

Redress Scotland

Annual Audit Plan 2022/23



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for Redress Scotland
7 April 2023

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Introduction

Summary of planned audit work

1. This document summarises the work plan for our 2022/23 external audit of Redress Scotland. The main elements of our work include:

- evaluation of the key controls within the main accounting systems
- an audit of the annual report and accounts, and provision of an Independent Auditor's Report
- an audit opinion on regularity and other statutory information published within the annual report and accounts including the Performance Report, the Governance Statement and the Remuneration and Staff Report.

Audit Appointment

2. We are pleased to be appointed as the external auditor of Redress Scotland for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27 inclusive. You can find a brief biography of your audit team at [Appendix 1](#).

3. In the first year of the audit appointment, we invest significant time gaining an understanding of your business and identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements. While we use our initial assessment of risk to inform our planned audit approach, we keep our assessment of risks under review as the audit progresses. We will inform you of any significant changes in assessed risks and any resulting changes in our planned audit work.

4. The audit team will actively engage with you over the course of the audit to ensure our audit work continues to be focused on risk.

Adding value

5. We aim to add value to Redress Scotland through our external audit work by being constructive and forward looking, by attending meetings of the Audit Risk and Assurance Committee and by recommending and encouraging good practice. In so doing, we will help Redress Scotland promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources.

Respective responsibilities of the auditor and Redress Scotland

6. The [Code of Audit Practice 2021](#) sets out in detail the respective responsibilities of the auditor and Redress Scotland. Key responsibilities are summarised below.

Auditor responsibilities

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

8. Auditors in the public sector give an independent opinion on the financial statements and other information within the annual report and accounts. We also review and report on the wider scope arrangements in place at Redress Scotland. In doing this, we aim to support improvement and accountability.

Redress Scotland's responsibilities

9. Redress Scotland is responsible for maintaining accounting records and preparing financial statements that give a true and fair view.

10. Redress Scotland has 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 deliver their objectives.

Financial statements audit planning

Introduction

11. The annual report and accounts are an essential part of demonstrating Redress Scotland's stewardship of resources and its performance in the use of those resources.

12. We focus our work on the areas of highest risk. As part of our planning process, we prepare a risk assessment highlighting the audit risks relating to each of the main financial systems relevant to the production of the financial statements.

Materiality

13. The concept of materiality is applied by auditors in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of any uncorrected misstatements on the financial statements. We are required to plan our audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement. The assessment of what is material is a matter of professional judgement over both the amount and the nature of the misstatement.

Materiality levels for the 2022/23 audit

14. We assess materiality at different levels as described in [Exhibit 1](#). The materiality values for Redress Scotland are set out in [Exhibit 1](#).

Exhibit 1

2022/23 Materiality levels for Redress Scotland

Materiality	Amount
Planning materiality – This is the figure we calculate to assess the overall impact of audit adjustments on the financial statements. Materiality has been set based on our assessment of the needs of the users of the financial statements and the nature of Redress Scotland's operations. For the year ended 31 March 2023 we have set our materiality at 1% of forecasted gross expenditure.	£35,000
Performance materiality – This acts as a trigger point. If the aggregate of errors identified during the financial statements audit exceeds performance materiality, this could indicate that further audit procedures should be considered. Using our professional judgement, we have assessed performance materiality at 60% of planning materiality.	£21,000

Reporting threshold (ie clearly trivial) – We are required to report to those charged with governance on all unadjusted misstatements more than the 'reporting threshold' amount. £2,000

Source: Audit Scotland

Significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements

15. Our risk assessment draws on our knowledge of Redress Scotland, its major transaction streams, key systems of internal control and risk management processes. It is informed by our discussions with management, meetings with internal audit, attendance at committees and a review of supporting information.

16. Audit risk assessment is an iterative and dynamic process. Our assessment of risks set out in this plan may change as more information and evidence becomes available during the progress of the audit. Where such changes occur, we will advise management and where relevant, report them to those charged with governance.

17. Based on our risk assessment process, we identified the following significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements. These are risks which have the greatest impact on our planned audit procedures. [Exhibit 2](#) summarises the nature of the risk, the sources of assurance from management arrangements and the further audit procedures we plan to perform to gain assurance over the risk.

