



External Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2025

Orkney Integration Joint Board

Performance and Audit Committee

19 March 2025

Key contacts

Your key contacts in connection with this report are:

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About this report

This report has been prepared in accordance with the responsibilities set out within the Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice ("the Code").

This report is intended for the benefit of Orkney Integration Joint Board ("the Board") and is made available to Audit Scotland and the Controller of Audit (together "the Beneficiaries"). This report has not been designed to be of benefit to anyone except the Beneficiaries. In preparing this report we have not taken into account the interests, needs or circumstances of anyone apart from the Beneficiaries, even though we may have been aware that others might read this report and it will not be quoted or referred to, in whole or in part, without our prior written consent. We have prepared this report for the benefit of the Beneficiaries alone.

Nothing in this report constitutes an opinion on a valuation or legal advice.

We have not verified the reliability or accuracy of any information obtained in the course of our work, other than in the limited circumstances set out in the scoping and purpose section of this report.

This report is not suitable to be relied on by any party wishing to acquire rights against KPMG LLP (other than the Beneficiaries) for any purpose or in any context. Any party other than the Beneficiaries that obtains access to this report or a copy (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, through a Beneficiary's Publication Scheme or otherwise) and chooses to rely on this report (or any part of it) does so at its own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, KPMG LLP does not assume any responsibility and will not accept any liability in respect of this report to any party other than the Beneficiaries.



Introduction

To the Performance and Audit Committee of Orkney Integration Joint Board

We are pleased to have the opportunity to meet with you on 19 March 2025 to discuss our anticipated approach to the audit of the financial statements of Orkney Integration Joint Board, as at and for the year ending 31 March 2025.

We provide this report to you in advance of the meeting to allow you sufficient time to consider the key matters and formulate your questions.

The engagement team

Michael Wilkie is the engagement leader on the audit. Michael will lead the engagement and is responsible for the audit opinion. Taimoor Alam will be the manager responsible for the audit and will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of our audit.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Wilkie

How we deliver audit quality

Audit quality is at the core of everything we do at KPMG and we believe that it is not just about reaching the right opinion, but how we reach that opinion that is also important.

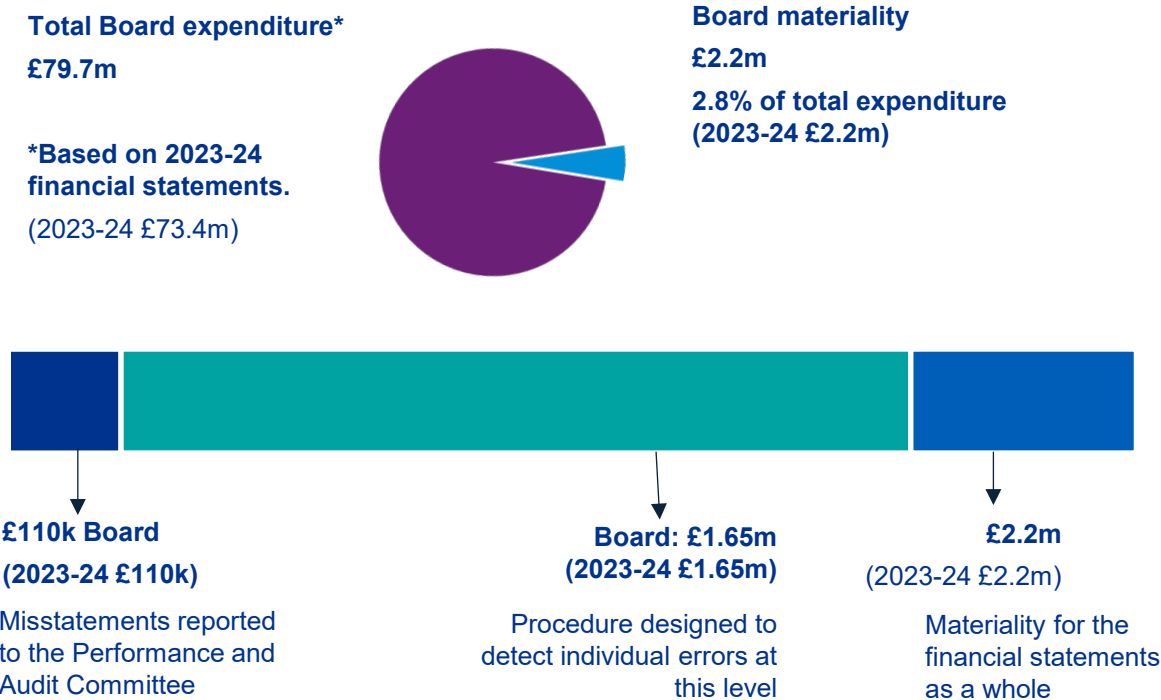
We define 'audit quality' as being the outcome when audits are:

