

Ministry Paper 62/2016⁷

Office of Utilities Regulation Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2017.

The attention of the Honourable House is invited to the 2016/2017 Annual Performance Report and the Audited Financial Statements of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) which are hereby presented in accordance with the requirements of Section 13 of the OUR Act.

The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) is charged, by the OUR Act, with the responsibility for regulating the provision of utility services in the areas of electricity, telecommunications and water and sewerage. The role of the OUR includes developing the framework which guides the setting of rates and service standards for the regulated sectors.

It is the opinion of BDO Jamaica, in its Independent Auditors' Report of 26th July 2016, that the OUR has kept proper accounting records and that the financial statements, as set out on pages 73 - 111 of the said report, provide the true and fair view of the financial position of the organization as at 31st March 2017.

During the year, on the recommendation of the OUR, the Minister of Science, Energy and Technology issued 9 new licences to the telecommunications sector. There were also 268 applications for standard offer contracts for net billing in the electricity sector. Of that number, 212 licences were issued and 57 systems were commissioned. The agency's focus for the water sector was mainly on delivery of potable water, integrated sewerage services, significantly reducing water loss and the continued expansion of services.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness

Prime Minister

26th September 2017