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Press release

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New Managing Director appointed

Audit Scotland has announced the appointment of its first Managing Director of Audit Services. Hugh Hall, currently Director of Corporate Services with VisitScotland, Scotland's national tourism organisation has accepted the post following an open selection process and will start his new job on 10 May 2004.

"We are delighted that Hugh Hall has accepted this position," said Robert Black, the Auditor General for Scotland and Accountable Officer for Audit Scotland. "The role of Managing Director will be a crucial one in achieving some of the goals of Audit Scotland."

Hugh will be a key member of the senior management team and will head up Audit Scotland's Audit Services group, which consists of 160 staff in four offices throughout Scotland. Audit Services is largely responsible for delivering the audit of over 200 public bodies in Scotland, including departments of the Scottish Executive, NHS boards and councils.

His wide experience and track record of success in senior posts in a number of major public sector bodies will be invaluable in leading Audit Services through current structural changes in Audit Scotland which are designed to modernise the audit agenda, implementing specialisation and introducing a revised risk-based audit. His skills and experience will make him a key member of Audit Scotland's management team.

He said: "Having led change in various bodies I believe I am in a good position to help steer Audit Services through what will be a challenging but exciting time over the next few years. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know the staff there and finding out how they feel we can most successfully deliver change together."

Hugh has held senior positions in a number of organisations including Scottish Homes, the Occupational Health and Safety Agency and the Scottish Office Education Department. He is a qualified accountant with experience in auditing and is a past chair of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. He also has extensive experience in the management and delivery of organisational change.

For further information please contact Anne Ryan or James Gillies on tel: 0131 624 9970/ 9971

Notes

1. Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000, under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act, 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission.
2. The Auditor General is responsible for securing the audit of the Scottish Executive and most other public bodies in Scotland, except local authorities. He investigates whether spending bodies achieve the best possible value for money and adhere to the highest standards of financial management. The Auditor General is independent and is not subject to the control of the Scottish Executive or the Scottish Parliament.
3. The Accounts Commission is responsible for securing the audit of 32 Scottish councils and 34 joint boards, including police and fire services. The Commission investigates whether spending bodies achieve the best possible value for money and adhere to the highest standards of financial management. The Accounts Commission is independent and is not subject to the control of the Scottish Executive or the Scottish Parliament.