- **Executed consistently**, in line with the requirements and intent of **applicable professional standards** within a strong **system of quality controls**; and
- All of our related activities are undertaken in an environment of the utmost level of **objectivity, independence, ethics** and **integrity**.

Restrictions on distribution

This report is intended solely for the information of those charged with governance of Orkney Integration Joint Board and the report is provided on the basis that it should not be distributed to other parties; that it will not be quoted or referred to, in whole or in part, without our prior written consent; and that we accept no responsibility to any third party in relation to it.

Materiality (Board)



Our materiality levels

We determine materiality for the financial statements at a level which could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. We expect to use a benchmark of total expenditure for cost of services which we consider to be appropriate as it reflects the scale of the Authority’s services and we consider this most clearly reflects the interests of users of the Authority’s accounts. To respond to aggregation risk from individually immaterial misstatements, we design our procedures to detect misstatements at a lower level of performance materiality. We also adjust this level further downwards for items that may be of specific interest to users for qualitative reasons, such as directors’ salary information in the remuneration report.

Reporting to the Performance and Audit committee

Under ISA 260, we are obliged to report uncorrected omissions or misstatements other than those which are ‘clearly trivial’ to those charged with governance. ISA 260 defines ‘clearly trivial’ as matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any quantitative or qualitative criteria.

In the context of the Board, we propose that an individual difference could normally be considered to be clearly trivial if it is less than £0.11 million.

If management has corrected material misstatements identified during the course of the audit, we will consider whether those corrections should be communicated to the Performance and Audit Committee to assist it in fulfilling its governance responsibilities.

Significant audit risks and our audit approach

Our risk assessment draws upon our knowledge of the industry and the wider economic environment in which Orkney Integration Joint Board operates.

We also use our regular meetings with senior management to update our understanding and take input from component audit teams and internal audit reports.

Relevant factors affecting our risk assessment

Significant risks

1	Fraud risk from income recognition and expenditure (presumed risk per ISA 240)
2	Fraud risk from management override of controls (presumed risk per ISA 240)

Significant audit risks and our audit approach

1. Risk from income recognition and expenditure

Significant audit risk

Under ISA 240 there is a presumed risk that income may be misstated due to improper recognition of income. This requirement is modified by Practice Note 10, issued by the FRC, which states that auditors should also consider the risk that material misstatements may occur by the manipulation of expenditure recognition.

Income

We consider that the Board’s significant income stream, which include funding requisitions from Orkney Islands Council and NHS Orkney. These are agreed in advance of the financial year, with any changes arising from changes in need, requiring approval from each body. There is no estimation or judgement in recognising this stream of income and we do not regard the risk of fraud to be significant.

We therefore plan to rebut this risk and do not incorporate specific work into our audit plan in this area beyond our standard fraud procedures.

Expenditure

The Board works with Orkney Islands Council and NHS Orkney in order to deliver services delegated by the Board. The Board makes these decisions based on its budget agreed in advance of the financial year. There is no estimation or judgement in recognising expenditure to these bodies, and we do not regard the risk of fraud to be significant.

We therefore plan to rebut this risk and do not incorporate specific work into our audit plan in this area beyond our standard fraud procedures.

