

Auditor General responds to Public Accounts

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Attachments: newsrelease_understates annual deficit.pdf (171.8 kB)

Good morning,

I wanted to flag something that I think is remote, but still a potential risk.

The government released and tabled public accounts yesterday. The AG also issued the attached release saying she has qualified the books, that the government has understated the deficit for the last fiscal year, and that the Legislature cannot rely on these accounts.

Given her statements, I was wondering about the risk of someone trying to raise a point of privilege that the government is misleading the Legislative Assembly.

Usually I would not worry about this with something like public accounts, but her statements that the government has understated the deficit, that the Legislature cannot rely on the figures, and that parts of the accounts did not follow proper standards, made me more nervous about someone saying this is not just an accounting issue, this is about intentionally misleading the Legislature and the public.

As I said, I think this is remote at best (the opposition might simply pursue this through questioning rather than through privilege) but I wanted to flag.

W