

News release

For immediate use

New interim Controller of Audit and Performance Audit director

Antony Clark has been appointed the interim Controller of Audit and Audit Scotland's interim Director of Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV).

Mr Clark will succeed Fraser McKinlay, who has stepped down after ten years as Controller and seven as Director of PABV.

Mr Clark joined Audit Scotland in 2003, and most recently has overseen the organisation's programme of performance audits that it delivers for the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission. He has also overseen Audit Scotland's parliamentary engagement work and international programme, learning from and sharing with audit bodies across the world. He has nearly 30 years' experience in public audit, with more than 20 years in senior leadership roles.

Mr Clark said: "It is a privilege to be appointed to these roles, at a time when public services in Scotland face more challenges than at any point since devolution. Public audit is vital to assuring people in Scotland that public money is being spent well and to helping public bodies continue to improve the services we all rely on. Key to our future audit work programme is understanding and reporting on the impact of Covid-19, in particular on those most disadvantaged and affected by the pandemic.

"I would like to pay tribute to Fraser for everything he has done in these posts and during his 16 years at Audit Scotland. He has made a tremendous contribution to Scotland's public services and to the leadership and performance of Audit Scotland."

Notes to editors:

- 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 for Scotland.

- The Accounts Commission is the public spending watchdog for local government. It holds councils and various joint boards and committees in Scotland to account and help them improve. It operates impartially and independently of councils and of the Scottish Government, and meets and reports in public.

- The Controller of Audit reports to the Accounts Commission on the accounts of local authorities, matters arising from the audits of local authorities, and the performance by authorities of their Best Value and community planning duties. The Controller of Audit is a statutory post, established alongside the Commission in 1975, and Mr Clark's appointment has been confirmed by Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart.

- The appointments are on an interim basis; 12 months for the Controller of Audit and 18 months for Director of Best Value and Performance Audit. This is in order to provide stability in the roles ahead of an external recruitment competition.