

National Galleries of Scotland

Annual Audit Plan 2019/20



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for by National Galleries of Scotland

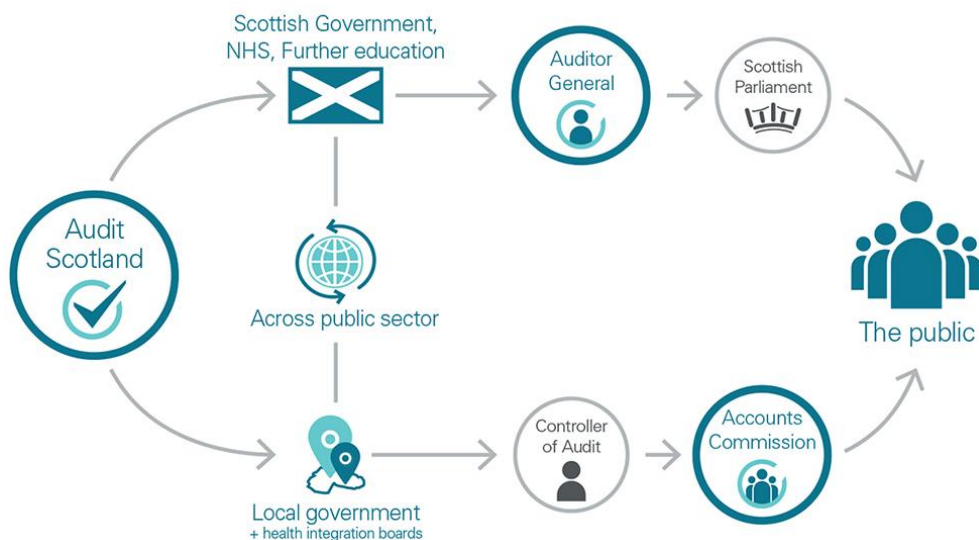
February 2020



Who we are

The Auditor General, the Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland work together to deliver public audit in Scotland:

- The Auditor General is an independent crown appointment, made on the recommendation of the Scottish Parliament, to audit the Scottish Government, NHS and other bodies and report to Parliament on their financial health and performance.
- The Accounts Commission is an independent public body appointed by Scottish ministers to hold local government to account. The Controller of Audit is an independent post established by statute, with powers to report directly to the Commission on the audit of local government.
- Audit Scotland is governed by a board, consisting of the Auditor General, the chair of the Accounts Commission, a non-executive board chair, and two non-executive members appointed by the Scottish Commission for Public Audit, a commission of the Scottish Parliament.



About us

Our vision is to be a world-class audit organisation that improves the use of public money.

Through our work for the Auditor General and the Accounts Commission, we provide independent assurance to the people of Scotland that public money is spent properly and provides value. We aim to achieve this by:

- carrying out relevant and timely audits of the way the public sector manages and spends money
- reporting our findings and conclusions in public
- identifying risks, making clear and relevant recommendations.

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Risks and planned work

1. This annual audit plan contains an overview of the planned scope and timing of our audit which is carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), the [Code of Audit Practice](#), and [guidance on planning the audit](#). This plan sets out the work necessary to allow us to provide an independent auditor's report on the annual accounts and meet the wider scope requirements of public audit.

2. The wider scope of public audit contributes to assessments and conclusions on financial management, financial sustainability, governance and transparency and value for money.


Adding value


3. We aim to add value to the National Galleries of Scotland (referred to as 'NGS' throughout) through our external audit work by being constructive and forward looking, by identifying areas for improvement and by recommending and encouraging good practice. In so doing, we intend to help NGS promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources.


Audit risks

4. Based on our discussions with management, attendance at committee meetings and a review of supporting information we have identified the following significant risks for NGS. We have categorised these risks into financial statements risks and wider dimension risks. The key audit risks, which require specific audit testing, are detailed in [Exhibit 1](#).

Exhibit 1 2019/20 Significant audit risks

 Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
Financial statements risks		
<p>1 Risk of material misstatement caused by management override of controls</p> <p>Although we have not identified any specific risks of management override of controls at NGS, auditing Standards require that audits are planned to consider the risk of material misstatement caused by fraud, which is presumed to be a significant risk in any audit.</p>	<p>Owing to the nature of this risk, assurances from management are not applicable in this instance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed testing of journal entries. • Review of accounting estimates and accounting policies. • Focused testing of accruals and prepayments. • Evaluation of significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business.

	Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
	<p>This includes the risk of management override of controls that results in fraudulent financial statements.</p>		
2	<p>Risk of material misstatement caused by fraud in income and expenditure recognition</p> <p>NGS receives income and donations from various sources, in addition to Scottish Government funding. The extent and complexity of income means that, in accordance with ISA240, there is an inherent risk of fraud which requires an audit response. The Code of Audit Practice expands the ISA assumption to advise there is also a risk of fraud over aspects of expenditure, for public sector bodies.</p>	<p>Effective budget monitoring by management and the Board.</p> <p>Participation in the National Fraud Initiative.</p> <p>Planned Internal Audit coverage of income in 2019/20.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical procedures on income and expenditure streams. Detailed testing of income and expenditure transactions focusing on the areas of greatest risk. Audit work on the National Fraud Initiative data matches.
3	<p>Estimations and Judgements</p> <p>There is a significant degree of subjectivity in the measurement and valuation of the material account areas of non-current assets, liabilities (provisions, deferred income and accruals) and donated heritage asset additions. This includes the planned capital additions comprising the extension at the Scottish National Gallery and the National Collection Facility.</p> <p>This subjectivity represents an increased risk of misstatement in the financial statements.</p>	<p>Assessment of all potential provisions together with assessing potential liability and likelihood of settlement.</p> <p>Use of RICS indices for indexing properties.</p> <p>Sound procedures for indexation which are reflected accurately in the financial statements.</p> <p>Heritage assets bought on the open market are capitalised at acquisition cost. Where this is not readily available, we will obtain an expert valuation of heritage asset additions by a qualified expert.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused substantive testing during the financial statements audit of key areas. Substantive testing of liabilities and cut-off testing of income and expenditure Review of accounting policies to ensure these are reasonable and in line with the accounting framework. Assessment of indexation factors applied to fixed assets to ensure these are from a reliable source.
Wider dimension risks			
4	<p>Financial sustainability</p> <p>NGS, similar to other public sector bodies, face challenges and uncertainty over future funding allocations.</p> <p>Although NGS are forecasting a break even position for 2019/20, the organisation continues to face a risk over its financial sustainability in the coming years due to uncertainty over</p>	<p>Effective budget monitoring by the finance team.</p> <p>Regular financial reporting to the Board and Audit & Risk Committee.</p> <p>Ongoing communication with the Scottish Government sponsor division.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with senior finance staff regarding budget plans and finance reports. Review of NGS financial plans and budgets. Focused cut-off testing at year-end to confirm expenditure and income has been accounted for in the correct financial year.

	Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
	future funding allocations and income sources.		
5	<p>Capital Projects</p> <p>NGS have a number of ongoing major capital projects, including the Scottish National Gallery project. There have been some minor delays to capital projects in previous years. There is currently £16.7m budgeted to be spent on capital projects in 2019/20.</p> <p>There is a risk that any potential delays would lead to increased costs for NGS.</p>	<p>Effective budget monitoring by management</p> <p>Detailed monitoring of capital project spend, which is reported to the Board and Audit & Risk Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with senior finance staff regarding budget plans and finance reports. • Ongoing monitoring of budgets and finance reports presented to the Board and Audit & Risk Committee. • Year-end testing on capital spending.

Source: Audit Scotland

Reporting arrangements

5. Audit reporting is the visible output for the annual audit. All annual audit plans and the outputs as detailed in [Exhibit 2](#), and any other outputs on matters of public interest will be published on our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.

6. Matters arising from our audit will be reported on a timely basis and will include agreed action plans. Draft management reports will be issued to the relevant officer(s) to confirm factual accuracy.

7. We will provide an independent auditor's report to NGS, Scottish Parliament and the Auditor General for Scotland setting out our opinions on the NGS annual accounts. We will provide the Accountable Officer and Auditor General for Scotland with an annual report on the audit containing observations and recommendations on significant matters which have arisen during the audit.

Exhibit 2 2019/20 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Latest date	Committee Date
Annual Audit Plan	28 February 2020	3 March 2020
Annual Audit Report	31 October 2020	1 September 2020
Independent Auditor's Report	30 September 2020	7 September 2020 (Board Approval)

Source: Audit Scotland

Audit fee

8. The audit fee for the 2019/20 audit of NGS is £23,310 [18/19 - £23,010]. In determining the audit fee we have taken account of the risk exposure of NGS, the planned management assurances in place and the internal audit arrangements. Our audit approach assumes receipt of the unaudited Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2020, with a complete working papers package, on 15 June 2020.

9. Where our audit cannot proceed as planned through, for example, late receipt of unaudited financial statements or being unable to take planned reliance from the work of internal audit, a supplementary fee may be levied. An additional fee may also be required in relation to any work or other significant exercises out with our planned audit activity.

Responsibilities

Audit Committee and Accountable Officer

10. Audited bodies have the primary responsibility for ensuring the proper financial stewardship of public funds, compliance with relevant legislation and establishing effective arrangements for governance, propriety and regularity that enable them to successfully deliver their objectives.

11. The audit of the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements does not relieve management or the Audit & Risk Committee, as those charged with governance, of their responsibilities.