Exhibit 2

2022/23 Significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements

Significant risk of material misstatement	Sources of assurance	Planned audit response
<p>1. Risk of material misstatement due to fraud caused by management override of controls</p> <p>As stated in International Standard on Auditing (UK) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of management's ability to override controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.</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"> Assess the design and implementation of controls over journal entry processing. Make inquiries of individuals involved in the financial reporting process about inappropriate or unusual activity relating to the processing of journal entries and other adjustments. Test journals at the year-end and post-closing entries with a focus on significant risk areas. Consider the need to test journal entries and other adjustments during the period.

Significant risk of material misstatement	Sources of assurance	Planned audit response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate significant transactions outside the normal course of business. • Assess the adequacy of controls in place for identifying and disclosing related party relationships and transactions in the financial statements. • We will assess any changes to the methods and underlying assumptions used to prepare accounting estimates compared to the prior year. • Substantive testing of income and expenditure transactions around the year-end to confirm they are accounted for in the correct financial year. • Focussed testing of accounting accruals and prepayments.

Source: Audit Scotland

18. As set out in International Standard on Auditing (UK) 240: *The auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements*, there is a presumed risk of fraud over the recognition of revenue. There is a risk that revenue may be misstated resulting in a material misstatement in the financial statements. We have rebutted this risk as funding received from Scottish Government can be readily agreed to third party confirmations.

19. In line with Practice Note 10: *Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom*, as most public-sector bodies are net spending bodies, the risk of material misstatement due to fraud related to expenditure recognition may in some cases be greater than the risk relating to revenue recognition. We have rebutted this risk as the main expenditure streams of Redress Scotland relate to staff costs and other running costs, such as training and minor equipment purchases. Staff costs are low value and high-volume transactions, and therefore there would have to be a substantial number of fraudulent payments for this to be materially misstated. While other running costs can be agreed to third party evidence. We also consider there to be limited incentive and opportunity for the manipulation of expenditure recognition in the financial statements.

20. We have not, therefore, incorporated specific work into our audit plan in these areas over and above our standard audit procedures

Other areas of audit focus

21. As part of our assessment of audit risks, we have identified one other area where we consider there is also a risk of material misstatement to the financial

statements. Based on our assessment of the likelihood and magnitude of the risk, we do not consider these to represent a significant risk.

22. The area of specific audit focus relates to the disclosures within the Performance Report, the Governance Statement and the Remuneration and Staff Report. This is the first year that Redress Scotland will be producing financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). These disclosures can be complex and subject to management judgement. There is a risk that errors could be made in the accuracy and completeness of information included in these sections of the Annual Report and Accounts. We will review these areas against supporting evidence and to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the FReM and any other relevant guidance.

Wider Scope and Best Value

Introduction

23. The [Code of Audit Practice](#) sets out the four areas that frame the wider scope of public sector audit. The Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to consider the adequacy of the arrangements in place for the wider scope areas in audited bodies.

24. The [Code of Audit Practice \(2021\)](#) and [supplementary guidance](#) includes provisions relating to the audit of less complex bodies. The Code provides for an alternative audit approach where an audited body might be considered to be less complex due to its size and its limited financial activity. Where the application of the full wider audit scope is judged by auditors not to be appropriate to an audited body, the audit work can focus on the appropriateness of the disclosures in the governance statement and the financial sustainability of the body and its services.

25. Redress Scotland's financial transactions are considered low volume and non-complex. We therefore plan to apply the 'less complex' provisions of the Code in our audit of Redress Scotland. Our audit of the wider scope will include:

- **Financial sustainability** – 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 medium and longer term.
- **Governance** – We consider the effectiveness of the governance arrangements to support delivery. We review the Annual Governance Statement and consider whether disclosures appropriately reflect the arrangements in place and the activities which took place in 2022/23.

Duty of Best Value

26. [Ministerial Guidance to Accountable Officers](#) for public bodies and the [Scottish Public Finance Manual](#) (SPFM) explain that accountable officers have a specific responsibility to ensure that arrangements have been made to secure Best Value. We will be carrying out a high-level review to confirm that such arrangements are in place within Audited Body.

Reporting arrangements, timetable, and audit fee

Reporting arrangements

27. Audit reporting is the visible output for the annual audit. All Annual Audit Plans and the outputs, as detailed in [Exhibit 6](#), and any other outputs on matters of public interest will be published on our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.