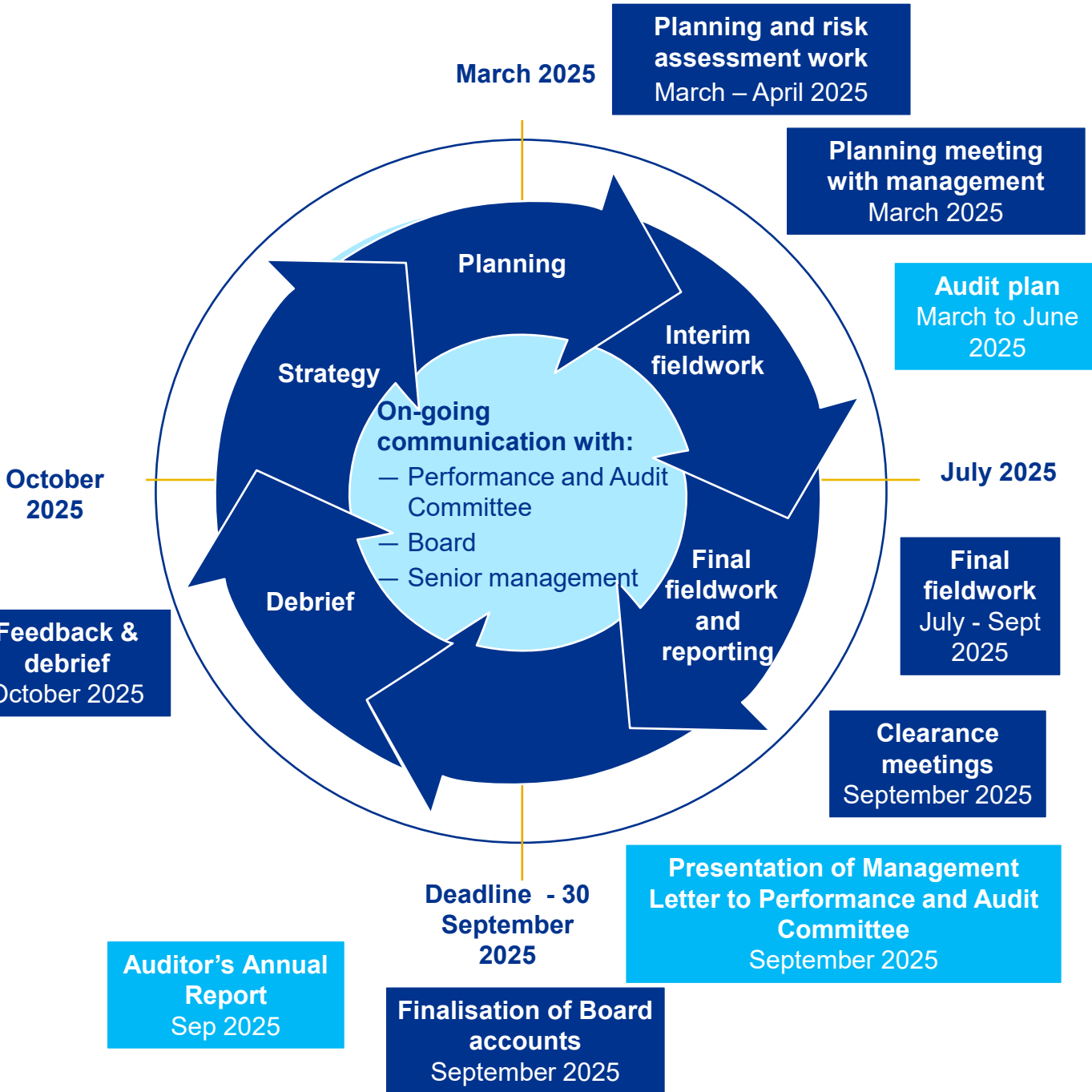
Significant audit risks and our audit approach

2. Management override of controls

Significant audit risk	Planned response
The risk Professional standards require us to communicate the fraud risk from management override of controls as significant. Management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. We have not identified any specific additional risks of management override relating to this audit.	– Our audit methodology incorporates the risk of management override as a default significant risk. In line with our methodology, we will evaluate the design and implementation of the controls in place for the approval of manual journals posted to the general ledger to ensure that they are appropriate. – We will analyse all journals through the year and focus our testing on those with a higher risk, such as journals impacting revenue or expenditure recognition around year-end, or journals linked to our other recognised significant risks. – We will review the appropriateness of the accounting for significant transactions that are outside the Board’s normal course of business, or are otherwise unusual. – We will assess the controls in place for the identification of related party relationships and test the completeness of the related parties identified. We will verify that these have been appropriately disclosed within the financial statements.