Appointed auditor

12. Our responsibilities as independent auditors are established by the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 the Code of Audit Practice (including supplementary guidance) and guided by the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard.

13. Auditors in the public sector give an independent opinion on the financial statements. We also review and report on the arrangements within the audited body to manage its performance, regularity and use of resources. In doing this, we aim to support improvement and accountability.

Audit scope and timing

Financial Statements

14. The financial statements audit will be the foundation and source for most of the audit work necessary to support our judgements and conclusions. We also consider the wider environment and challenges facing the public sector. Our audit approach includes:

- understanding the business of NGS and the associated risks which could impact on the financial statements
- assessing the key systems of internal control, and establishing how weaknesses in these systems could impact on the financial statements
- identifying major transaction streams, balances and areas of estimation and understanding how NGS will include these in the financial statements
- assessing the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements
- determining the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures necessary to provide us with sufficient audit evidence as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

15. We will give an opinion on whether the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of NGS and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2020;
- whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with relevant legislation, the applicable accounting framework and other reporting requirements for charitable bodies;
- the regularity of the income and expenditure

Other information in the annual accounts

16. We review and report on other information published within the annual report including the Trustees' Annual Report and governance statement. We give an opinion on whether these have been compiled in accordance with the appropriate regulations and frameworks in our independent auditor's report.

17. We also review the content of the Trustees' Annual Report for consistency with the financial statements and with our knowledge. We report any uncorrected material misstatements in statutory other information.

Materiality

18. We apply the concept of materiality in planning and performing the audit. It is used in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit, and of any uncorrected misstatements, on the financial statements and in forming our opinions in the independent auditor's report.



characteristics



responsibilities



principal activities



risks



governance arrangements

19. We calculate materiality at different levels as described below. The calculated materiality values for NGS are set out in [Exhibit 3](#).

Exhibit 3 Materiality values



Materiality	Amount
Planning materiality – This is the figure we calculate to assess the overall impact of audit adjustments on the financial statements. It has been set at 1% of total assets for the year ended 31 March 20 based on the latest audited accounts. We have used total assets as the basis for calculating materiality as a primary function of NGS is to operate as a custodian of public assets. This treatment is in line with ISA 320 and Practice Note 10: Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom.	£3.467 million
Performance materiality – This acts as a trigger point. If the aggregate of errors identified during the financial statements audit exceeds performance materiality this would indicate that further audit procedures should be considered. Using our professional judgement, we have calculated performance materiality at 50% of planning materiality.	£1.733 million
Reporting threshold (i.e., clearly trivial) – We are required to report to those charged with governance on all unadjusted misstatements more than the ‘reporting threshold’ amount. This has been calculated at 1% of planning materiality. We have ensured this threshold is reasonable to allow appropriate testing of income and expenditure items.	£0.035 million



Source: Audit Scotland

Timetable

20. To support the efficient use of resources it is critical that the annual accounts timetable is agreed with us to produce the unaudited accounts. We have included an agreed timetable at [Exhibit 4](#).

Exhibit 4 Annual accounts timetable

 Key stage	 Date
Latest submission date of unaudited Trustees’ Annual Report and Financial Statements with complete working papers package	15 June 2020
Latest date for final clearance meeting with Chief Operating Officer, Director of Finance and Financial Controller	13 July 2020
Issue of draft Annual Audit Report and Letter of Representation to those charged with governance.	20 July 2020
Latest date for management comments on factual accuracy of draft Annual Audit Report	3 August 2020
Agreement of audited unsigned Trustees’ Annual Report and Financial Statements; Issue of final Annual Audit Report to those charged with governance	7 August 2020

 Key stage	 Date
Presentation of Annual Audit Report to the Audit & Risk Committee	1 September 2020
Approval of the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements by the Board of Trustees	7 September 2020
Independent auditor's report signed	8 September 2020

Internal audit

21. Internal audit is provided by Henderson Loggie. As part of our planning process we carry out an annual assessment of the internal audit function to ensure that it operates in accordance with the main requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

22. As Henderson Loggie are the internal auditors for several shared clients with Audit Scotland, we completed a central review of the adequacy of their work and compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). We completed this review in January 2020 and concluded that Henderson Loggie's policies and practices are compliant with the PSIAS..

23. Auditing standards require internal and external auditors to work closely together to make best use of available audit resources. Therefore, we have also completed a local review of internal audit arrangements for NGS including the coverage of the internal audit plan. We intend to review the findings of all internal audit reviews which will help inform our wider dimension audit. However, as we intend to focus our external audit on substantive testing, we will not place formal assurance on the work of internal audit to support our audit opinion on the financial statements. We will report any significant findings to the Audit Committee in due course.

