



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by MR HANSON

Ref: Annual Report, Education Directorate, Scrutiny - Auditor-General Reports

In relation to: Scrutiny – Auditor-General Reports (AR pp62-29)

1. Tables 14, 15, 18, 19, 21 and 22 all noted Attorney-General recommendations:
 - to rectify auditing of salary reports to reduce risk of erroneous or fraudulent salary payments not being detected; and
 - to rectify the longstanding lack of capability of computer systems to generate audit logs and thus protect confidential information.

The New School Administration System is "expected to be operational in late 2021" (p 64). What is its status? Have the issues above identified by the Auditor-General been addressed?

2. AR p 66. Rec 5 b): Asset management information system ("SPM Assets"):
 - a) How long has the SPM Assets Data Manager position been filled?
 - b) How many schools have now uploaded their building condition assessments into SPM Assets?

MS BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. In Relation to Scrutiny Attorney-General Reports

- Salary Reports: This finding has been addressed and will be verified by the ACT Auditor-General as part of 2021-22 financial audits. All ACT Public Schools went live to approve SSEM Online Pay Reports from Monday 17th May 2021. This process will further strengthen the financial governance in terms of reviewing the pay reports on a timely basis as well as actioning the issues arising from this process.
- Generating Audit Logs: The School Administration System was operational in 2018, audit logs have always been part of the system. The Finance Module was the final component, which is where the audit finding came from. The Finance Module was onboarded to all ACT Public Schools in May 2021. The Auditor-Generals office has been notified and is arranging an ICT specialist to review the logs available from the School Administration System. This is expected to occur before June 2022.

2. Asset Management Information system

- The SPM Asset Systems Manager role was filled in April 2021 and all schools have some level of condition assessment data loaded into the system. The system continues to be developed with additional information being added and existing data being updated.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date:

04/05/22

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Ms Yvette Berry