Audit cycle and expected timetable

Our 2024/25 schedule



- Key Events
- PAC communications



Wider scope and best value approach

Orkney Integration Joint Board

Wider Scope and Best Value

Wider Scope Approach

The Code of Audit Practice sets out four areas that constitute the wider scope of public audit in Scotland: financial sustainability; financial management; vision, leadership and governance; and use of resources to improve outcomes.

We set out below an overview of our approach to wider scope requirements of our annual audit.

Local Risk assessment

We are required to consider the arrangements in place for the wider-scope areas when undertaking annual risk assessment with a view to preparing the Annual Audit Plan.

As part of our risk assessment, we have considered the arrangements in place for the wider-scope areas and have summarised the results of our assessment and our planned response on the following pages.

National Risk assessment

Guidance may supplement auditors' own local risk assessments where there are particular areas of national or sectoral risk that the Auditor General and Accounts Commission wish auditors to consider. However, there are no such risks specified for 2024/25.

Wider Scope and Best Value

Wider Scope Approach (continued)

Financial Management

Financial management is concerned with financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively. Risk Assessment As part of our previous year audit we noted that: A budget setting and monitoring system is in place. A system of internal control including for prevention and detection of fraud, through reliance on the partnership bodies, is in place. We further noted that the 2024/25 budget was approved by the Board on 19th June 2024 resulting in the Board operating without an approved budget for a period of two months after the start of the relevant financial year. We identified a risk in relation to achievement of balance in the short-term keeping in view the actual outturn for 2023/24. Based on above we understand that a possible significant risk in relation to financial management may exist. Planned Audit Response We will continue to review the financial management arrangements in place. We will follow-up on the progress made in relation to our prior year recommendation.

Wider scope and best value

Wider Scope Approach (continued)

Financial Sustainability

Financial Sustainability looks forward to the medium and longer term to consider whether the Board is planning effectively to continue to deliver its services or the way in which they should be delivered.

Risk Assessment

As part of our previous year audit we noted that a Medium-Term Financial Plan was in place which takes into account scenario planning.

We also noted that quantified analysis of the saving options to consider alternatives to bridge the funding gap was yet to be carried out.

We were given to understand that work was ongoing in relation to development and presentation of an updated recovery and medium-term financial plan.

Based on above we understand that a possible significant risk in relation to financial sustainability may exist.

Audit Approach

- We will continue to consider the Board's longer term financial plans, as well as underlying specific plans.
- We will inquire with officers regarding reporting to Board surrounding the assumptions and judgements made in forecasting future funding and expenditure pressures.
- We will follow-up on the status of our prior year recommendations.

Wider scope and best value

Wider Scope Approach (continued)

Vision, Leadership and Governance

Vision, Leadership and Governance is concerned with the effectiveness of scrutiny and governance arrangements, leadership and decision making, and transparent reporting of financial and performance information.

Risk Assessment

As part of our previous year audit we noted that:

- Board has a number of governance arrangements in place.
- A Strategic Plan for the years from 2022 to 2025 was in place.
- Risk management arrangements were in place.
- Arrangements in relation to security, challenge and transparency were in place and being further developed

Based on above we have not identified any significant risk in relation to the Board's arrangements around vision, leadership and governance dimension of the wider scope audit.

Audit Approach

We will continue to review the arrangements in place in relation to vision, leadership and governance.

We will follow-up on the progress made in relation to our prior year recommendations.

Wider Scope and Best Value

Wider Scope Approach (continued)

Use of Resources to Improve Outcomes

Use of Resources to Improve Outcomes is concerned with demonstrating economy, efficiency, and effectiveness through the use of financial and other resources and reporting performance against outcomes

Risk Assessment

As part of our prior year audit we noted that performance management arrangements were in place including a performance management framework.

We further noted that the annual performance reports are publicly available.

Based on above we have not identified any significant risk in relation to the Board's arrangements around use of resources to improve outcomes.

Audit Approach

We will continue to review the relevant arrangements in place.

Wider Scope and Best Value

Best Value Approach

Local government bodies have a duty under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to make arrangements which secure Best Value. Best Value is continuous improvement in the performance of the body's functions.

Auditors are required to consider and to be satisfied that bodies have made proper arrangements to secure Best Value. Work is required to be undertaken in a way that it is proportionate to the size and type of the body. Auditors should consider how the body demonstrates that it is meeting its Best Value responsibilities, and report on the body's own arrangements for doing this in the Annual Audit Report.

