

MEETING: 9 JUNE 2022

REPORT BY: CHAIR OF ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

CHAIR'S UPDATE REPORT

Purpose

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

Engagement and Audit Scotland business

2. The engagements and work in the period of 1 to 31 May 2022 have been as follows:

Audit Scotland Board and Committee meetings

- 17 May – Audit Scotland Board. The main items of substance covered were the Mainstreaming equality and equality outcomes interim progress report; 2021/22 Annual report on information governance and security; Annual report on complaints 2021/22; Annual report on Freedom of Information and Environmental Information 2021/22; Quarter four Financial performance report; Information security management policy review; Review of staff handbook policies; and New audit appointments – verbal update. Copies of the key papers have been loaded onto the Commission's SharePoint site and brought to members' attention.

Audit Scotland engagement

- 4 May – Interviews for Audit Scotland Executive Director of Audit Services.
- 16 May – Wash-up meeting for interviews for Audit Scotland Executive Director of Audit Services role.
- 17 May – Catch up with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland and Accountable Officer, Audit Scotland.
- 23 May – Discussion with Stephen Boyle, Alan Alexander, Audit Scotland Board Chair, Paul Reilly, Commission Secretary, and Martin Walker, Associate Director, Corporate Performance and Risk on Commission Change Programme.

External engagement

- 18 May – Introductory meeting with Richard Leonard MSP, Convener, Public Audit Committee, accompanied by Paul Reilly.
- 23 May – Discussion session at Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee as part of its business planning day, accompanied by Paul Reilly and Carol Calder, Audit Director, Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV).

3. Commission business has been as follows:

- Regular catch ups with Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin, Executive Assistant to the Commission.
- 5 May – Recruitment catch up with Gatenby Sanderson around Controller of Audit role accompanied by Paul Reilly.
- 5 May – Catch up with Tim McKay, Interim Deputy Chair.
- 10 May – Sponsor catch up to discuss scope of the audit with Christine Lester and the Adult mental health team: Angela Canning, Audit Director, Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, Natalie Goddard, Senior Auditor, Eva Thomas-Tudo, Audit Manager, and Claire Tennyson, Auditor, PABV.
- 12 May – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 18 May – Planning meeting with Scottish Government and Paul Reilly for Commission member recruitment.
- 24 May – Media for Local Government Overview report published on 25 May 2022.
- 25 May – Recruitment catch up with Gatenby Sanderson around Controller of Audit recruitment with Jillian Elgin.
- 26 May – Financial Audit and Assurance Committee meeting.
- 26 May – Performance Audit Committee meeting.
- 31 May – Forward planning meeting with Tim McKay, Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin to discuss up and coming Commission business.

4. Other areas of work have included:

- Joint Improvement Service blog.
- Review of Audit Scotland Annual Report and Accounts.
- Media and signing off all publication material for Local Government Overview report.
- Chair's introduction for Commission Annual Report.

Forthcoming activities

5. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 1 June – Audit Scotland Audit Committee.
- 1 June – Audit Scotland Board.
- 6 June – Monthly catch up with Stephen Boyle.
- 6 June – Monthly catch up with Antony Clark, Interim Controller of Audit, and Paul Reilly.

- 6 June – Strategic Scrutiny Group catch up with Tina Yule, Chair of Operational Scrutiny Group.
- 7 June – Introductory meeting with Sharon Dowey MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, the Scottish Commission for Public Audit (SCPA) member.
- 7 June – Introductory meeting with Colin Beattie MSP, SCPA Convener.
- 7 June – Introductory meeting with John-Paul Marks, Permanent Secretary, Scottish Government.
- 7 June – Communications group meeting with Joanna Mansell, Communications adviser, Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin.
- 9 June – Accounts Commission meeting.

Conclusion

6. The Commission is invited to:

- a) note this report and enquire about any areas of interest
- b) consider whether there are any changes that they would wish to see to the format and content of the report for the future.

William Moyes
Chair
31 May 2022