



Auditors Oversight Authority

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Annual Report
for the
Year Ended 31 December 2019

**Auditors Oversight Authority
Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2019**

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Managing Director's Report 2019

Donald Cockburn has retired as the Managing Director of the Auditors Oversight Authority (AOA) and, effective 1 October 2019, I assumed the role of acting Managing Director. I have been a Director of the AOA since 2012. Whilst acting in an executive capacity with the Authority, my role as a voting director and Deputy Chairman has been suspended. I expect to continue as acting Managing Director until the future of the AOA becomes clearer at which time the AOA can recruit a suitably qualified person to take over from me.

The AOA did not conduct any inspections in 2019. There were no matters brought forward from inspections in previous years that required any action by the AOA.

When the AOA was formed, one of its principal strategic aims was to be recognized as “equivalent” by the European Commission (EC) as a “third country” regulator. Prior to his retirement, Donald Cockburn invested a significant effort in the EC equivalency assessment process. As explained in more detail in the annual board report, the EC decided not to grant equivalency and not to extend the transitional status of the AOA.

Arguably, the strategic importance of having equivalency has waned whilst developments around the world have suggested that other strategic objectives should be given more thought. Recognizing this, the AOA has been reconsidering and debating its remit for some time. In this context, on behalf of the AOA, I participated in various meetings with the Cayman Islands Institute of Professional Accountants (CIIPA) and Government to discuss the future role of the AOA in the oversight of the audit profession in the Cayman Islands. Those meetings resulted in the establishment of a working group on which I represent the AOA. See the annual board report for more details.

The AOA continues to be a member of the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR) and Donald Cockburn represented the AOA at the IFIAR annual Plenary Meeting in Greece in April/May 2019.

Paul Anderton FCA
Acting Managing Director
5 March 2020



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Annual Board Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

Significant matters relating to AOA activities in the year ended 31 December 2019 were as follows:

Registration and Inspection activities: One firm withdrew from the Register of Recognized Auditors and one was added; there were two firms on the Register at 31 December 2019.

No inspections were performed in 2019 and there were no matters arising from inspections in previous years which required further action by the AOA in 2019.

EU equivalency: The AOA had previously applied to the relevant body within the European Commission (EC) for equivalency status. An EC decision dated 25 July 2016 extended our transitional status pending the collection by the EU of additional information from us. During 2018 and 2019 we complied with EC requests to provide specified information to allow them to update their assessment. In June 2019, the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (also known as DG-FISMA) advised the AOA that equivalency status would not be granted and that there would be no extension of the transitional period. The reasons given included:

- Low economic relevance and impact of such a decision on Member States;
- The absence of bilateral agreements already signed by Member States with the Cayman Islands and the possibility that Member States could assess equivalence at a national level.

The AOA remains committed to co-operating with independent audit regulators in EU member states in accordance with its remit as set out in the Auditors Oversight Law.

Future of the AOA: We continued our assessment of the desirability of expanding the scope of our activities and broadened the process to include a more in depth review of the future role of the AOA in the oversight of the audit profession in the Cayman Islands. Consultations were held with the Cayman Islands Institute of Professional Accountants (CIIPA) and Government. The AOA and CIIPA have set up a working group to consider the future of the AOA; it met twice in the fall of 2019 and further meetings are planned for early 2020 with wider participation from stakeholders. We anticipate that the working group will be finalizing deliberations and produce a formal strategy paper by mid-2020.

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The International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR): The Managing Director, on behalf of AOA, attended at the IFIAR annual Plenary Meeting held in Greece in April/May 2019.

Retirement of the Managing Director: Donald Cockburn retired as the Managing Director of the AOA and, effective 1 October 2019, Paul Anderton assumed the role of acting Managing Director, relinquishing his role as a voting director and Deputy Chairman.

Manager: Administration & Finance: In January 2019 the Authority hired an administration and finance manager whose duties will include assisting the Board in complying with relevant existing legislation (such as The Public Authorities Law) and more recent legislation (such as the Data Protection Law).

