

Welcome

Chair's welcome



Our job is to ensure public money is spent properly and effectively in Scotland on the key public services we all rely on every day – from schools to the NHS.

It is an important task. We audit 184 public bodies – from the smallest council or health board to the Scottish Government – with total annual spending of more than £40 billion. We provide assurance that this money is well spent and highlight areas for improvement.

The annual report demonstrates the strong foundations of the public audit model we have in Scotland. But we always need to be agile in responding to changing needs such as new devolved powers and integration of health and social work. All of this is set against a backdrop of reducing financial resources and rising demands which underlines the need for better longer-term financial planning across the public sector.

It was a great privilege for me to take over as board chair in October from Ronnie Cleland, who made an immense contribution over five years, leading the organisation through substantial change with skill and enthusiasm.

We were also pleased to welcome two new independent non-executive members, Ian Leitch and Heather Logan, who have already brought fresh insights to the board.

Finally, I pay tribute to the staff of Audit Scotland for their dedication and commitment. This report attests to the quality of their work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Maclean". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Maclean
Chair of Audit Scotland Board

Welcome to
Audit Scotland's
annual report
for 2014/15
