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SEPA IMPROVES PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has made good progress in the way it manages and measures its own performance, according to a report published today by the Auditor General for Scotland, Robert Black.

In a previous study published in 2000, the Auditor General found that SEPA's performance measures did not fully address the area of environmental improvements and called on the body to develop its performance management systems.

In his follow up report the Auditor General found SEPA:

- has developed an outcome-based performance measurement framework
- is continuing to improve its performance measures
- has met or exceeded most of its 2001 environmental targets

"I am pleased to be able to report that, following on from our earlier study, SEPA has made good progress in implementing all of our recommendations and is looking to further improve its performance management arrangements" said Mr Black.

"It is important that SEPA continues to make progress in developing performance information systems for monitoring the achievement of its strategic targets and the priorities of the Scottish Ministers."

The report also points out that, although SEPA met most of its 2001 environment targets, some areas still require attention. Audit Scotland will continue to monitor SEPA's progress in implementing a performance management framework that allows it to demonstrate and be held accountable for its performance.

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Notes

1. The report, *Measuring up? A follow-up report on performance measurement in the Scottish Environment Protection Agency*, was compiled by Audit Scotland for the Auditor General and is available on the web at audit-scotland.gov.uk
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. 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 Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland.

