



June 25, 2026

Miss Jeanette A. Calder
Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal
7 Lady Musgrave
Kingston 6

RE: Access to Information Act – Request for Information
Ref. No.: ATI/027/04/26

Dear Miss Calder:

Please see document attached in response to your request dated April 25, 2026, regarding:

- **Measures implemented to ensure strict compliance with approved ceilings, preventing a recurrence of expenditure overruns in breach of the Appropriation Law.**
- **The status of the approval from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service to use surplus Appropriations in Aid to offset the excess expenditure.**

We await your response to indicate if information provided satisfies your request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S Williams'.

Susan Williams (Ms.)
Librarian
Research and Publications Department

JAMAICA INFORMATION SERVICE

P.O. Box 2222, 58A Half-Way Tree Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica W.I.

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JIS REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH AUDITOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Requested by the Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal

Background

The 2024 (December) Auditor General's Report noted that, contrary to instructions requiring adherence to approved budget ceilings, the Accounting Officer exceeded the approved budget ceiling by \$70.4 million during the 2021/2022 financial year. The Report further indicated that this matter had also been raised in the previous Annual Report and emphasized the need for strict compliance with the Appropriation Law and related instructions.

Management acknowledged the recommendation and advised of its intention to seek approval from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) to utilize surplus Appropriations in Aid to offset the expenditure incurred above the approved budget ceiling.

In response, the Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal is requesting supporting documentation regarding:

- 1. Measures implemented to ensure strict compliance with approved budget ceilings and prevent recurrence of expenditure overruns in breach of the Appropriation Law.*
- 2. The status of approval from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service to use surplus Appropriations in Aid to offset the excess expenditure.*

Response by Jamaica Information Service to Request for Information

1. Measures Implemented to Ensure Compliance with Approved Budget Ceilings

The Management of the Jamaica Information Service continues to strengthen accountability systems to prevent recurrence of expenditure overruns. Existing measures have been reinforced to support financial oversight and ensure compliance with approved budget ceilings.

These measures include:

- 1. Strengthening Internal Controls:** JIS has enhanced our internal monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure stricter adherence to AIA ceilings and to trigger earlier alerts for projected expenditures exceeding approved levels.
- 2. Periodic Compliance Reviews:** The Finance Department now conducts scheduled reviews to ensure alignment of revenue inflows, expenditure patterns, and AIA limits.
- 3. Improved Approval Protocols:** Any potential adjustment to AIA requirements will now be escalated promptly to senior management for timely engagement with the MFPS.

4. **Guidance and reminders from executive leadership to managers:** Meeting hosted by executive leadership with managers to reiterate the requirement for financial prudence and vigilance in adhering to verification processes and approvals.
5. Continued provision of Monthly Income and Expenditure Statement: This statement, which is to be used as a guidance tool, provides information on the revenue earned by the Production Departments, expenditures made by them, and the balance remaining on their respective the annual budget allocation.

2. The status of approval from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service to use surplus Appropriations in Aid to offset the excess expenditure.

1. The Management of the Jamaica Information Service wrote to the Ministry of Finance (letter dated Jan 8, 2025) seeking approval to utilise surplus Appropriations in Aid to offset the excess expenditure incurred during the 2021/2022 financial year that was made to facilitate the acquisition of equipment critical to the operation of the Agency.
2. The Ministry of Finance responded to the Jamaica Information Service outlining remedial measures.
3. The Management of the Jamaica Information Service again wrote to the Ministry of Finance (letter dated Jan 20, 2026) outlining the need for the intervention to close the shortfall required to ensure the Agency's efficient operations. The letter sought the Ministry's authorisation to exceed the approved budgetary allocations for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 in order to facilitate infrastructure and equipment upgrades, utilising GCT refunded to the Agency. This need emerged following the non-provision of an allocation for capital expenditure for three consecutive years (2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025-26) and the absence of such allocation in the current 2025/26 Estimates of Expenditure.

Please find attached the following supporting documentation:

1. Letter from Jamaica Information Service to the Ministry of Finance dated January 8, 2025
2. Letter to Jamaica Information Service from the Ministry of Finance dated January 30, 2025
3. Letter to from Jamaica Information Service to the Ministry of Finance dated January 30, 2026
4. Minutes of Jamaica Information Service Executive Management held April 28, 2025 (redacted), which shows the Acting CEO's guidance to managers.

JIS Management Team

Meeting Agenda & Report

Meeting Name:	Managers' Meeting		
Date of Meeting:	April 28, 2025	Location:	Zoom
Time of Meeting	10:00 a.m.	Duration	4 hours
Agenda Prepared By:	P. Cunningham-Campbell	Recording Team Member(s)	P. Cunningham-Campbell

Purpose & Objective(s) of meeting

The **purpose** of this Management meeting is to review the performance of March 2025 to assess the extent to which targets are being met and to clear bottlenecks where there are difficulties.

The **Objectives** of this meeting are to:

1. Review Monthly Reports for March 2025
2. Have Managers share successes and areas where they may need Leadership assistance.
3. Strategise to accelerate performance where there are slow areas.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & Prayer • Purpose and Objectives • Opening Remarks • Review of Minutes dd. March 24, 2025 • Update on Action Items • Manager's Report 	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p style="text-align: right;">CEO (Acting)</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"></div>

JIS Management Team

3.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Budget Constraints and Resource Management

The Acting CEO addressed ongoing financial constraints, noting that the agency continued to operate without a Capital Budget for the fourth consecutive year. As a result, any necessary purchases would need to be funded through Appropriations-In-Aid (AIA), subject to approval from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. She also emphasised that the JIS had limited resources but vast needs and therefore had to manage its finances with care and discipline.

