

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the 2012-13 Accounts of the Youth Justice Board

Introduction

1. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is an executive NDPB set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and sponsored by the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry). The YJB has two principal roles: the commissioning of secure accommodation for young offenders and the supervision of Local Authority led Youth Offending Teams.
2. This report explains the basis for the qualification of my opinion on regularity on the YJB's 2012-13 financial statements.

Qualification of my regularity opinion

3. As disclosed in the Remuneration Report, benefit in kind payments made by the YJB to the Deputy Chief Executive, Secure Accommodation have not been retrospectively authorised by the Ministry. These payments, principally for travel from home to work, do not conform with the authorities which govern them. I have therefore qualified my opinion on regularity.

Action taken by the YJB

4. As outlined in the Governance Statement, YJB Board members and the newly appointed Accounting Officer recognise that there has been a lack of oversight, scrutiny and transparency of senior management remuneration. This lack of oversight led to several issues including the irregular payments outlined above. YJB is undertaking a review of governance arrangements for senior staff remuneration and has an action plan to address the weaknesses in internal controls related to the issues arising. The Ministry of Justice, as sponsor department, has requested additional actions to further improve governance, accountability and capability at YJB.
5. I will review the outcome of these actions as part of my audit of the YJB's 2013-14 financial statements.

Amyas C E Morse
Comptroller and Auditor General

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