

Chair's update

Item 8

Meeting date:

Chair of the Accounts Commission

11 December 2025

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on the engagements and work of the Chair of the Accounts Commission since the Commission met last in November.

Engagement and Commission business

Audit Scotland engagement

- 10 November: Deep dive into data analytics and AI with Audit Committee support team
- 11 November: Audit Scotland Audit Committee meeting
- 11 November: Audit Scotland Board Meeting – budget discussion
- 11 November: Audit Scotland Remco (Remuneration and Human Resources Committee) meeting
- 25 November: Audit Scotland Board meeting
- 25 November: FPAM (Future Public Audit Model) Sounding Board - Summary of Decisions paper
- Regular meetings with Vicki Bibby (Chief Operating Officer), Helena Gray (Controller of Audit); Alison Cumming (Executive Director of Performance Audit and Best Value)

Commission business

- 26 November: Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) section 102 report on 2023 cyber-attack - media day
- Regular meetings with Sarah Watters (Director for the Commission) and Lee Ovens (Executive Assistant)
- Six-monthly 'check-in' meetings with Commission members

External engagement

- 26 November: Audit Scotland / Accounts Commission / Deloitte joint meeting

- 27 November: Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) interview / podcast, with Andrew Burns – discussing the Commission's role, how we work and what matters to us.
- 27 November: Ethical Standards Commissioner public appointments diversity strategy refresh event
- A meeting with Ariane Burgess MSP (Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee Convener) was scheduled for 04 December but Ms Burgess asked to rearrange it to January

Forthcoming activities

2. Recognising the festive break, my forthcoming engagement activities include:

- Regular catch ups with Helena Gray, Sarah Watters, Lee Ovens, Vicki Bibby, Alison Cumming, and Stephen Boyle (Auditor General)
- Visit to Western Isles Council, following publication of the section 102 report
- Engagement meeting with COSLA Presidential team

Conclusion

3. The Commission is invited to:

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