

Sector Manager

Group: Central and Local Government

Reports to: Director, Local Government Sector

Date: July 2026

Salary range: Band I

The Controller and Auditor-General is a constitutional role designed to protect the financial integrity of New Zealand's system of government. We provide independent assurance to Parliament and the public that public organisations are operating and accounting for their performance as Parliament intended.

Purpose

Take responsibility for a portfolio of public organisations, maintain relationships with them, in partnership with audit delivery teams, and liaise with key stakeholders to influence improvements in the performance and accountability of public organisations.

Maintain an understanding of the challenges facing the public sector and how these are being addressed and work closely with other sector managers and appointed auditors to lead the Office's thinking about what work we do on these matters.

Contribute to and/or lead the development of Office products, such as select committee/Council briefings, sector reports, blogs, and performance audits.

Advise select committees/Councils to support effective scrutiny of the performance and operation of public entities.

General responsibilities and objectives

The main responsibilities of the Sector Manager are to:

- In partnership with the appointed auditor, manage the Office's relationship with governors, chief executives, and key managers of entities in their portfolio to support improved entity performance and public accountability.

- Maintain an awareness of the contextual environment that the sector manager's portfolio of entities are operating in (including policy matters) and the challenges they face, particularly any risk to performance.
- With other relevant staff, provide timely advice and assistance to the Senior Leadership Team about the operating environment and challenges entities face, to support the Office's strategic direction and work programme.
- Be familiar with the Office's suite of good practice guidance and actively communicate this guidance to entities. This will include providing or co-ordinating advice on governance, performance, accountability, and reporting, as well as participating in working groups to improve performance.
- Provide and present written and oral advice to select committees of Parliament with annual reviews, examination of the Estimates of Appropriations for entities, and other briefings in their portfolio. This includes providing letters to Ministers on the results of the annual audits. For Local Government, this advice is directed to Councils, audit and risk committees, and in support of Long-Term planning and annual audits in the sector.
- Provide presentations to relevant conferences and events to communicate the Office's key messages, and, as appropriate, be the media spokesperson for work they lead in their sector.
- Respond to enquiries from members of Parliament, public sector employees, and the public about matters relating to their portfolio.
- Provide support and contribute to the Office's suite of products as required, which might include sector reports, performance audits, inquiries, or other products.
- Be the Office's contact for appointed auditors of entities in their portfolio.
- Provide input into the appointment, rollover of contract, and quality assurance of Audit Service Providers.

The value you will bring

Knowledge and experience

- A thorough understanding of New Zealand's system of government, the role of Parliament, and the role of the Auditor-General within that system.
- Experience of public, financial, or performance management.
- Experience in advising Ministers, members of Parliament, or parliamentary select committees.
- Experience working at a senior level with governors, chief executives, senior managers, and other people at all levels in the public sector.
- An understanding of finance, accounting, and auditing practices (or the ability to come to grips with these practices quickly).
- Well-developed analytical, decision-making, and strategic-thinking skills.

Depending on the portfolio, there might be other attributes we want to specify – for example, a sound understanding of the local government environment or of tikanga Māori.

Qualifications

- A tertiary qualification, preferably incorporating any of the following:
 - financial and/or economic analysis;
 - public policy/administration;
 - accounting and auditing theory; or
 - law.

Key competencies

Doing	Connecting	Being	Leading
Exercise judgment Makes decisions based on available information and determines actions while navigating complex environments.	Advise Gives targeted advice to others and shares knowledge and expertise to uphold the credibility of the organisation.	Open-minded and inclusive Demonstrates openness, seeks to understand and include the perspectives of others, and shows curiosity.	Think strategically Thinks globally and works purposefully towards reaching long-term goals. Thinks conceptually to develop creative solutions in uncertain contexts.
Plan and prioritise Effectively plans and organises in light of priorities to deliver results for the organisation.	Build relationships Develops strong relationships internally and externally and builds strategic connections to achieve results for the organisation.	Resilient Maintains composure under pressure, adapts to changing circumstances, and proactively works to overcome setbacks.	
	Communicate with influence Engages with and influences others through clear communication, persuasive arguments, and being mindful of the audience's needs.		

Staff management and relationships

Staff reporting to this position

- There are no staff reporting to this position.

Key relationships

- All Office staff.
- Appointed Auditors (from Audit Delivery and other private sector audit firms) of entities in your portfolio.
- Parliamentary select committees, Ministers, governors, chief executives, and senior managers in the public sector, and other relevant stakeholder groups.

Commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi

Te Tiriti o Waitangi | The Treaty of Waitangi is New Zealand's founding document and part of its constitutional framework. As an Officer of Parliament, the Controller and Auditor-General is independent of government and has a unique constitutional role to hold the public sector to account through impartial scrutiny of public spending. Our independence means we also have a role to play in ensuring that the public sector meets its Treaty obligations. As a statutory body performing a public function, our work should also be carried out in a way that upholds te Tiriti (as appropriate for an entity outside of the Crown).

To help give effect to our commitment to the Treaty, we are building our capability to develop meaningful relationships with Māori and to focus on matters that make a real difference for iwi, hapū, and whānau Māori.

Health and Safety responsibilities

- Work safely and take responsibility for keeping yourself and colleagues free from harm.
- Report all incidents and hazards promptly.
- Know what to do in an emergency.
- Co-operate in implementing return-to-work plans.
- Be a visible role model.
- Follow the Office's safety rules and procedures.