28. 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 officers to confirm factual accuracy.

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

30. [Exhibit 3](#) outlines the target dates for our audit outputs.

Exhibit 3 2022/23 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Target date	Audit Risk and Assurance Committee date
Annual Audit Plan	03/04/2023	18/04/2023
Independent Auditor's Report	31/10/2023	To be confirmed
Annual Audit Report	31/10/2023	To be confirmed



Source: Audit Scotland

Timetable

31. To support an efficient audit, it is critical that the timetable for producing the annual report and accounts for audit is achieved. We have included a proposed timetable for the audit at [Exhibit 4](#) that has been discussed with management.

32. We will continue to work closely with management to identify the most efficient approach to the audit and will keep timeframes and logistics for the completion of the audit under review. Progress will be discussed with management and finance officers over the course of the audit.

Exhibit 4

 Key stage	 Provisional Date
Latest submission date for the receipt of the unaudited annual report and accounts with complete working papers package.	31 July 2023
Latest date for final clearance meeting with the Head of Finance and Resources	3 November 2023
Issue of draft Letter of Representation and proposed Independent Auditor's Report	10 November 2023
Agreement of audited and unsigned annual report and accounts	10 November 2023
Issue of Annual Audit Report to those charged with governance.	29 November 2023
Signed Independent Auditor's Report	29 November 2023

Source: Audit Scotland

Audit fee

33. In determining the audit fee, we have taken account of the risk exposure of Redress Scotland and the planned management assurances in place. The proposed audit fee for 2022/23 is £28,000.

34. In setting the fee for 2022/23 we have assumed that Redress Scotland has effective governance arrangements and will prepare comprehensive and accurate accounts for audit in line with the agreed timetable for the audit. The audit fee assumes there will be no major change in respect of the scope of the audit during the year and where our audit cannot proceed as planned, a supplementary fee may be levied.

Other matters

Internal audit

35. It is the responsibility of Redress Scotland to establish adequate internal audit arrangements. While we are not planning to place formal reliance on the work of internal audit in 2022/23, we will review internal audit reports and assess the impact of the findings on our financial statements and wider scope audit responsibilities.

Independence and objectivity

36. Auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Scotland or Accounts Commission 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.

37. 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 Executive Director of Innovation and Quality, who serves as Audit Scotland's Ethics Partner.

38. The appointed auditor for Redress Scotland is Pauline Gillen, Audit Director. 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 Redress Scotland.

Audit Quality

39. Quality is at the core of public audit in Scotland and is the foundation for building consistency and confidence across all audit work. High quality audits provide assurance, add value and can support public bodies to achieve their objectives.

40. Until 2021/22, the applicable audit quality standard was International Standard on Quality Control 1 (ISQC (UK) 1). This set out an audit practice's responsibilities for its system of quality control for audits.

41. ISQC(UK) 1 has been replaced by two new audit quality standards: Internal Standards on Quality Management (ISQM (UK) 1) applicable from 15 December 2022 and (ISQM(UK) 2) effective for the 2023/24 audits. Work is underway at Audit Scotland to meet the requirements of these quality standards.

42. Audit Scotland is committed to delivering high quality audits. 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 supplementary 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 England and Wales (ICAEW) have been commissioned to carry out external quality reviews.

43. 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.

Appendix 1. Your audit team

44. The audit team involved in the audit of Redress Scotland have significant experience in public sector audit.

Pauline Gillen

Audit Director

pgillen@audit-scotland.gov.uk

Pauline has 16 years of public sector auditing experience. Pauline has worked across the breadth of the public sector on both financial and performance audits.

Gillian McCreadie

Senior Audit Manager

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Gillian has over 13 years of public sector audit experience and has delivered external audit services to a range of bodies including local authorities, health boards and central government bodies.

John Davidson

Senior Auditor

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John has considerable experience in planning and delivering audits. John will manage the team and work alongside the Senior Audit Manager and Audit Director to deliver the audit.

45. The local audit team is supported by a specialist technical accounting team, all of whom have significant experience of public bodies and work with accounting regulatory bodies.

Redress Scotland

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Audit Scotland's published material is available for download on the website in a number of formats. For information on our accessibility principles, please visit:

www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/accessibility

For the latest news follow us on social media or [subscribe to our email alerts.](#)



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