In the case of IJBs, work undertaken on the wider-scope areas will contribute to this consideration. We have included our approach, in relation to each of the wider scope dimensions, on pages 11 to 14.

Appendices

Mandatory communications

Type	Statement
Management's responsibilities (and, where appropriate, those charged with governance)	Prepare financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Provide the auditor with access to all information relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, additional information requested and unrestricted access to persons within the entity.
Auditor's responsibilities	Our engagement letter with Audit Scotland communicates our responsibilities to form and express an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.
Auditor's responsibilities - Fraud	This report communicates how we plan to identify, assess and obtain sufficient appropriate evidence regarding the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud and to implement appropriate responses to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.
Auditor's responsibilities – Other information	Our engagement letter with Audit Scotland communicates our responsibilities with respect to other information in documents containing audited financial statements. We will report to you on material inconsistencies and misstatements in other information.
Auditor's responsibilities – wider scope and best value	Our wider-scope methodology slide on pages 10 -15 set out our responsibilities for reporting on wider scope and best value. We have set out on these pages the methodology we will adopt in discharging our responsibilities in these areas.
Independence	Our independence confirmation on page 18 discloses matters relating to our independence and objectivity including any relationships that may bear on the firm's independence and the integrity and objectivity of the audit engagement partner and audit staff.

Confirmation of independence

Assessment of our objectivity and independence as auditor of the Orkney Integration Joint Board (“the Board”)

Professional ethical standards require us to provide to you at the conclusion of the audit a written disclosure of relationships (including the provision of non-audit services) that bear on KPMG LLP’s objectivity and independence, the threats to KPMG LLP’s independence that these create, any safeguards that have been put in place and why they address such threats, together with any other information necessary to enable KPMG LLP’s objectivity and independence to be assessed. This letter is intended to comply with this requirement and facilitate a subsequent discussion with you on audit independence and addresses:

- General procedures to safeguard independence and objectivity;
- Independence and objectivity considerations relating to the provision of non-audit services; and
- Independence and objectivity considerations relating to other matters.

General procedures to safeguard independence and objectivity

KPMG LLP is committed to being and being seen to be independent. As part of our ethics and independence policies, all KPMG LLP partners and staff annually confirm their compliance with our ethics and independence policies and procedures including in particular that they have no prohibited shareholdings.

Our ethics and independence policies and procedures are fully consistent with the requirements of the APB Ethical Standards. As a result we have underlying safeguards in place to maintain independence through:

- Instilling professional values
- Communications
- Internal accountability
- Risk management
- Independent reviews

We are satisfied that our general procedures support our independence and objectivity.

Independence and objectivity considerations relating to the provision of non-audit services

We have considered the fees charged by us to the Board and its affiliates for professional services provided by us during the reporting period. No non-audit services are expected to be provided during 2024/25.

Independence and objectivity considerations relating to other matters

There are no other matters that, in our professional judgment, bear on our independence which need to be disclosed to the Performance and Audit Committee.

Confirmation of audit independence

We confirm that as of the date of this letter, in our professional judgment, KPMG LLP is independent within the meaning of regulatory and professional requirements and the objectivity of the partner and audit staff is not impaired.

This report is intended solely for the information of the Performance and Audit Committee and should not be used for any other purposes.

We would be very happy to discuss the matters identified above (or any other matters relating to our objectivity and independence) should you wish to do so.

Yours faithfully
KPMG LLP

Audit team and rotation

Your audit team has been drawn from our specialist public sector audit department and is led by key members of staff who will be supported by auditors and specialists as necessary to complete our work. We also ensure that we consider rotation of your audit director and firm.

	Michael Wilkie is the partner responsible for our audit. He will lead our audit work, attend the Performance and Audit Committee and be responsible for the opinions that we issue.
	Taimoor Alam is the manager responsible for our audit. He will co-ordinate our audit work, attend the Performance and Audit Committee and ensure we are co-ordinated across our accounts and wider scope work.
	Michelle Ho is the in-charge responsible for our audit. She will be responsible for our on-site fieldwork. She will complete work on more complex section of the audit.

