

MEETING: 10 SEPTEMBER 2020**REPORT BY: INTERIM CHAIR OF ACCOUNTS COMMISSION****INTERIM CHAIR'S REPORT**

Purpose

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

Engagement

2. My engagements in the period from 1 to 31 August have been as follows:

Audit Scotland Board and Committee meetings

- 19 August – Audit Scotland Board Meeting. The two main items of substance discussed were an update on Covid-19 and its impact on Audit Scotland; the Q1 Financial Performance.
- As part of the Covid-19 report we had an interesting discussion about new ways of working and David Blattman circulated a report afterwards which is now available on SharePoint for members to access.

Audit Scotland engagement

- 5 August - Auditor General catch up
- 7 August - Jackie Mann, new member of Audit Scotland Board. Introductory meeting.
- 11 August - Work Programme Discussion with Auditor General, Paul Reilly, Antony Clark and Tim McKay
- 17 August - Heather Logan, Chair of Audit Scotland Audit Committee
- Various catch-ups with Diane McGiffen (6, 13 & 27 August).

External engagement

- 5 August - Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive, SCVO
- 10 August – James Dornan, Convener, Local Government Communities Committee. Introductory meeting.
- 20 August - Brenda Campbell, Scottish Government to update on outputs from Strategy Seminar.
- 24 August – Leslie Evans, Permanent Secretary and Paul Johnston Director General
- 25 August – Chaired the Strategic Scrutiny Group Meeting – Update paper included for part of September Accounts Commission agenda.
- 26 August – Annie Gunner-Logan, Director, CCPS
- The meetings with Anna Fowlie, Leslie Evans and Annie Gunner-Logan were to discuss the importance of the Commission having strong relationships and a good understanding of challenges; opportunities for further engagement e.g. the

insight programme proposals; critical areas for local government and IJBs emerging from the pandemic.

- 28 August – Local Government and Communities Committee to present and answer questions on the Local Government Overview report and Covid-19 impact.

Commission business, development and support

3. My Commission business has been as follows:

- Weekly catch-ups with the Secretary and Executive Assistant
- 4 August - Prep meeting for Commission on 13 August (Secretary, Controller, Deputy Interim Chair)
- 6 August - SSG Pre Meeting with Gemma Diamond, Mark Roberts SSG Secretaries and Jillian Elgin Executive Assistant.
- Mtgs with Andrea Quinn to update and finalise the Commission Support Review report and prepare for the Strategy Day. The Commission Support Review Report has been updated with the final version shared with members and appropriate Audit Scotland colleagues
- Several discussions with Paul, Fraser, Antony and Andrea to prepare for the Strategy Day on 12th August.
- 12 August – Strategy Seminar Meeting
- 17 August - Argyll and Bute pre meeting with Sharon O'Connor, Paul Reilly, John Cornett, Audit Director and Mark Ferris, Senior Audit Manager.
- 18 August – Argyll and Bute Council, Follow-up to BVAR publication – Update paper provided to members on 2 September.
- 20 August - Paul Reilly, Joanna Mansell, Elizabeth Sargeant to discuss Accounts Commission communications
- 24 August – Action Tracker Review Meeting with Paul and Tim
- 25 August - Attended Audit Scotland Management Team meeting to discuss the Commission Support Review report going to the Audit Scotland Remunerations Committee Meeting on 2 September.
- 26 August – Catch up with Tim McKay
- 26 August - Local Government and Communities Committee prep session with Joanna, Fraser and the local government overview team
- 27 August – Attended FAAC and chaired PAC. Further discussion on Commission approach to Strategy and Insight Programme development.
- 31 August - David Robertson, Digital Services Manager to discuss the best strategic direction around technical support for the Commission
- 31 August – David Blattman, HR and OD Manager to discuss taking forward the Commission Support Review resourcing requirements
- Various catch-ups with Joanna Mansell, Communications Consultant around Moray Council media plans and Local Government Communities Committee prep.

Forthcoming activities

4. My forthcoming engagement activities include

- 1 September - Prep meeting for Commission on 10 September (Secretary, Controller, Deputy Interim Chair)
- 2 September – Audit Scotland Audit Committee and Remuneration and Human Resources Committee meeting
- 2 September – Auditor General
- 2 September – Best Value Working Group
- 3 September – Forward Planning Meeting with Tim and Paul
- 7 September – Audit Scotland Board follow up meeting
- 9 September – Commission pre-meeting and Intro meeting with Colin Crosby, new Audit Scotland Board member
- 10 September – Commission meeting.

Conclusion

5. The Commission is invited to note this report and enquire about any areas of interest.

Elma Murray
Interim Chair of Commission
31 August 2020