

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on the engagements and work of the Chair of the Accounts Commission.

Engagement and Commission business

2. Details of my engagements and work since the start of January are as follows:

Audit Scotland engagement

- Regular meetings with Meeting with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland
- Regular meetings with Vicki Bibby, Chief Operating Officer.
- Regular meetings with Helena Gray, Controller of Audit
- Regular meetings with Alison Cumming, Executive Director of Performance Audit and Best Value
- 28 January – Audit Scotland Board meeting, which included the new non-executive director Patrick Bartlett, and Board Apprentice Dr Catherine Maclean

Commission business

- Regular meetings with Sarah Watters, Secretary to the Commission, Lee Ovens, Executive Assistant and Joe Chapman, Policy Manager.
- 16 January – Accounts Commission meeting and members forum.
- 27 January – Media day for Local Government Financial Bulletin, including interviews for BBC, STV, BBC Orkney and local radio.
- 28 January – interview with GMS regarding the Local Government Financial Bulletin
- 30 January – Prep session with Communications team for the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee evidence session on 04 February
- 30 January - Accounts Commission prep session with Andrew Burns, Sarah Watters, and Lee Ovens.

External Engagement

- 30 January – COSLA Innovating, Developing and Transforming Special Interest Group.

Forthcoming activities

3. My forthcoming engagement activities include:
 - 04 February – Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee evidence session on the Local Government Financial Bulletin.

- 06 February – Accounts Commission meeting
- 06 February – Meeting with Vicky Bibby, Chief Operating Officer, Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland and Colin Crosby, this is a catch-up meeting to discuss Board matters
- 07 February – Directors of Finance engagement
- 18 February – Introductory meeting with Patrick Bartlett, Non-executive Director of AS Board
- 24 February – Quarterly meeting with Ellen Leaver, Scottish Government
- Commission Member Appraisals – across February and March 2025

Conclusion

4. The Commission is invited to:

- Note this report and enquire about any areas of interest.