

Matters Arising – May 2022 Commission Meeting

Action	Action by:	Update
8. Interim Controller of Audit update report		
In response to a query from Sophie Flemig, that the Interim Director of PABV report further on the progress of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland.	Interim Director of PABV	Meeting to be arranged with Citizen's Assembly of Scotland and update to be provided thereafter.
10. Mainstreaming equality and equality outcomes – interim progress report		
Noted advice from the EHRSG Chair, in response to a query from Christine Lester, that she would provide further information on how refugees and care-experienced young people feature in the Audit Scotland outcome 2, namely 'We will increase the diversity of people into Audit Scotland and their progression through every level of our organisation'.	EHRSG Chair	Our recruitment campaigns for all roles within Audit Scotland aim to attract a wide range of talent by advertising through targeted agencies and job boards. We aim to include additional support to underrepresented groups through application mentoring
Noted advice from the EHRSG Chair, in response to a query from Sophie Flemig, that she would further consider how Audit Scotland can use benchmarking against other organisations in relation to Audit Scotland outcome 2 and outcome 3, namely 'We will broaden our culture of diversity and inclusion, so all employees feel valued, engaged and contribute', upon which she would report further.	EHRSG Chair	Benchmarking will be completed through work with our partner, who will be procured as part of our Diversity and Inclusion Action plan. Additional data capture identified within our plan will also assist this measurement. Consideration will be required of additional underrepresented groups identified
Noted advice from the EHRSG Chair, in response to a query from Sophie Flemig, that the Commission should consider how its own communication and engagement strategy could help Audit Scotland achieve its outcomes 2 and 3.	Commission Secretary and EHRSG Chair	Commission to consider as relevant opportunities arise.

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Noted advice from the EHRSG Chair, in response to a point by William Moyes, that she would consider how, in communicating the mainstreaming equality and equality outcomes, to use language underlining commitment to the Public Sector Equality Duty as well as compliance.	EHRSG Chair	To be considered in future communications.
11. Draft report – Integration Joint Boards financial analysis 2020/21		
Noted advice from the Interim Director, in response to a query from Christine Lester and William Moyes, that he would consider how to provide a longer-term analysis of finances of IJBs (i.e. since inception) in future audit reporting.	Interim Director of PABV	Consideration of how best to report the long-term analysis of IJB finances will form part of scoping for the 2021/22 IJB financial analysis.
Agreed the process for finalising the report, including sharing with Commission members for their information the final promotion plan agreed with the sponsors.	Interim Director of PABV	We plan to share the finalised draft and proposed promotion plan electronically with Commission members once agreed by sponsors.
12. Draft report – Quality of public audit in Scotland (in private)		
Noted that the Associate Director AQA and Secretary would liaise with Audit Scotland to ensure a response to the Commission on matters raised in discussion.	Associate Director AQA & Secretary	Liaison has taken place with the Auditor General and Executive Director of Audit Services Group (ASG). The Associate Director AQA will attend the August meeting of the Commission to report on the improvements planned by the Executive Director of ASG, with a view to the Commission liaising directly with the Executive Director thereafter.
Noted advice from the Senior Manager, AQA, in response to a query from William Moyes, that he was considering how to shape and present recommendations in these reports, upon which he would report further to the Commission in the forthcoming review of the Audit Quality Framework (AQF), to be considered by the Commission in November 2022.	Senior Manager, AQA	AQA beginning review of AQF in June which will include form of recommendations. On course for reporting to Commission in November 2022.

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Noted advice from the Secretary that he would discuss with the Chair and Deputy Chair (as Chair of Financial Audit and Assurance (FAA) Committee) how to develop liaison between the Commission and audit providers on the conduct and progress of the audit.	Secretary	Being discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair with a view to reporting at the August meeting of FAA Committee.
Noted that the conclusions of the QPAS annual report will be used in the Commission's annual report, which will be considered at the June meeting.	Secretary	Draft annual report on today's agenda.
14. Local Government in Scotland: Overview 2022: promotion plan (in private)		
Agreed that the audit team progress the plan through working with sponsors and in conjunction with the Commission Support Team and Communications Team as appropriate.	Interim Director of PABV, Secretary and Communications Team	Local Government Overview 2022 report published as planned on 25 May 2022. Promotional activity underway, including publication of the Chair's Blog on 1 June 2022. Date also secured for elected member roundtable event with the Improvement Service. This will take place on 3 August 2022. The audit team will remain in contact with sponsors, the Commission Support Team and Communications Team colleagues throughout the coming weeks and months to progress the remainder of the plan.
15. Best Value update (in private)		
Agreed that the Interim Director provide more detail of a timeline setting out a schedule of reporting of the agreed outputs.	Interim Director of PABV	Summary of reporting programme for the BVAR legacy report, CoA Bv reports, the AARR and the LGO package approved by the Commission in February 2022. Proposed programme of Controller of Audit BV reports for individual councils to be discussed with the BVWG in June for endorsement by the Commission in August 2022.
Agreed that the schedule of proposals be promoted.	Interim Director of PABV and Secretary	Discussed with auditors in a range of forums. 2022/23 BV reporting requirements will be included in the 2022/23 planning guidance in Autumn 2022.

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Following discussion, the Commission accordingly, agreed that 'leadership of the development of new local strategic priorities' be the basis of Best Value thematic work for 2022/23, for reporting to the Commission in Spring 2024.	Interim Controller of Audit	<p>The BV development group are now producing the audit programme, and supporting guidance, to be used by auditors from October 2022. This will be published alongside the 2022/23 planning guidance in autumn 2022.</p> <p>All auditors are to prepare a thematic BV report for the councils and a summary is to be included in the 2022/23 annual audit reports for October 2023. The CoA will report findings in spring 2024 in the AARR and as part of the LGO reporting package.</p>
Agreed the recommendations of the BVWG in relation to auditing IJBs, essentially to not proceed with the previously planned approach to roll out auditing of BV in IJBs and, as a replacement, to implement a wider programme of audit work as set out in the report.	Interim Director of PABV and Interim Controller of Audit	Proceeding as per the report.
16. Strategic Scrutiny Group update		
Agreed that the Commission have further discussion at a future meeting on the areas of review that the Chair is discussing with members of the SSG.	Commission Secretary and SSG Secretary	Report and discussion scheduled for June 2022.