5 March 2020

Auditors Oversight Authority

Board of Directors

Board Composition

The AOA Board comprises:

- The AOA's Managing Director (ex officio)
- The Auditor General of the Cayman Islands
- The Financial Secretary of the Cayman Islands
- 3 directors appointed by the Cayman Islands Government, to be retired public accountants and one of whom is not resident in the Cayman Islands.

Board Members

Chairman: Michael Austin, MBE, FCA

Michael Austin is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, an Associate Member of The Chartered Institute of Taxation, a Member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, a Member of the Cayman Islands Society of Professional Accountants, a Member of the Cayman Islands Institute of Directors, and a Notary Public of the Cayman Islands.

He served as the Managing Partner of the Cayman Islands office of KPMG Peat Marwick for 23 years. Since retiring in July 1992, Mr. Austin has been a consultant and currently serves as Non-Executive Director on several company boards, including those of a number of structured investment vehicles, mutual funds, trust and insurance companies. He served as a Director of the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority from January 1997 and was appointed Chairman of the Board in January 2003, a position he held until his retirement on 31 July 2004. He has also served on a variety of other Government committees and Government related boards, including the Cayman Islands Agricultural and Industrial Development Board, as Chairman; the Stock Exchange Committee; and the Government/Private Sector Consultative Committee. In 1990 Mr. Austin was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen in recognition of services to the public and business community.

Acting Managing Director: Paul Anderton, BA (Hons), FCA

Paul Anderton is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. He had a career with Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Cayman from 1983 to June 2010, serving as audit engagement leader for a wide variety of clients in the financial services industry (including banks, trust companies, hedge funds, special purpose vehicles, captive insurance and reinsurance companies) as well as several non-financial services entities. He was the firm's Assurance Services leader and Risk Management Partner and is a past president of Cayman Islands Society of Professional Accountants.

Mr. Anderton served as the Authority's Deputy Chairman through 30 September 2019; he assumed the responsibilities of Managing Director from 1 October 2019 when Mr. Don Cockburn, who had served as Managing Director since August 2013, retired from the role.

Director: Kenneth Jefferson, FCA, JP

Kenneth Jefferson was appointed Financial Secretary on 1 November 2004. As Financial Secretary, he is the chief policy advisor to the Premier and Minister of Finance and has overall responsibility for all aspects of the government's regulatory, fiscal and budget management operations.

Prior to joining the Civil Service, Mr. Jefferson worked in public accounting in both the Cayman Islands and London, England offices of Price Waterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) and Ernst & Young. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Director: Alister Mason, PhD, FCPA, FCA, FCMA

Alister Mason is a consultant in Toronto who has worked with the Ontario Securities Commission, the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) and the International Federation of Accountants. Previously, he was with Deloitte & Touche and its predecessor firms for over thirty years, which included periods as an audit partner in the Toronto Office and in the Canadian firm's National Office. He then served as Director of the School of Accounting and Finance at the University of Waterloo (the largest such School in Canada), followed by four years with the Canadian Public Accountability Board (Canada's independent audit regulator).

Mr. Mason has been active in professional bodies and the community. He is a Past President of the Canadian Academic Accounting Association. The CICA commissioned him to write comprehensive studies on *Related Party Transactions* and *Professional Judgment in Financial Reporting*; he has also written several other studies and dozens of articles. His doctoral dissertation, from the University of Lancaster in the UK, was published under the title *The Development of International Financial Reporting Standards*. Also, he has made presentations at a training conference of the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators.

Director: Sue Winspear, CPFA

Sue Winspear joined the board when she became Auditor General of the Cayman Islands in July 2016. Prior to that Sue was Executive Leader Local Services with the UK's National Audit Office from January 2014. Sue was a NAO executive board member and part of the senior leadership team and held specific responsibility for the NAO's work on local government, education and health as well as communications and external relations.

