
SUMMARY

Summary of Report 18/2016, relating to Programme 211, Judicial Administration and the Prosecution Service, year 2012

Barcelona, 7 September 2016

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 18/2016, relating to Programme 211, Judicial Administration and the Prosecution Service (*Ministerio Fiscal*), year 2012, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, which was presented by Board Member Ms Emma Balseiro, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 19 July 2016.

The purpose of the audit was to analyse the Report on budgetary programme 211, Judicial Administration and the Prosecution Service, to check fulfilment of the strategic objective of optimising and efficiently reallocating human resources in Judicial Administration.

OE2.5, the strategic objective audited, was managed by the Secretariat for Relations with the Judiciary at the Catalan Government's Department of Justice. The assigned budget, of €249.71 m, corresponded to the entire budget group 1 expenditures for Programme 211, comprising personnel expenditures for judicial administrative staff in Catalonia and for staff at the Catalan Institute for Forensic Medicine.

The programme manager had specified two operational objectives in order to meet the audited strategic objective: to submit to Spain's Ministry of Justice the official Schedule of Staff Positions for Judicial Administration in line with the new organisation of the Judiciary and to optimise human resources by improving the size and suitability of the said Schedule of Staff Positions, with a 5% reduction in group 1 expenditures, through a review of variable pay items and the criteria for using temporary replacement staff, without reducing work-force numbers.

The most significant findings from the audit carried out can be found in section 3.1 of the report and can be summarised as follows:

- In terms of how the Report for programme 211 had been drawn up, the strategic objective was linked to operational objectives and indicators, as required by the Catalan Government's Planning and Strategic Budgeting Guide. As regards the programme's budget, the programme manager only included the personnel expenditures for judicial administrative staff, but not other directly related expenditures, such as staff at the Secretariat for Relations with the Judiciary.

- Regarding the fulfilment of operational objectives, in 2012 the Schedule of Staff Positions was only presented to the Ministry of Justice for the judicial areas of Girona and Olot; there were also improvements on the targeted levels of absenteeism and stand-in staffing, but it was not possible to evaluate the indicator relating to changes in judicial administrative staff numbers. Furthermore, the Department of Justice did not implement any arrangements to reduce personnel costs that took into account variable pay items or the criteria for using temporary replacement staff; the reduction in personnel expenditure in year 2012 was due to general measures instituted by Spain's central Government and the Catalan Government.
- The Audit Office was unable to evaluate the efficiency or economy of measures undertaken in relation to the strategic objective audited, due to the lack of information.
- As regards budget group 1 expenditures for Programme 211, the Audit Office found certain aspects relating to additional pay items which led it to consider them ultra vires.

In section 3.2, Recommendations, the Audit Office encourages the Department of Justice to improve programme budgeting by putting in place a system of analytical accounting and to review pay items for judicial administrative staff.

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