

Ministry Paper 67/2019

Office of Utilities Regulation Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2019.

The attention of the Honourable House is invited to the 2018/2019 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.

It is the opinion of BDO Jamaica, in its independent auditors' report, that proper accounting records were kept and the financial statements, which are in agreement therewith, gave the information required by the Office of Utilities Regulation Act, in the manner required.

The OUR remained vigilant with respect to the telecommunications/ICT sector to ensure fairness in competition, the reduction of entry barriers and greater transparency in the industry.

Developments in the electricity sector were linked to the objectives to lower cost to rate-payers, greater certainty of supplies and better quality of service. In its 2018 Jamaica Public Service (JPS) annual rate adjustment exercise, the OUR introduced the Accelerated Loss Reduction Mechanism (ALRM) to encourage the JPS to reduce losses through an increased pace of installation of smart meters.

The agency received the Tariff Application from the National Water Commission (NWC) in 2018 which proposed a 23% average increase in revenues for water charges, and 38% for sewerage.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness

Prime Minister

9th September 2019