Between 2009 and 2014, Sue was a Senior Civil Servant being Director General Finance & Corporate Services latterly in the Department for Communities and Local Government and before that in the Department for Education / Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Prior to that, Sue had a long career in Local Government and held Board level roles at the London Borough of Sutton and Slough Borough Council where she held the statutory CFO

responsibilities amongst other responsibilities. Sue is a CIPFA qualified accountant and was serving as an elected member of CIPFA Council prior to leaving the UK for the Cayman Islands. Sue has held numerous honorary finance and audit roles over the years notably being elected the first female President of the Society of Municipal Treasurers in 2005/06.

All board members except Ms. Winspear were initially appointed with effect from 2 May 2012. Messrs. Austin, Anderton and Mason were re-appointed for a further three year term from 24 July 2018. Mr. Anderton served as the Authority's Deputy Chairman through 30 September 2019; he assumed the responsibilities of Managing Director from 1 October 2019 when Mr. Don Cockburn, who had served as Managing Director since August 2013, retired from the role.



Auditors Oversight Authority

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Audited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2019

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Auditors Oversight Authority
Statement of Responsibility for Financial Statements
31 December 2019

These financial statements have been prepared by the Auditors Oversight Authority in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Management and Finance Law (2018 Revision)*.

We accept responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the financial information in these financial statements and their compliance with the *Public Management and Finance Law (2018 Revision)*.

The Board of the Authority and the Managing Director are responsible for the preparation of the Auditors Oversight Authority financial statements and for the judgments made in them.

The Board of the Authority and the Managing Director are responsible for establishing, and have established and maintained a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that the transactions recorded in the financial statements are authorized by law, and properly record the financial transactions of the Auditors Oversight Authority.

The financial statements fairly present the financial position of the Auditors Oversight Authority as at 31 December 2019, and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in net worth for the year then ended.

To the best of our knowledge we represent that these financial statements:

- (a) completely and reliably reflect the financial transactions of the Auditors Oversight Authority for the year ended 31 December 2019;
- (b) fairly reflect the financial position as at 31 December 2019 and financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2019; and
- (c) comply with International Public Sector Accounting Standards as set out by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board under the auspices of the International Federation of Accountants.

The Office of the Auditor General conducts an independent audit and expresses an opinion on the accompanying financial statements. The Office of the Auditor General has been provided access to all the information necessary to conduct an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing.



Michael Austin MBE, FCA
Chairman
Date: 12 March 2020



Paul Anderton, FCA
Acting Managing Director
Date: 12 March 2020



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AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of the Audit Oversight Authority

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Audit Oversight Authority (the "Authority"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net worth and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out on pages 8 to 19.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 31 December 2019 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Authority in accordance with the International Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)*, together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the Cayman Islands, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT (continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I have undertaken the audit in accordance with the provisions of Section 61(a)(i) of the *Public Management and Finance Law (2018 Revision)* and Section 28(3) of the *Auditors Oversight Law (2017 Revision)*. I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.


Patrick Smith, CPA, CFE
Acting Auditor General

12 March 2020
Cayman Islands

AUDITORS OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION					
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019					
(Stated in Cayman Islands dollars)					
31 December 2018 Actual		Note	Current Year Actual	Current Year Final Budget	Variance (Actual vs Budget)
	Current Assets				
273,827	Cash and cash equivalents	3	289,825	89,600	200,225
103,131	Receivables	4	78,750	157,500	(78,750)
18,422	Prepayments & deposits		2,618	-	2,618
395,380	Total Current Assets		371,193	247,100	124,093
	Non-Current Assets				
-	Property, plant and equipment	5	2,924	5,100	(2,176)
-	Total Non-Current Assets		2,924	5,100	(2,176)
395,380	Total Assets		374,117	252,200	121,917
	Current Liabilities				
16,000	Other payables and accruals	6	11,843	18,400	(6,557)
16,000	Total Current Liabilities		11,843	18,400	(6,557)
16,000	Total Liabilities		11,843	18,400	(6,557)
379,380	Net Assets		362,274	233,800	128,474
	NET WORTH				
100,000	Contributed capital		100,000	100,000	-
279,380	Accumulated surplus		262,274	133,800	128,474
379,380	Total Net Worth		362,274	233,800	128,474
The accounting policies and notes on pages 8-19 form an integral part of these financial statements.					