To comply with professional standard we need to ensure that you appropriately rotate your external audit director. There are no other members of your team which we will need to consider this requirement for:



This will be Michael’s third year as your engagement lead. He can therefore complete a further 7 years before rotation.

Fees

Audit Scotland has completed a review of funding and fee setting arrangements for 2024-25. An expected fee is calculated by Audit Scotland to each entity within its remit. This expected fee is made up of four elements:

- Auditor remuneration (** average of Tender values)
- Audit Scotland Pooled costs
- Audit Scotland Audit Support Costs
- Audit Scotland sectoral cap adjustment

The expected fee for each body assumes that it has sound governance arrangements in place and operating effectively throughout the year, prepares comprehensive and accurate draft accounts and meets the agreed timetable for the audit.

Entity	2024/25	2023/24
Auditor Remuneration	£37,030	£35,540
Pooled Costs	£930	£1,300
PABV Contribution	£7,110	£7,590
Audit Support Costs	£0	£0
Sectoral Cap Adjustment	-£11,070	-£11,070
TOTAL AUDIT FEES	£34,000	£33,360

Source: Audit Scotland

Billing arrangements

Fees will be billed by Audit Scotland in accordance with a billing schedule as outlined in correspondence with management.

Basis of fee information

In line with our standard terms and conditions the fee is based on the following assumptions:

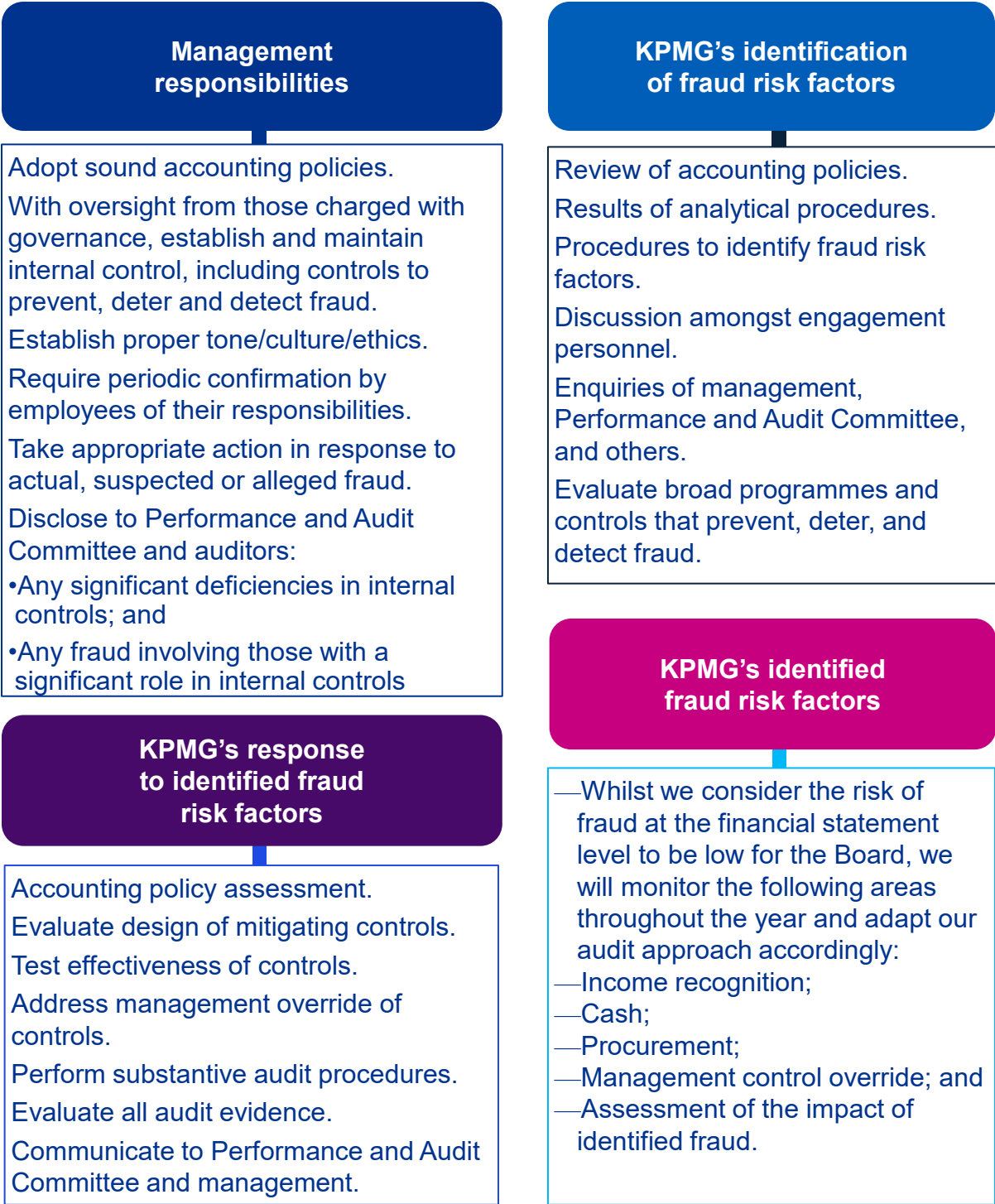
- The Board’s audit evidence files are completed to an appropriate standard (we will liaise with management separately on this);
- Draft statutory accounts are presented to us for audit subject to audit and tax adjustments;
- Supporting schedules to figures in the accounts are supplied; A trial balance together with reconciled control accounts are presented to us;
- All deadlines agreed with us are met;
- We find no weaknesses in controls that cause us to significantly extend procedures beyond those planned;
- Management will be available to us as necessary throughout the audit process; and
- There will be no changes in deadlines or reporting requirements.

