
Chair's update

Item 7Meeting date:
15 May 2025Chair of the Accounts Commission

Purpose

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

Engagement and Commission business

2. Noting annual leave from 14-18 April, details of my engagements and work since the last meeting are as follows:

Audit Scotland engagement

- Regular meetings with: Alison Cumming – Executive Director of Performance Audit and Best Value, Helena Gray – Controller of Audit, Stephen Boyle – Auditor General for Scotland, and Vicki Bibby – Chief Operating Officer
- 22 April: 'Insights' event preparation meeting with Sarah Watters – Secretary to the Accounts Commission, Kirsty Gibbins and Joanna Mansell – Communications Advisers; Helena Gray, and Lee Ovens – Executive Assistant
- 06 May: Audit Scotland Audit Committee and Remco meetings
- 13 May: Attending Audit Scotland's Communications Team meeting, to meet the team and share Commission priorities in relation to comms

Commission business

- Regular meetings with Sarah Watters, Lee Ovens, and Joe Chapman – Policy Manager
- 23 April: media day for The Highland Council Best Value report
- w/c 28 April: finalised Chair's feedback on individual appraisals
- 07 May: Accounts Commission prep session with Andrew Burns, Sarah Watters, Lee Ovens, Joe Chapman and Callum Aitken – Modern Apprentice

External engagement

- 07 May: Interview with The MJ (Municipal Journal) as part of 'post-1st Anniversary' media engagement
- 08 May: 'COSLA at 50' parliamentary reception, accompanied by Andrew Burns and Sarah Watters

Forthcoming activities

3. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- Regular catch ups with Helena Gray, Sarah Watters, Lee Ovens, Vicki Bibby, Alison Cumming and Stephen Boyle
- 20 May: joint Commission/Auditor General/Audit Scotland Future Public of Audit Model discussion
- 20 May: Audit Scotland Board meeting
- 22 May: Audit Scotland post-1st Anniversary 'Insights' event 'In Conversation with Jo Armstrong', with Sarah Watters. *Please note this was rescheduled from 01 May.*
- 27 May: Quarterly meeting with Ellen Leaver, Scottish Government
- 28 May: Best Value follow-up meeting at Argyll and Bute Council. Accompanying members are TBC, and will be confirmed verbally
- w/c 02 June: annual leave

Conclusion

4. The Commission is invited to:

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