AUDITORS OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE					
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019					
(Stated in Cayman Islands dollars)					
Year ended 31 December 2018		Note	Current Year Actual	Current Year Final Budget	Variance (Actual vs Budget)
	Revenue				
315,000	Government of the Cayman Islands	7	315,000	315,000	-
27,631	Fees	8	3,500	34,000	(30,500)
342,631	Total Revenue		318,500	349,000	(30,500)
	Expenses				
128,422	Personnel costs	9,12	132,877	162,700	(29,823)
108,000	Directors' fees	12	99,000	108,000	(9,000)
72,858	Other operating expenses	10	103,023	108,000	(4,977)
131	Depreciation	5	706	1,000	(294)
309,411	Total Expenses		335,606	379,700	(44,094)
33,220	Net surplus (deficit) for the year		(17,106)	(30,700)	13,594
The accounting policies and notes on pages 8-19 form an integral part of these financial statements.					

**AUDITORS OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET WORTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**
(Stated in Cayman Islands dollars)

Year ended 31 December 2018		Current Year				
		Contributed capital	Accumulated surplus	Total net worth	Final budget	Variance (Actual vs Budget)
346,160	Opening balance	100,000	279,380	379,380	264,500	114,880
33,220	Net surplus (deficit) for the year	-	(17,106)	(17,106)	(30,700)	13,594
-	Dividends	-	-	-	-	-
379,380	Closing balance	100,000	262,274	362,274	233,800	128,474

The accounting policies and notes on pages 8-19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

AUDITORS OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (Stated in Cayman Islands dollars)					
Year ended 31 December 2018		Note	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Variance (Actual vs Budget)
	CASH FLOWS FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
236,250	Government of the Cayman Islands		315,000	315,000	-
3,250	Fees		27,881	34,000	(6,119)
(102,000)	Directors' fees		(105,000)	(108,000)	3,000
(132,222)	Personnel costs		(128,091)	(162,700)	34,609
(70,468)	Operating expenses		(90,162)	(108,000)	17,838
(65,190)	Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	11	19,628	(29,700)	49,328
	CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
-	Purchase of property, plant and equipment		3,630	-	3,630
-	Net cash flows from investing activities		3,630	-	3,630
	CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
-	Equity Investment		-	-	-
-	Net cash flows from financing activities		-	-	-
(65,190)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		15,998	(29,700)	45,698
339,017	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		273,827	119,300	154,527
273,827	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		289,825	89,600	200,225
	The accounting policies and notes on pages 8-19 form an integral part of these financial statements.				

Auditors Oversight Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019
(Stated in Cayman Islands Dollars)

1. Establishment and principal activities

The Auditors Oversight Authority (the “Authority” or the “AOA”) was established as an independent entity by The Auditors Oversight Authority Law (the “Law”), and commenced operations on 1 May 2012 when the Law came into force. The Authority is responsible for the regulation and supervision of auditors who audit the accounts of market traded companies and designated and Authority specified companies (as defined by the Law) from or within the Cayman Islands, which auditors are required by the Law to be entered in a register maintained by the Authority (“Recognized Auditors”). The Authority subjects Recognized Auditors to its systems of oversight, quality assurance, investigation and penalties by, inter alia, monitoring compliance by Recognized Auditors with the Rules of the Authority.

