

**MEETING: 10 MARCH 2022**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT**

**INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT UPDATE REPORT**

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## Purpose

1. This report provides an update on my engagement activity during February 2022.

## Engagement

2. Please note below my engagements in February:

- **1 February** – Meeting with Councillor Andrew Drever, Convenor, Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board (O&S VJB) to discuss my planned s102 report on the Valuation Joint Board (VJB).
- **2 February** – Regular six monthly engagement meeting with Catriona MacLean, Deputy Director, Public Service Reform, Scottish Government.
- **2 February** – Regular catch up meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues leading on the Best Value (BV) approach to councils and Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) (Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Carol Calder, and Leigh Johnston).
- **3 February** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Audit Scotland's Communications Manager.
- **3 February** – Meeting with Ewan Hunter, The Hunter Foundation – building on earlier discussions with Lynn Hendry around government funding, silo policy areas and opportunities for collaboration on public service reform and funding issues.
- **3 February** – Meeting with Maggie Sandison, Chief Executive, Shetland Islands Council in relation to my planned s102 report on the O&S VJB.
- **3 February** – Angus Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) emerging messages discussion with the team.
- **4 February** – Interview with Max French, Researcher, Northumbria University – in relation to a research project in partnership with Carnegie UK on the design and implementation of outcomes-based wellbeing approaches in government.
- **7 February** – Local Government Forum.
- **7 February** – Sistema evaluation strategy discussion.
- **8 February** – Moray BVAR follow up pre-Commission meeting with team.
- **8 February** – Annual Assurance and Risk Report (AARR) draft discussion with team.
- **9 February** – Accounts Commission pre-meeting.

- **9 February** – Regular engagement meeting with Tim McKay as Chair, Financial Audit and Assurance Committee.
- **9 February** – Meeting with Jennie Barugh, Director, Performance and Strategic Outcomes, Scottish Government.
- **10 February** – Accounts Commission meeting.
- **14 February** – Regular engagement meeting with Sally Loudon, Chief Executive, COSLA.
- **15 February** – Jennifer Henderson, Keeper, Registers of Scotland – preparatory meeting ahead of a joint presentation at the Strategic Scrutiny Group meeting (15 March) on the Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) National Performance Framework (NPF) Accountability and Incentives Action Group work.
- **16 February** – Monthly catch up with Bill Moyes, Chair of the Commission, and Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission.
- **16 February** – Monthly catch up with the Correspondence team.
- **17 February** – Accounts Commission meeting to discuss the draft Financial Local Government Overview (FLGO) report and the emerging messages for the Local Government Overview (LGO) report.
- **18 February** – Meeting with Roddy Burns, Chief Executive, Moray Council to discuss the Accounts Commission's consideration of the council's Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) on 10 February 2022, and the council's proposed response to the improvement actions contained in the report.
- **18 February** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
- **21 February** – UK&I Public Audit Forum (National Audit Office (NAO), Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO), Wales Audit Office (WAO), Audit Scotland (AS)) quarterly engagement meeting.
- **21 February** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sarah Gadsden, Chief Executive, Improvement Service.
- **21 February** – Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board (VJB) s102 report - post clearance discussion with the team.
- **23 February** – New Audit Appointments (NAA) steering group meeting.
- **23 February** – Lynn Hendry, The Hunter Foundation – regular engagement meeting.
- **23 February** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) Accountability and Incentives Action Group ahead of the scheduled publication of the report on 10 March 2022.
- **23 February** – Introductory meeting with Louise Long, Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council, with Bill Moyes.
- **24 February** – Financial Audit and Assurance Committee and Performance Audit Committee meetings.

## **Forthcoming activities**

3. My upcoming engagements in March include:

- **2 March** – Following the Pandemic Pound Steering Group.
- **3 March** – Best Value Working Group (BVWG).
- **4 March** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
- **4 March** – CIPFA Directors of Finance Executive Committee.
- **4 March** – Bi-monthly engagement meeting with Communications Advisor and Policy Manager to the Commission.
- **8 March** – Supporting businesses through the Covid-19 pandemic – post clearance report discussion with the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) and Accounts Commission (AC) sponsor (Geraldine Wooley).
- **9 March** – Accounts Commission pre-meeting.
- **10 March** – Accounts Commission meeting.
- **11 March** – Child Poverty output – scope discussion with AGS and AC sponsors (Andrew Burns and Sophie Flemig).
- **14 March** – LGO draft report discussion with AC sponsors (Bill Moyes and Tim McKay).
- **14 March** – Monthly catch up with Bill Moyes and Paul Reilly.
- **15 March** – Strategic Scrutiny Group meeting – I and Jennifer Henderson will be delivering a presentation on the Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) following publication of the report on 10 March 2022.
- **16 March** – Monthly catch up with the Correspondence team.
- **16 March** – Regular catch up meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues leading on the BV approach to councils and IJBs (Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Carol Calder, and Leigh Johnston).
- **17 March** – Angus BVAR draft report discussion with the team.
- **17 March** – Local Government Sector Forum.
- **18 March** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) meeting with the Scottish Government's new Permanent Secretary (John Paul (JP) Marks) to discuss the SLF Action Group's NPF Accountability and Incentives work.
- **29 March** – Accounts Commission Strategy Seminar.

**Antony Clark**  
**Interim Controller of Audit**  
**23 February 2022**