Whole of Government Accounts

24. The Code of Audit Practice requires appointed external auditors to review and report on whole of government accounts (WGA) returns prepared by audited bodies. As in prior years, external auditors of Central Government entities are required to certify 2019/20 WGA returns. We do not expect NGS to be within the boundary determined by HM Treasury for WGA for the 2019/20 year. We will, however, monitor this position throughout the year and report accordingly following the year-end.

Audit dimensions

25. Our audit is based on four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope of public sector audit requirements as shown in [Exhibit 5](#).

Exhibit 5

Audit dimensions



Source: Code of Audit Practice

Financial sustainability

26. As auditors we consider the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting as part of the annual audit. We will also comment on financial sustainability in the longer term. We define this as short term (up to two years), medium term (two to five years) and longer term (longer than five years) sustainability. We will carry out work and conclude on:

- the effectiveness of financial planning in identifying and addressing risks to financial sustainability in the short, medium and long term
- the appropriateness and effectiveness of arrangements in place to address any identified funding gaps
- whether NGS can demonstrate the affordability and effectiveness of funding and investment decisions.

27. NGS continue to face challenges regarding its financial sustainability and, like other public sector bodies, have faced delays in obtaining their funding allocation from the Scottish Government for 2020/21 due to the UK elections and EU withdrawal implications. Additional funding has been secured from Scottish Government in 2019/20 to cover pension cost increases, but funding for future pay costs remain uncertain until the 2020/21 budget is announced. NGS has been working to reduce costs in order to ensure a balanced financial position for 2019/20 is achieved.

Financial management

28. Financial management is concerned with financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively. We will review, conclude and report on:

- whether NGS has arrangements in place to ensure systems of internal control are operating effectively
- whether NGS can demonstrate the effectiveness of the budgetary control system in communicating accurate and timely financial performance

- how NGS has assured itself that its financial capacity and skills are appropriate
- whether NGS has established appropriate and effective arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.

29. We are also required to assess the risk of fraud and corruption in the procurement function and report, where relevant, on the arrangements to counter the risk before the end of our audit appointment. We agreed with the management that work in this area will be carried out in 2019/20 and any issues will be reported in our Annual Audit Report.

Governance and transparency

30. Governance and transparency is concerned with the effectiveness of scrutiny and governance arrangements, leadership and decision – making and transparent reporting of financial and performance information. We will review, conclude and report on:

- whether NGS can demonstrate that the governance arrangements in place are appropriate and operating effectively
- whether there is effective scrutiny, challenge and transparency on the decision-making and finance and performance reports.
- the quality and timeliness of financial and performance reporting.

Value for money

31. Value for money refers to using resources effectively and continually improving services. We will review, conclude and report on whether (the body) can demonstrate :

- value for money in the use of resources
- there is a clear link between money spent, output and outcomes delivered.
- that outcomes are improving.
- there is sufficient focus on improvement and the pace of it.

Best Value

32. The Accountable Officer of NGS has a duty to ensure arrangements are in place to secure best value. Best value (BV) duties apply across the public sector. For sectors other than local government, the Scottish Public Finance Manual (SPFM) explains that Accountable Officers have a specific responsibility to ensure that arrangements have been made to secure BV. We will consider how NGS achieves BV and include any relevant findings in our Annual Audit Report.

Independence and objectivity

33. Auditors appointed by the Accounts Commission or Auditor General must comply with the Code of Audit Practice and relevant supporting guidance. When auditing the financial statements auditors must also comply with professional standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and those of the professional accountancy bodies. These standards impose stringent rules to ensure the independence and objectivity of auditors. Audit Scotland has robust arrangements in place to ensure compliance with these standards including an annual “fit and proper” declaration for all members of staff. The arrangements are overseen by the Director of Audit Services, who serves as Audit Scotland’s Ethics Partner.

34. The engagement lead (i.e. appointed auditor) for NGS is Asif A Haseeb. Auditing and ethical standards require the appointed auditor to communicate any relationships that may affect the independence and objectivity of audit staff. We are not aware of any such relationships pertaining to the audit of National Galleries of Scotland.

Quality control

35. International Standard on Quality Control (UK and Ireland) 1 (ISQC1) requires that a system of quality control is established, as part of financial audit procedures, to provide reasonable assurance that professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements are being complied with and that the independent auditor's report or opinion is appropriate in the circumstances.

36. The foundation of our quality framework is our Audit Guide, which incorporates the application of professional auditing, quality and ethical standards and the Code of Audit Practice (and supporting guidance) issued by Audit Scotland and approved by the Auditor General for Scotland. To ensure that we achieve the required quality standards Audit Scotland conducts peer reviews and internal quality reviews. Additionally, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS) have been commissioned to carry out external quality reviews.

37. As part of our commitment to quality and continuous improvement, Audit Scotland will periodically seek your views on the quality of our service provision. We welcome feedback at any time and this may be directed to the engagement lead.

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