For the financial year/period ended 31 December 2019 and 2018, materially all of the Authority’s funding was provided by the Cayman Islands Government. Whilst the Authority expects to derive increasing revenue from Recognized Auditors in future, it is likely that it will be dependent upon Government funding for the foreseeable future; the Board believes that it is the policy of the present Government to continue to provide such funding.

As at 31 December 2019, the Auditors Oversight Authority had one employee (31 December 2018: one). The Auditors Oversight Authority is located at Baytown Suites, 68 West Bay Road, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. Correspondence may be sent to P.O. Box 133, Grand Cayman KY1-9000, Cayman Islands.

2. Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (“IPSAS”) issued by the International Federation of Accountants and its International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board using the accrual basis of accounting.

Certain new accounting standards have been published that are not mandatory for the 31 December 2019 reporting period and have not been early adopted by the Authority. The Authority’s assessment of the impact of these new standards is set out below:

IPSAS 41, Financial Instruments was issued in August 2018 and shall be applied for financial statements covering periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022. IPSAS 41 establishes new requirements for classifying, recognizing and measuring financial instruments to replace those in *IPSAS 29, Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

Auditors Oversight Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019
(Stated in Cayman Islands Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

IPSAS 42, Social Benefits was issued in December 2018 and shall be applied for financial statements covering periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022. IPSAS 42 defines social benefits and determines when expenses and liabilities for social benefits are recognized and how they are measured.

It is anticipated that neither IPSAS 41 nor 42 will have an impact on the Authority's financial statements, but this will be assessed more fully closer to the effective date of adoption.

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and the accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented. The financial statements are presented in Cayman Islands dollars using the historical cost basis of accounting except as modified for the revaluation of financial instruments at fair value.

(b) Comparative amounts

The comparative amounts are the audited amounts for the year ended 31 December 2018.

(c) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with IPSAS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements as well as the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the year. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the reporting period and in any future periods that are affected by those revisions.

Auditors Oversight Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019
(Stated in Cayman Islands Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Budget amounts

The original budget amounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 were prepared using the accrual basis of accounting and the accounting policies have been consistently applied with the actual financial statement presentation. The amounts shown in these financial statements were included in the Budget Statement of the Government of the Cayman Islands for the year ended 31 December 2019 and were not revised after being passed by the Legislative Assembly on 17 November 2017.

(e) Foreign currency translation

Assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than Cayman Islands dollars are translated at exchange rates in effect at the financial statement date. Revenue and expense transactions denominated in currencies other than Cayman Islands dollars are translated at exchange rates at the date of those transactions. Gains and losses arising on translation are included in the statement of financial performance.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are considered as cash held on demand and fixed deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

(g) Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are recognized initially at fair value and are subsequently reviewed for impairment. When there is objective evidence that a debt will not be collected by the Authority according to the agreed terms, a provision for bad debt is established.

(h) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment is recorded at historical cost less accumulated depreciation. Items of property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost. When an asset is acquired for nil or nominal consideration, the asset is recognized initially at fair value, when fair value can be reliably determined, and as revenue in the statement of financial performance in the year in which the asset is acquired.

Auditors Oversight Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019
(Stated in Cayman Islands Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(h) Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Depreciation is expensed on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to allocate the cost or valuation of an item of property, plant and equipment (other than land); less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Leasehold improvements are depreciated either over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of improvements, whichever is shorter.

<u>Asset Type</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life</u>
Furniture	12 years
Office Equipment	5 years
Computer Equipment	3 years

(i) Liabilities for employee benefits

- i Annual leave entitlement: Annual leave due, but not taken, is recognized as a current liability at the current rates of pay.
- ii Pension obligations: Pension contributions are included in personnel costs in the statement of financial performance. The Authority makes contributions at the rate of 5% of eligible employees' salary to a third-party, multi-employer, defined contribution scheme. One employee was eligible for pension contributions in 2019 (2018: none).

