

SUMMARY

Summary of Report 23/2019, relating to the Castelldefels Health Agents Consortium, year 2017

Barcelona, 30 January 2020

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 23/2019, relating to the Castelldefels Health Agents Consortium (CASAP), financial year 2017, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, which was presented by the Chairman, Mr Jaume Amat, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 23 December 2019.

The limited scope audit included a review of how the budget cycle, procurement and staff salaries had been managed by the Consortium in year 2017.

CASAP is a public consortium set up in 2005 and owned by the Catalan Health Institute (ICS) and Castelldefels Town Council. In 2011 the Catalan Health Service (CatSalut) and CASAP signed a service delivery agreement (*concert*) for running primary healthcare services in the Castelldefels area. CASAP provides healthcare services in the Can Bou Primary Healthcare Centre (CAP) and in the El Castell Primary Emergency Healthcare Centre (CUAP).

CASAP's budget outturn as at 31 December 2017 reported realised revenues of €5,195,810 and recognised expenditures of €5,022,267, with a budget surplus of €173,543.

The most significant findings arising from the audit carried out, presented in the Conclusions section of the report, can be summarised as follows:

- In April 2019, at the end of the fieldwork for this report, the Catalan Government still had pending the adaptation of CASAP's Statutes to the provisions of the Local Government Rationalisation and Sustainability Act (Act 27/2013, of 27 December).
- CASAP's budget outturn for year 2017 did not include under recognised revenues €47,988 of extraordinary revenues from CatSalut and from the delivery of services. Nor did it record €130,704 in its accounts as recognised expenditures arising from variable objectives-based pay for year 2016, or the salary increase for the year worth €26,042.

The failure to put these transactions on its books meant that CASAP reported as its budgetary result a surplus of €173,543, instead of a surplus of €64,785. With the adjust-

ments proposed by the Audit Office, the result in its financial accounts would be a loss of €234,131.

- CASAP delivered additional services at its premises which were not included in the list of procedures covered by the National Health System and also supplementary non-medical services, when no legal framework existed to allow for such services. According to the terms of the service delivery agreement with CatSalut, CASAP was not able to provide these services, or offer its premises to third parties for the delivery of supplementary services.
- As regards procurement, in two of the contracts reviewed certain anomalies were detected relating to the contracts' object or purpose, amounts, dates or contract types, which constituted a breach of procurement regulations. The audit therefore considered that an improper splitting-up of a contract had occurred.
- The comparison between the figure for contracts signed in year 2017 and the figure for actual procurement expenditures recorded in the same period showed that 25% of the amount analysed corresponded to contract overruns or expenditures with no contract.
- CASAP did not have an official Schedule of Staff Positions or an up-to-date list of personnel.
- As regards staff salaries, in 2018 CASAP paid its employees all of the variable objectives-based pay accrued in year 2017, totalling €113,055, without deducting from this figure 5% of wage payments made in year 2017, which the Audit Office estimated as totalling €128,900. It therefore did not apply the statutory provisions, with the status of basic legislation, of Royal Decree-Act 8/2010, of 20 May, which established extraordinary measures to reduce the public sector deficit.

Furthermore, since the operating result for year 2017 was a loss of €205,577, variable objectives-based pay could not be paid out.

The report includes four recommendations of a general nature which, in the Audit Office's opinion, would help to improve some of the issues described in the report.

This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at www.sindicatura.cat.