

**MEETING: 12 JANUARY 2023**

**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 December.

### **Engagement**

2. Please note below my engagements in December:
  - **2 December** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sean Neill, Director, Local Government and Communities, Scottish Government. Key topics discussed were the recent letter from local government Directors of Finance to the Deputy First Minister, forthcoming Accounts Commission publications – in particular the local government overview financial bulletin, and the recent Improvement Service report [\*Delivering a future for Scottish local authorities\*](#).
  - **5 December** – Attended Silo Funding Event. Jointly hosted by The Robertson Trust, the Wellbeing Alliance, Audit Scotland and the International Futures Forum, the event focused on addressing the continuing challenge of ‘silo funding’ for public services in Scotland and how the Scottish Government, local government and other agencies might respond to the wider ongoing challenges facing Scotland around reducing poverty, improving education, addressing health inequalities and building a wellbeing economy.
  - **12 December** – My keynote event ‘Research and impact: Why public engagement and data can improve trust and quality’. This Teams session was hosted by me and I was joined by Dr Michaela Livingstone-Banks, Head of Public and Community Engagement with Research at the University of Oxford, and Dr Oliver Escobar, Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at the University of Edinburgh, and Academic Lead on Democratic Innovation at the Edinburgh Futures Institute. The panel explored my vision for the future of performance auditing, with particular focus on how and why we can involve people who use public services in shaping our audit work, informing judgements, and increasing the impact of our work. It considered cultural and ethical issues associated with this work as well as practical concerns associated with skills, competence and capacity. The keynote also explored the value of better data use alongside public engagement to enhance the robustness of our audit work, support effective scrutiny, and to improve the accessibility and reach of what we do.

**Antony Clark**  
**Interim Controller of Audit**  
**12 December 2022**