(j) Revenue recognition

- i. Outputs to the Cabinet: Revenues are recognized when the outputs agreed in the Annual Plan and Estimates have been delivered.
- ii. Fees: Application and de-registration fees are recognized as earned when the related event is complete. Annual fees are recognized as earned over the period to which they relate.
Inspection fees are recognized as earned over the period of the related inspection.
- iii. Financial sanctions: Financial sanctions imposed on those overseen by the Authority are recognised as revenue on receipt.

Auditors Oversight Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019
(Stated in Cayman Islands Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(k) Expense recognition

Expenses are recognised when incurred.

(l) Financial Instruments

- i Classification: A financial asset is any asset that is cash, a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset, exchange financial instruments under conditions that are potentially favourable or an equity instrument of another enterprise. Financial assets are comprised of cash and cash equivalents and trade receivables.

A financial liability is any liability that is a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial instrument or to exchange financial instruments with another enterprise under conditions that are potentially unfavourable. Financial liabilities of the AOA are comprised of other payables and accruals.

- ii Recognition: The Authority recognizes financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
- iii Measurement: Financial instruments are measured initially at the fair value of the consideration given or received. Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and liabilities are recorded at fair value and any gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of financial performance in the period in which they arise. At 31 December 2019 and 2018 all financial assets and liabilities were carried at historical cost, which is considered to approximate fair value due to the short-term or immediate nature of these instruments.
- iv Derecognition: A financial asset is derecognized when the Authority realizes the rights to the benefits specified in the contract or loses control over any right that comprise that asset. A financial liability is derecognized when it is extinguished, that is when the obligation is discharged, cancelled or expired.

Auditors Oversight Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019
(Stated in Cayman Islands Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(m) Provisions and contingencies

Provisions are recognized when an obligation (legal or constructive) is incurred as a result of a past event and when it is probable that an outflow of assets embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Contingent liabilities are not recognized but are disclosed in the financial statements unless the possibility of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognized but are disclosed in the financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

(n) Subsequent events

Post year-end events that provide additional information about the Auditors Oversight Authority position at the statement of financial position date (adjusting events) are reflected in the financial statements. Post year-end events that are not adjusting events, if any, are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements when material.

(o) Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions

The Authority receives various services from other government entities for which payment is made by the Cayman Islands Government. These services may include administrative and support services from the Ministry of Financial Services and Home Affairs, the Computer Services Department and the Portfolio of the Civil Service. The Authority has designated these non-exchange transactions as services in-kind as defined under IPSAS 23- Revenue from non-exchange transactions. When the fair values of such services can be reliably estimated then the non-exchange transaction is recorded as an expense and an equal amount is recorded in other income as a service in-kind. When the service in-kind offered is directly related to construction or acquisition of property, plant and equipment, such service in-kind is recognized in the cost of the asset.

No amounts are recognized in these financial statements in respect of services in-kind as management are unable to estimate the fair value of the goods and services received from other core government entities due to the lack of accounting systems to track the costs of these transactions in accordance with IPSAS 23.

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3. Cash and cash equivalents

The Authority operates a chequing account with Royal Bank of Canada.

Description	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
CI\$ Operational Current Account held at Royal Bank of Canada – Cayman Islands	289,325	273,827
Petty cash	500	-
Total	\$289,825	\$273,827

4. Receivables

Description	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
Government of the Cayman Islands: 4 th quarter funding	78,750	78,750
Inspection costs & recoverable expenses	-	24,381
Total	\$78,750	\$103,131

5. Property, plant and equipment

	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
Cost:		
At start of year	1,581	11,279
Additions	3,630	-
Disposals	-	(9,698)
At end of year	5,211	1,581
Accumulated Depreciation:		
At start of year	1,581	5,019
Charge for the year	706	131
Accumulated depreciation on disposals	-	(3,569)
At end of year	2,287	1,581
Net book value:	\$2,924	\$-

Property, plant and equipment at 31 December 2019 and 2018 comprised computer equipment.

Disposals in 2018 related to office furniture taken over by Government when the Authority's office lease was terminated (see Note 10), for which no monies were recovered from Government.