We will provide a list of schedules to be prepared by management stating the due dates together with pro-forms as necessary. Our ability to deliver the services outlined to the agreed timetable and fee will depend on these schedules being available on the due dates in the agreed form and content.

If there are any variations to the above plan, we will discuss them with you and agree any additional fees before costs are incurred wherever possible.

Responsibility in relation to fraud

We are required to consider fraud and the impact that this has on our audit approach. We will update our risk assessment throughout the audit process and adapt our approach accordingly.



Audit Scotland code of audit practice – responsibility of auditors and management

Responsibilities of management
Financial Statements
Audited bodies must prepare an annual report and accounts containing financial statements and other related reports. They have responsibility for: — preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of their financial position and their expenditure and income, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and relevant legislation; — maintaining accounting records and working papers that have been prepared to an acceptable professional standard and that support their financial statements and related reports disclosures; — ensuring the regularity of transactions, by putting in place systems of internal control to ensure that they are in accordance with the appropriate Board; — maintaining proper accounting records; and — preparing and publishing, along with their financial statements, an annual governance statement, management commentary (or equivalent) and a remuneration report that are consistent with the disclosures made in the financial statements. Management commentary should be fair, balanced and understandable and also clearly address the longer- term financial sustainability of the body. Further, it is the responsibility of management of an audited body, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to communicate relevant information to users about the entity and its financial performance, including providing adequate disclosures in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The relevant information should be communicated clearly and concisely. Audited bodies are responsible for developing and implementing effective systems of internal control as well as financial, operational and compliance controls. These systems should support the achievement of their objectives and safeguard and secure value for money from the public funds at their disposal. They are also responsible for establishing effective and appropriate internal audit and risk-management functions. Audited bodies are responsible for providing the auditor with access to all information relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, additional information requested and unrestricted access to persons within the entity.

Audit Scotland code of audit practice – responsibility of auditors and management

Responsibilities of management
Prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities
Audited bodies are responsible for establishing arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud, error and irregularities, bribery and corruption and also to ensure that their affairs are managed in accordance with proper standards of conduct by putting proper arrangements in place.
Corporate governance arrangements
Each body, through its chief executive or accountable officer, is responsible for establishing arrangements to ensure the proper conduct of its affairs including the legality of activities and transactions, and for monitoring the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements. Audited bodies should involve those charged with governance (including Audit Committees or equivalent) in monitoring these arrangements.
Financial position
Audited bodies are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that their financial position is soundly based having regard to: — such financial monitoring and reporting arrangements as may be specified; — compliance with any statutory financial requirements and achievement of financial targets; — balances and reserves, including strategies about levels and their future use; — how they plan to deal with uncertainty in the medium and longer term; and — the impact of planned future policies and foreseeable developments on their financial position.
Best Value, use of resources and performance
The Scottish Public Finance Manual sets out that accountable officers appointed by the Principal Accountable Officer for the Scottish Administration have a specific responsibility to ensure that arrangements have been made to secure best value.

