I was named as a prescribed person in the Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Order 2024.

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