

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
- 18 February – Introductory meeting with Patrick Bartlett, Non-executive Director of Audit Scotland Board
- 18 February – meeting with Tricia Meldrum, Jillian Matthew, Sarah Watters and Joe Chapman regarding the Audit Scotland Youth Advisory Group
- 25 February – Introductory meeting with Dr Catherine Maclean, Apprentice of Audit Scotland Board
- 04 March – Audit Scotland Board and Remuneration Committee meetings
- 04 March – Audit Scotland Audit Committee Risk Deep Dive session

Commission business

- Regular meetings with Sarah Watters, Secretary to the Commission, Lee Ovens, Executive Assistant and Joe Chapman, Policy Manager.
- 13 February – Member Appraisals: Andrew Burns, Angela Leitch, Jennifer Henderson, and Ruth Macleod
- 18 February – East Renfrewshire Council Best Value follow up visit, with Jennifer Henderson, Sarah Watters, and joined by Grace Scanlin from EY
- 28 March – Comms and Engagement Strategy Seminar
- 06 March - Accounts Commission prep session with Andrew Burns, Sarah Watters, Joe Chapman, Lee Ovens and Callum Aitken.

External Engagement

- 07 February – attended Directors of Finance Section with Blyth Deans (note of meeting shared with Commission members)
- 17 February - Public Service Reform Summit (organised by Ivan McKee MSP, and attended by Auditor General too)
- 24 February – Quarterly meeting with Ellen Leaver, Scottish Government
- 05 March – Transformation Programme discussion with Solace Chair and Deputy Chair, and Andrew Burns

Forthcoming activities

3. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 12 March – Accounts Commission Strategy Seminar
- 13 March – Accounts Commission meeting
- 21 March – Improvement Service Board (following review of the Strategic Alliance in 2024)
- 01 April – Audit Scotland Board meeting
- 01 April – Audit Scotland Board Strategic Session
- 02 April – Best Value follow up meeting with Fife Council, accompanied by Carol Evans, Malcolm Bell, Nichola Brown, and Karen Jones from Azets
- 03 April – Joint Work Programme Discussion with Stephen Boyle and the PABV Work Programme team
- April 2025 – Commission Member Appraisals

Conclusion

4. The Commission is invited to:

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