Audit Scotland code of audit practice – responsibility of auditors and management

Responsibilities of auditors
Appointed auditor responsibilities Auditor responsibilities are derived from statute, this Code, ISAs, professional requirements and best practice and cover their responsibilities when auditing financial statements and when discharging their wider scope responsibilities. These are to: — undertake statutory duties, and comply with professional engagement and ethical standards; — provide an opinion on audited bodies’ financial statements and, where appropriate, the regularity of transactions; — review and report on, as appropriate, other information such as annual governance statements, management commentaries, remuneration reports, grant claims and whole of government returns; — notify the Auditor General when circumstances indicate that a statutory report may be required; — participate in arrangements to cooperate and coordinate with other scrutiny bodies (local government sector only); — demonstrate compliance with the wider public audit scope by reviewing and providing judgements and conclusions on the audited bodies: — effectiveness of performance management arrangements in driving economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and assets; — suitability and effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements; and — financial position and arrangements for securing financial sustainability. Weaknesses or risks identified by auditors are only those which have come to their attention during their normal audit work in accordance with the Code, and may not be all that exist. Communication by auditors of matters arising from the audit of the financial statements or of risks or weaknesses does not absolve management from its responsibility to address the issues raised and to maintain an adequate system of control. This report communicates how we plan to identify, assess and obtain sufficient appropriate evidence regarding the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud and to implement appropriate responses to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

Audit Scotland code of audit practice – responsibility of auditors and management

Responsibilities of auditors
General principles
This Code is designed such that adherence to it will result in an audit that exhibits these principles.
Independent
When undertaking audit work all auditors should be, and should be seen to be, independent. This means auditors should be objective, impartial and comply fully with the FRC ethical standards and any relevant professional or statutory guidance. Auditors will report in public and make recommendations on what they find without being influenced by fear or favour. Our independence confirmation letter (Appendix two) discloses matters relating to our independence and objectivity including any relationships that may bear on the firm’s independence and the integrity and objectivity of the audit engagement partner and audit staff. We confirm that, in our professional judgement, KPMG LLP is independent within the meaning of regulatory and professional requirements and that the objectivity of the Director and audit staff is not impaired.
Proportionate and risk based
Audit work should be proportionate and risk based. Auditors need to exercise professional scepticism and demonstrate that they understand the environment in which public policy and services operate. Work undertaken should be tailored to the circumstances of the audit and the audit risks identified. Audit findings and judgements made must be supported by appropriate levels of evidence and explanations. Auditors will draw on public bodies’ self-assessment and self - evaluation evidence when assessing and identifying audit risk.
Quality focused
Auditors should ensure that audits are conducted in a manner that will demonstrate that the relevant ethical and professional standards are complied with and that there are appropriate quality-control arrangements in place as required by statute and professional standards.

Audit Scotland code of audit practice – responsibility of auditors and management

Responsibilities of auditors
Coordinated and integrated
It is important that auditors coordinate their work with internal audit, Audit Scotland, other external auditors and relevant scrutiny bodies to recognise the increasing integration of service delivery and partnership working within the public sector. This would help secure value for money by removing unnecessary duplication and also provide a clear programme of scrutiny activity for audited bodies.
Public focussed
The work undertaken by external audit is carried out for the public, including their elected representatives, and in its interest. The use of public money means that public audit must be planned and undertaken from a wider perspective than in the private sector and include aspects of public stewardship and best value. It will also recognise that public bodies may operate and deliver services through partnerships, arm’s-length external organisations (ALEOs) or other forms of joint working with other public, private or third sector bodies.
Transparent
Auditors, when planning and reporting their work, should be clear about what, why and how they audit. To support transparency the main audit outputs should be of relevance to the public and focus on the significant issues arising from the audit.
Adds value
It is important that auditors recognise the implications of their audit work, including their wider scope responsibilities, and that they clearly demonstrate that they add value or have an impact in the work that they do. This means that public audit should provide clear judgements and conclusions on how well the audited body has discharged its responsibilities and how well they have demonstrated the effectiveness of their arrangements. Auditors should make appropriate and proportionate recommendations for improvement where significant risks are identified.



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