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6. Other payables and accruals

Other payables & accruals	Current	Non-Current	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
Audit fees	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Director's fees	-	-	-	6,000
Other	1,843	-	1,843	-
Total	\$11,843	-	\$11,843	\$16,000

7. Outputs to the Legislative Assembly: Revenue

The Authority provides services to the Cabinet of the Cayman Islands Government under an agreement established in the Annual Plan and Estimates (the "Plan"). The Plan for the year ended 31 December 2019 established legal provisions for the AOA to provide a maximum of \$315,000 in services (2018: \$315,000). Each fiscal year's Ownership Agreement between the Authority and Government sets out the objectives that the Authority seeks to achieve.

Materially all of the objectives under the 2019 and 2018 Ownership Agreements were met and, accordingly, all revenue received and receivable from Government for the years ended 31 December 2019 and 2018 was recognized as earned in the respective years.

8. Fees

Description	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
Registration & withdrawal fees	1,500	250
Annual fees	2,000	3,000
Inspection fees	-	24,381
Total fee revenue	\$3,500	\$27,631

9. Personnel costs

Personnel costs comprise salaries, wages, health care costs, pension and other financial considerations associated with services provided by the employees of the Authority. The personnel costs incurred in the year ended 31 December 2019 related to the Managing Director (through 30 September 2019; see Note 10) and one other employee (2018: solely the Managing Director).

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9. Personnel costs (continued)

Description	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
Salary	115,776	110,000
Work permit fees	3,800	4,850
Medical insurance	11,637	13,572
Pension payments	1,664	-
Total personnel costs	\$132,877	\$128,422

In 2019, the Authority made pension contributions to a third-party, multi-employer, defined contribution scheme for one employee (2018: none) at the rate of 5% of their salary.

10. Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses include various goods and services provided to the Authority where otherwise not classified in the statement of financial performance.

Description	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
Inspection costs	-	20,881
IFIAR membership fees	12,972	14,083
Consulting fees	30,162	-
Travel and subsistence	26,449	17,321
Audit fees - Auditor General's Office	10,000	10,000
Office rent, cleaning & utilities	9,344	-
Purchase of services & legal fees	6,472	2,966
Other expenses	7,624	1,478
Write-off of office furniture (Note 5)	-	6,129
Total other operating expenses	\$103,023	\$72,858

Consulting fees comprise payments to the Authority's acting Managing Director who is fulfilling that role under a consultancy contract running from 1 October 2019 through 31 March 2020, renewal by mutual consent. The monthly rate is CI\$10,054; no other benefits are payable under the contract.

2018 inspection costs comprise fees and expenses paid to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is contracted to provide resources for the Authority's inspections, and related work permit fees, and those costs incurred by AOA staff in carrying out inspections. No inspections were performed in 2019.

From 26 April 2019, the Authority rented office space for a 3 year term; the monthly rent including allocated common area costs is approximately CI\$637.

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11. Reconciliation of surplus to net cash flows from operating activities

Description	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(17,106)	33,220
Depreciation charge	706	131
Write-off of office furniture (Note 5)	-	6,129
Decrease/(increase) in current assets	40,185	(105,670)
(Decrease)/increase in current liabilities:	(4,157)	1,000
Net cash flows from operating activities	\$19,628	\$(65,190)

12. Related Party and key management personnel disclosures

The Auditors Oversight Authority is a wholly owned entity of the Government of the Cayman Islands from which it derives a major source of its revenue. The Cayman Islands Financial Secretary and Auditor General are directors; neither is remunerated separately by the Authority.

The Office of the Auditor General receives an audit fee of \$10,000 for conducting the audit of the Authority's financial statements. The Auditor General has recused herself of the audit and the audit report is signed off by her Deputy who is delegated Acting Auditor General authority to carry out the function of the Auditor General in this circumstance.