To strengthen oversight, she said that the leadership team had committed to improved monitoring of internal processes, particularly in areas identified as vulnerable. The Acting CEO urged managers to “dot the I’s and cross the T’s” as the Agency moved into the new financial year (2025–2026), emphasising the importance of sound financial stewardship.

[REDACTED]



January 30, 2026

Mrs. Lorris Jarrett, CD, JP
Deputy Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance & the Public Service
30 National Heroes Circle
Kingston 4

Dear Mrs. Jarrett,

Re: Request for Approval of Over-Expenditure – Financial Years 2025-2026 & 2026-2027

This letter supersedes the previously submitted letters dated January 23, 2026.

This serves to advise that the **Jamaica Information Service (JIS)** has not received recurrent capital expenditure allocations in the Estimates of Expenditure for more than three consecutive years (2023/24, 2024/25 & 2025-26). Based on the recent budget exercise for 2026-2027, there is no such allocation in the forecast.

Therefore, to facilitate necessary infrastructure and equipment upgrades that will become due in 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, approval is being sought from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service to exceed the approved budgetary allocations for 2025-2026 and 2026-27, by using a portion of the GCT refunds from the Tax Administration Jamaica, which were received during FY 2025-26.

For fiscal year 2025-2026, the additional expenditure will be used to procure equipment upgrades and other goods and services critical to the Agency's core activities as well as for the engagement of professional services to comply fully with the Data Protection Act, 2020 exceeding the approved 2025-2026 budget by about **Ninety-eight Million, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$98,600,000)**.

These expenditures will exceed the approved 2026-2027 budget by **One Hundred and Seventy-six Million Four Hundred Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-eight Dollars (\$176,400,228)**. The 2026-2027 ceiling of **One Billion Five Hundred Forty-nine Million Five Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,549.555B)** represents a shortfall of \$176.400 million compared to the \$1,725.955 billion required to ensure the Agency's efficient and effective operations.



The total expenditures from the GCT Refunds for 2025-26 and 2026-27 will be **Two Hundred Seventy-five Million Two Hundred and Twenty-eight Dollars (\$275,000,228)**.

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January 30, 2026

Mrs. Lorris Jarrett, CD, JP
Deputy Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance & the Public Service

The Agency would have received **GCT Refunds for 2018-2023** from **Tax Administration Jamaica** during FY 2025-26 and is seeking permission to use these resources to fund 2025-26 and 2026-27 expenditures, in the absence of Capital Budget allocations for both years. Therefore, approval is being sought from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service to exceed the 2025-26 and 2026-27 budgetary allocations by using a portion of the GCT refunds.

The Agency is also requesting approval to retain the balance of the refunds to facilitate operational expenses to be incurred in 2026-27 for the execution of a public information strategy that is now being developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth & Information. Additional approvals will be sought from your office when the project is ready for implementation.

Attached for your review are the statement of the inflows from Tax Administration Jamaica, evidence of bank deposits, and the procurement plan outlining the purchases to be made in 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

The Agency looks forward to your kind consideration and approval of this request.

Yours sincerely,
JAMAICA INFORMATION SERVICE


Celia Lindsay (Miss)
Chief Executive Officer (Acting)

Attchs.

Copy: Mrs. Marcia Faulknor, Director, Social Infrastructure Unit, Public Expenditure Division –
Ministry of Finance & the Public Service
Mr. Errol Gardner, Director, Corporate Services – Jamaica Information Service
Miss Andrea Reid, Manager, Finance Department – Jamaica Information Service



ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE **FINANCIAL SECRETARY** AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE NUMBER QUOTED: -
907/074 2024-2025
Telephone No. 92-28600-16
Website <http://www.mof.gov.jm>
Email: info@mof.gov.jm

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE
30 NATIONAL HEROES CIRCLE
P.O. BOX 512
KINGSTON
JAMAICA

February 17, 2025

Miss Celia Lindsay
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Jamaica Information Service
58 A Half Way Tree Road
Kingston 10

Dear Miss Lindsay:

Re: Request for Approval of Over - Expenditure - Financial Year 2022 - 2023

Reference is made to your correspondence dated, January 8, 2025, in relation to the captioned matter.

It is noted that during Financial Year 2022-2023 the Agency acquired equipment which resulted in the budgetary allocation for the year being exceeded by **Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Dollars (17,997,436.00)**.

Your attention is drawn to **Sections 3.6.(i) and 5.7.1.(i) and (ii)** of the Financial Administration and Audit Act (Financial Instructions), for guidance.

Please note that adjustments made to the Approved Budget in Financial Year 2022/23, that were not incorporated into the Supplementary Estimates of the said year, are to be submitted for inclusion in the Final Supplementary Estimates 2022/2023, when the Call is made by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

The delay in responding is regretted.

Regards,

Lorriss Jarrett, CD, JP (Mrs.)
for Financial Secretary



2025, January 8

Mrs. Lorris Jarrett, JP
Deputy Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance & the Public Service
30 National Heroes Circle
Kingston 4

Attention: Ms. Marcia Faulknor

Dear Ms. Faulknor,

Re: Request for Approval of Over-Expenditure – Financial Year 2022-2023

During the Financial Year 2022-2023, our request for recurrent Capital Expenditure was not approved.

However, the acquisition of critical equipment became essential for the effective functioning of the Agency. As a result, expenditures exceeded the approved budget by Seventeen Million Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Dollars (\$17,997,436). These purchases were facilitated through the collection of receivables.

We are therefore seeking the approval of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service for this over-expenditure for the referenced Financial Year.

We look forward to your kind consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

JAMAICA INFORMATION SERVICE


Celia Lindsay (Miss)
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



C: Mrs. Norma McIntosh-Martell, Budget Officer – Ministry of Finance & the Public Service
Mr. Glenford West, Manager, Finance Department – Jamaica Information Service

/pcc

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