

Engagement plan

Progress report 2018/19

Action	Stakeholders	Progress
We will meet regularly with principal stakeholders to discuss our strategy and issues of mutual interest.	COSLA, SOLACE, Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government	<p>We met with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), parliamentary committee conveners and party representatives, and the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Representatives of the Board of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) presented their annual report at a Commission committee meeting in February 2019. The Commission also serves as an observer at meetings of the LGBF Board.</p> <p>Work of the Scottish Government / COSLA working group to refresh the Best Value statutory guidance remains ongoing.</p>
We will publish our: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report• Strategy and action plan• Engagement strategy and plan and promote them among stakeholders.	All stakeholders	We published this set of reports in June 2018. We shared these with council leaders, chief executives, Parliamentary committee conveners and party representatives, Scottish Government, and other stakeholders, and promoted them through our website.
We will consult stakeholders on our draft work programme.	Local government stakeholders	In December 2018, we invited views from councils, trades unions, COSLA, SOLACE, and Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), on our proposed work programme. The Commission considered all comments in agreeing its work programme at its February 2019 meeting. In March 2019 we responded to all stakeholders and published our agreed programme jointly with the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) on our website.
We will explore with stakeholders how to develop our audit work to ensure that we are effectively reflecting the policy environment.	All stakeholders	<p>In autumn 2018, we held six <i>Council Conversations</i> events attended by leadership representatives from 29 councils to hear their views on our work and to learn more about the issues facing them.</p> <p>(Continued on page 2)</p>

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		<p>All our performance audits used advisory groups comprising stakeholders and practitioners as appropriate to comment on the scope and emerging messages of our work.</p> <p>We met twice with Audit Scotland's equalities and human rights advisory group discuss our work programme.</p> <p>In February 2019, we held a 'round table' discussion event to explore planning issues to inform our work programme.</p> <p>Audit Scotland have an Islands Forum to develop an audit response to the Islands Act. This meets quarterly and invites external representatives.</p>
We will review with those carrying out audit work how they are developing and improving the work.	Audit Scotland and private firms	The Commission oversees a comprehensive quality assurance function to review audit quality from both Audit Scotland and private audit firms we employ. This reports to Commission committees throughout the year and publishes its annual report in June 2019. We also sought views on our work from councils, audit staff and other stakeholders.
<p>We will publish our overview reports, performance audit reports and impact reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government financial overview (autumn 2018) • Councils use of arm's-length organisations (spring 2018) • Children and young people's mental health (autumn 2018) • Health and social care integration (autumn 2018) • Local government overview (spring 2019) • How Councils Work - Safeguarding public money. <p>Impact reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community planning: an update (summer 2018) • Roads maintenance (summer 2018) • Social work (autumn 2018). 	<p>Citizens and communities</p> <p>All stakeholders</p>	<p>All overview reports, performance audits and impact reports were shared directly with councils. We wrote to all council leaders and chief executives promoting the key messages and themes. We alerted stakeholders to our published reports through our email distribution including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government (including health and social care integration authorities) • Scrutiny partners • Professional bodies as appropriate • Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government. <p>Our audit reports were formally considered by councils, and discussed by local auditors, council audit and scrutiny committees, and council management teams.</p> <p>We briefed the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government overview 2018 (in April 2018) • Local government in Scotland: Financial Overview 2017/18 (in December 2018). <p>The Auditor General and Audit Scotland representatives briefed the Scottish Parliament's Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee on our joint performance audit reports.</p>

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<p>We will publish Best Value Assurance Reports (BVARs) and follow-up Best Value reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumfries and Galloway • East Ayrshire • East Lothian • Fife • Glasgow City • West Dunbartonshire. 	<p>Citizens and communities</p> <p>All stakeholders</p>	<p>The Commission discussed all BVARs in public and published the reports with podcasts and supporting video animations on our website. We inform local press and media to raise awareness of our reports.</p> <p>We promoted our BVARs locally, sharing them with local communities and third sector groups. We alerted stakeholders to these published reports through our email newsletter and distribution including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council leaders, councillors, chief executives (and chairs of audit and scrutiny committees as appropriate) • Local government (including health and social care integration authorities) • Scrutiny partners • Professional bodies as appropriate • Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government. <p>We met with the respective council after the publication of a BVAR.</p>
<p>We will maintain fruitful dialogue with the Auditor General and Audit Scotland in our work.</p>	<p>Auditor General, Audit Scotland</p>	<p>The Commission has worked closely with the Auditor General and Audit Scotland to develop our joint work programme which was updated in March 2019.</p>
<p>We will explore public expectations of us and our work.</p>	<p>Citizens and communities</p>	<p>The Commission is considering options for increasing public involvement and plans to build on its engagement work with representative groups.</p> <p>We also seek stakeholder feedback on our reports through our audit quality reviews.</p>
<p>We will increase the accessibility of our meetings.</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>	<p>We are looking at options to make our meetings more accessible including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using Videos, blogs, social media / twitter. • Using video conference / webcasting
<p>We will increase our social media presence.</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>	<p>Our Twitter account set up in May 2018 now has over 300 followers and is used to promote our reports. In March 2019, we included a brief animation about the role of the Commission on our website. We prepared a webinar involving elected members from 14 councils on the BVAR process with the improvement service (published May 2019).</p>