



**ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT**  
**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING**  
**30 NATIONAL HEROES CIRCLE, KINGSTON 4**

ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE  
TO THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL  
AND NOT TO ANY OFFICER BY NAME AND THE  
FOLLOWING REFERENCE NUMBER QUOTED

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January 21, 2022

Karl Graham  
Researcher  
Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal  
7 Lady Musgrave Road,  
Kingston 5,  
Jamaica

**Re: ATI Request: Overpayment of pension to dependents**

With reference to the above captioned and the Auditor General's Department Annual Report for the 2019/ 2020 Financial which reported that:

“The process of checking to ensure that pensioners are alive before continuing disbursing pension payments and removing deceased pensioners from the payroll remains ineffective.” In particular, the AuGD noted that, “pension files and payroll system were not updated to ensure accuracy in the pension administration process. For example, in some instances, it took up to 33 months to remove pensioners from the payroll. The failure to update the files and payroll system may result in irregularities and loss of public funds. This risk manifested when AcGD overpaid 23 dependents a total of \$4.1 million because it failed to identify dependents over eighteen years, or where extensions granted by the MOFPS had expired for those in school. To date, the overpaid amounts have not been recovered.”

The Accountant General takes this opportunity to formally respond and provide documentation to the Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal (JAMP) substantiate the following:

**How much of the overpaid amounts have been recovered.**

The sum of \$4.1M has since been reduced to approximately \$3.644M pursuant to further research which showed that approval was granted for the continuation of payments to these select dependents over 18 years based on their enrolment in higher education. To date, \$63,458.27 of the \$3.64M has been recovered from several dependents. Efforts to recover overpaid amounts are ongoing. The new pension payment system that is currently being procured will reduce the risk of overpayment going forward.

**The improvements in the system of updating records to reduce/prevent recurrences.**

The AGD continues to execute improvement initiatives Department wide which includes strengthening the control environment and general security and integrity of the pensions administration process. These initiatives include:

- Recruitment of four (4) Control Officers within the Pensions Unit.
  - ✓ **Improve monitoring**
  - ✓ **Strengthening of the control environment**
  
- Reviewed and updated communique to dependents requesting status letters bi-annually.
  
- Reviewed and updated Pension Letters with added clause issued to Dependents from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, informing them of the mandatory request to submit bi-annual status letters for continuation of pension payments.
  
- Effective April 2021 all dependents enrolled in tertiary institution were migrated to another payroll head to further increase the monitoring of these payees.

Please see attached documentation to substantiate responses to the ATI requests herein.

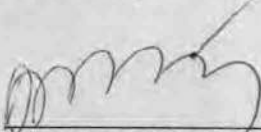
For clarification on this matter or any other related matter, you may contact:

Ms. Kelsea Chamber  
Actg. Director, Communication and Customer Relations  
Email: [kelsea.chamber@treasury.gov.jm](mailto:kelsea.chamber@treasury.gov.jm)  
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We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



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Anya Jones (Mrs.)  
Accountant General