

MEETING: 11 NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT BY: INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT

INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on my engagement activity during October 2021.

Engagement

2. Please note below my engagements in October:

- **1 October** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
- **1 October** – Discussion with Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) and Accounts Commission sponsors on the National Care Service consultation.
- **4 October** – Following the Pandemic Pound (FtPP) audit reporting discussion with the audit team, AGS and Accounts Commission sponsors.
- **5 October** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sean Neill, Director, Local Government and Communities, Scottish Government.
- **5 October** – Scottish Government Permanent Secretary and Executive Team meeting with AGS and Michael Oliphant, Audit Director, with a focus on public service reform and Covid-19 recovery.
- **6 October** – Introductory meeting with Fiona Duncan, Chair, The Promise Oversight Board and colleagues (Claire Stuart, Head of Evidence and Fi McFarlane, Head of Oversight).
- **6 October** – Attended 'Leading in a pandemic – what does the road to recovery look like for our health and social care services' event with Professor Jason Leitch.
- **7 October** – Accounts Commission meeting.
- **8 October** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) Accountability and Incentives Action Group meeting.
- **11 October** – Monthly engagement meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission.
- **11 October** – Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination- Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) self-assessment session (for Performance Audit and Best Value colleagues): one of several sessions organised across the business to carry out organisational self-assessment exercises on the human rights-based approach to our work.
- **12 October** – Best Value Working Group meeting.

- **13 October** – Drugs and Alcohol output discussion with AGS and Accounts Commission sponsors.
- **13 October** – Regular engagement meeting with Sally Loudon, Chief Executive, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).
- **18 October** – Sistema evaluation workshop discussion: debrief session to follow up to the workshops delivered in May and July to help Sistema Scotland to develop their evaluation strategy with input from community representatives.
- **19 October** – Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) extraordinary audit of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. Virtual attendance at Quality Review meeting to provide independent review and challenge of the audit work undertaken by the NIAO and the content of the draft audit report.
- **19 October** – Pre-meeting with Jennifer Wallace, Head of Policy at the Carnegie Trust and Anna Fowle, Chief Executive of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) in advance of my keynote event on how public services and public audit need to change in response to the impact of Covid-19 (28 October).
- **20 October** – Meeting with Barry Mcleod, Programme Manager, Improvement Service, to discuss joint working on auditing Best Value (BV) in Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs) focusing in particular on how self evaluation can be embedded into the new BV audit approach.
- **25 October** – Strategic Alliance catch up - meeting with Sarah Gadsden (Chief Executive, Improvement Service) and Secretary to the Commission as follow up to the July meeting to discuss joint areas of work.
- **27 October** – Meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues to discuss Planning for Outcomes progress and follow up on a Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG) action on auditing for outcomes (Richard Robinson, Senior Manager, and Carol Calder, Audit Director).
- **28 October** – Delivering my keynote event 'Recovery and radical thinking – the role of audit, communities and the third sector'. The event will focus on how our audit work can better reflect the vital contribution the third sector and communities make to improving the lives of Scotland's people. The panel will also discuss the importance of considering the experiences of service users throughout our work and how best to do that, as well as exploring the impact of inequalities on people's lives and how public services are delivered.
- **28 October** – Bi-monthly engagement meeting with Communications Advisor and Policy Manager to the Commission.
- **29 October** – Education, Children and Young People Committee pre meeting with AGS, Sharon O'Connor and the team ahead of their appearance on 3 November in relation to the [Improving Education Outcomes](#) audit report.
- **29 October** – Social Care Briefing draft discussion with AGS and Commission sponsors.

Forthcoming activities

3. My upcoming engagements in November include:

- **1 November** – Attendance at the memorial service of Robert Black, CBE (ex-Controller of Audit and ex-Auditor General for Scotland).
- **4 November** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
- **4 November** – Best Value in IJBs audit update at Scottish Government divisional meeting with Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager.
- **8 November** – Meeting with Mark McAteer, Director of Strategic Planning, Performance and Communications, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).
- **8 November** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Communications Manager.
- **11 November** – Accounts Commission meeting.
- **12 November** – UK&I Public Audit Forum (National Audit Office, Northern Ireland Audit Office, Wales Audit Office and Audit Scotland) introduction meeting.
- **15 November** – Pre-meeting with Elma Murray and Audit Scotland colleagues ahead of Elma's meeting with the Public Audit Committee (PAC) Convener, Richard Leonard, MSP.
- **15 November** – Joint Local Government Overview (LGO) Emerging Messages discussion with Accounts Commission sponsors.
- **16 November** – Strategic Scrutiny Group meeting.
- **17 November** – Introductory meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission and Eddie Fraser (Chief Executive) and Joe McLachlan (Chief Financial Officer and Head of Finance and Information and Communications Technology) at East Ayrshire Council.
- **17 November** – Monthly engagement meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission.
- **19 November** – Meeting with Oliver Escobar, University of Edinburgh around the Local Governance Review.
- **22 November** – Regular engagement meeting with Tim McKay as Chair, Financial Audit and Assurance Committee.
- **25 November** – New Audit Appointments (NAA) Steering Group meeting.
- **29 November** – Quarterly update engagement meeting with Sarah Gadsden, Chief Executive, Improvement Service.
- **30 November** – Sistema Scotland evaluation strategy meeting.

Antony Clark
Interim Controller of Audit
27 October 2021