Key management personnel remunerated by the AOA include the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Managing Director and an independent Board member. For the years ended 31 December 2019 and 2018 these individuals received the following considerations for their services:

Description	Actual 31 Dec. 2019	Actual 31 Dec. 2018
Salaries & other short-term employee benefits	94,137	123,572
Directors' fees	99,000	108,000
Total	\$193,137	\$231,572

Effective 1 October 2019, the Deputy Chairman ceased to be a voting, remunerated director and became the Authority's acting Managing Director (replacing the retiring Managing Director) under a consultancy contract (see Note 10).

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13. Budget variances

The budget variances can be explained by a combination of specific matters and differences in the timing of transactions as reflected in the budget and the actual transaction dates, viz:

Cash and cash equivalents/Receivables: the budget assumed that 2 quarterly installments (\$157,500) of the Government funding would be receivable at 31 December 2019; only 1 installment (\$78,750) was outstanding. The budget also assumed that the net expenses would have been higher (see comment below).

Property, plant & equipment: see Note 5. The write-off of office furniture in 2018 was not budgeted, nor was the acquisition of computer equipment (\$3,630) in 2019.

Other payables and accruals: timing differences and lower than budgeted expense levels.

Fees/Inspection costs: the budget envisaged an inspection in 2019 (budgeted fees \$34,000); none was undertaken as no registered firms were on cycle for an inspection.

Personnel costs: the Managing Director retired effective 30 September 2019; for the final quarter of 2019, the managing director role was carried out under a consulting contract and the cost (\$30,162) included in other operating expense and not personnel costs.

Directors' fees: the budget did not envisage that the Deputy Chairman would become the acting Managing Director and cease to be a remunerated director from 1 October 2019 (see Note 12).

Other operating expenses: unbudgeted costs of the acting Managing Director (see above) were \$30,162. Otherwise, costs were lower than budget because activity levels were generally lower than expected and no inspections were conducted in 2019. Actual legal costs (services not required) and rent (lower per month cost and only for part of the year) were all less than budgeted.

14. Financial risk management

Credit risk

At 31 December 2019, the Authority had CI\$289,325 (2018: CI\$273,827) in a current account at one financial institution in the Cayman Islands (see Note 3). As such, the AOA is exposed to credit related losses in the event of non-performance by the financial institution. However, given the high credit rating of this financial institution, the Authority does not anticipate any material losses as a result of this concentration.

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14. Financial risk management (continued)

Currency and interest risk

The Authority has no significant exposure to currency exchange loss risk or interest risk.

Liquidity risk

In meeting its liquidity requirements, the Authority closely monitors its forecast cash requirements with expected cash drawdowns from the Cabinet. All financial liabilities (creditors and payables) are normally settled in less than six months from the date of the financial statements.

15. Financial Instruments fair values

As at 31 December 2019 and 2018, the carrying amount of cash deposits, receivables and other payables approximated their fair value due to their short-term maturities.

Estimates of fair value are made at specific points in time, based on market conditions and information about the financial instrument. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgement and therefore cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions, economic conditions and other factors could cause significant changes in fair value estimates.

16. Compliance with The Public Authorities Law, 2017.

The Authority is required to comply with The Public Authorities Law, 2017, (the “PAL”). Amongst other matters, the PAL requires that where a public authority has surplus cash reserves for a period of more than ninety days, the surplus shall be paid to core government unless otherwise directed by Cabinet, after written consultation with the Board. The PAL also requires that a public authority pay dividends in accordance with the formulae established by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development (the “Ministry”) after written consultation with the Board, unless otherwise directed by Cabinet.

The Ministry has advised the Authority that it will not be required to pay a dividend out of its surplus as at 31 December 2019. Going forward, the Authority will be required to pay a dividend in accordance with Government’s policy for the payment of annual dividends by statutory authorities and Government companies unless the Authority agrees, in writing annually, with the Ministry that the Authority would be exempt from doing so under such policy.