

Application of COCF funding to maintain Jersey's position as a donor nation to the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) for 2024-26

1. Purpose of Report

To enable the Minister to approve the allocation of £275,000 from the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund (COCF) to the Law Officers' Department (LOD) head of expenditure to maintain Jersey's position as a donor nation for the next three years, 2024-2026 inclusive, to the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR).

2. Background

Jersey has been a donor nation to the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) for the last six years period 2018-2023, funded from the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund.

ICAR is a division of the Basel Institute on Governance dedicated to strengthening and supporting the capacities of developing and transition countries to recover stolen public assets. ICAR works through four main lines of intervention:

- Case advice and mentoring
- Capacity building training
- Legal and policy advice
- Global policy dialogue

ICAR, though small, is a multilateral organisation with a Board comprising representatives from a range of donor jurisdictions. Jersey's position as a donor nation on its board therefore contributes to achieving objectives in the Office of the Chief Executive Business Plan on ensuring Jersey has a high level of engagement with multilateral bodies. The objectives of the three-year funding are:

- to enable ICAR to continue its work in assisting the recovery of stolen public assets and deterring corruption;
- to enable Jersey to maintain its network of world-leading public asset-tracing contacts and to provide Jersey with a global platform to demonstrate its strength in fighting international financial crime and;
- to receive invitations and participate in international fora on anti-corruption, tackling financial crime, and asset recovery to enhance Jersey's international profile and good reputation.

This request is to maintain the funding of a total of £275,000 for the three years 2024 – 2026, to maintain Jersey's position as a donor nation to ICAR and to enable the work of ICAR to continue at its current level.

3. Recommendation

Based upon the advice of the Attorney General, the Minister is recommended to approve the allocation of up to £275,000 from the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund (COCF) to the LOD head of expenditure to maintain Jersey's position as a donor nation for the next three years, 2024-2026 inclusive, to the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR).

4. Reasons for Decision

Article 21 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 states that if, during a financial year, the Minister is satisfied that the income of a States funded body or area of operation is likely to exceed the estimate income for that income, the Minister may authorise the withdrawal of that excess amount from the Consolidated Fund during that year.

A case for funding from the COCF has been made by the department. The Attorney General has consented to the use of the Fund for this project in an email dated 20th January 2021.

5. Resource Implications

The COCF to decrease by £275,000 and the LOD head of expenditure to increase by an identical amount in 2024.

This does not change the total amount of expenditure proposed in the Government Plan 2024-2027.

Report author: Specialist – Special Project Assurance	Document date: 6th March 2024
Quality Assurance / Review: Group Director, Strategic Finance / Head of Financial Governance	File name and path: <i>L:\Treasury\Sections\Corporate Finance\Ministerial Decisions\DS, WR and SD\2024-xx - COCF funding for ICAR 2024-26</i>
MD sponsor: Treasurer of the States	