
Chair's update

Item 8

Chair of the Accounts Commission

Meeting date:
12 March 2026

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on the engagements and work of the Chair of the Accounts Commission since the Commission met last and upcoming engagement before the next meeting.

Engagement and Commission business

Commission business

- Regular meetings with Sarah Watters (Director for the Commission) and Helena Gray (Controller of Audit)
- 5 March: Preparatory meeting for the March strategy seminar and March Commission meeting, with Andrew Burns (Deputy Chair), Helena Gray, Sarah Watters and Joe Chapman (Policy Manager for the Commission)
- 11 March: twice-yearly Accounts Commission strategy seminar

Audit Scotland engagement

- Regular meetings with Alison Cumming (Executive Director of Performance Audit and Best Value), Vicki Bibby (Chief Operating Officer) and Stephen Boyle (Auditor General)
- 24 February: Future Public Audit Model (phase 3) Commission 'sounding board' meeting
- 3 March: Audit Scotland (AS) Board: Risk deep dive – Cyber resilience and recovery
- 5 March: AS Audit Committee meeting and Remuneration and Human Resources Committee (RemCo) meeting

External engagement

- 13 February: Meeting with COSLA Presidential team (with Andrew Burns and Sarah Watters)
- 3 March: Biannual meeting with Ellen Leaver, Scottish Government Acting Director for Local Government

Forthcoming activities

- Regular meetings with Sarah Watters, Helena Gray and Lee Ovens (Executive Assistant)
- Regular meetings with Alison Cumming, Vicki Bibby and Stephen Boyle
- 12 March: Deloitte “State of the State” event (on their annual survey of challenges facing government and public services)
- 24 March: Regular (every two months) meeting with Catriona MacKean, Scottish Government Deputy Director for Local Government
- 24 March: AS Board procurement training
- 31 March: AS Board meeting; AS Board: Risk deep dive – Managing our reputation
- 15 April: Future Public Audit Model (phase 3) Commission ‘sounding board’ meeting

Conclusion

2. The Commission is invited to:

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