

**MEETING: 12 JANUARY 2023**

**REPORT BY: CHAIR OF ACCOUNTS COMMISSION**

**CHAIR'S UPDATE REPORT**

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**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 December to 31 December have been as follows:

***Audit Scotland Board and Committee meetings***

- There have been no meetings of the Audit Scotland Board or its Committees since the last report.

***Audit Scotland engagement***

- 1 December – Monthly catch up with Vicki Bibby, Chief Operating Officer.
- 5 December – Monthly catch up with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland.
- 12 December – Preparatory meeting with Stephen Boyle; Vicki Bibby; Alan Alexander, Audit Scotland Board Chair; Stuart Dennis, Corporate Finance Manager; Simon Ebbett, Communications Manager; and Martin Walker, Director of Corporate Services ahead of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit (SCPA) session.
- 14 December – Monthly catch up with Antony Clark, Interim Controller of Audit and Executive Director of Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV).

***External engagement***

- 14 December – Session with the SCPA to finalise a proposed budget for Audit Scotland that the SCPA will put to the Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee for their approval.
- 21 December – Session with the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.
- 21 December – Introductory meeting with Miles Briggs MSP.

3. Commission business has been as follows:

- Regular catch ups with Commission Support Team: Blyth Deans, Audit Manager, PABV; Martin McLauchlan, Policy Manager; Jillian Elgin, Executive Assistant; and Jack Nixon, Executive Assistant.

- 1 December – Forward planning meeting.
- 8 December – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 13 December – Catch up with Tim McKay, Interim Deputy Chair.
- 13 December – Communications group catch up with Simon Ebbett; Joanna Mansell, Communications Adviser; and Martin McLauchlan.
- 19 December – Joint work programme meeting with Stephen Boyle; Antony Clark; Tim McKay; Michelle Borland, Business Manager, PABV; Gemma Diamond, Audit Director, PABV; Patrick McFall, Communications Adviser; and Joanna Mansell.
- 19 December – Joint Public Audit in Scotland discussion with Stephen Boyle, Alan Alexander, Michelle Borland, Simon Ebbett and Kathrine Sibbald, Senior Manager, PABV.

4. Other areas of work have included:

- Preparing for the SCPA session on 14 December 2022.
- Reviewing materials for the planned Financial analysis of Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) briefing.
- Preparing for a meeting with the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

### **Forthcoming activities**

5. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 9 January – Local government in Scotland financial bulletin media preparation with Adam Bullough, Audit Manager, PABV, Blyth Deans and Joanna Mansell.
- 10 January – Local Government Overview (LGO) emerging messages meeting with Antony Clark; Tim McKay; Carol Calder, Audit Director, PABV; Adam Bullough; Blyth Deans, Audit Manager, PABV; Lucy Jones, Senior Auditor, PABV; Christopher Lewis, Senior Auditor, PABV; Martin Allan, Auditor, PABV; Andrew Dixon, Audit Officer, PABV; Lindsay Stother, Audit Officer, PABV; and Joanna Mansell.
- 12 January – Accounts Commission meeting.

### **Strategic Scrutiny Group update**

6. Recent business of the Strategic Scrutiny Group includes:

- Deputy First Minister has written to me to suggest a meeting with his officials and that is being arranged for mid-January.

### **Conclusion**

7. 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**  
**12 December 2022**