

MEETING: 11 AUGUST 2022

REPORT BY: CHAIR OF ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

CHAIR'S UPDATE REPORT

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on the engagements and work of the Chair of the Accounts Commission.

Engagement and Audit Scotland business

2. The engagements and work in the period of 1 June to 31 July have been as follows:

Audit Scotland Board and Committee meetings

- 1 June – Audit Scotland Board. The main items of substance covered were our Strategic Improvement Programme update, 2021-22 Annual report from the Chair of the Audit Committee to the Board, 2021/22 Annual report: Remuneration and Human Resources Committee, Draft international work annual report for 2021-22, Policy on the provision of Non-Audit Services by Audit Scotland's external auditor, Governance statement and certificate of assurance 2021-22, Audit summary report for the year ended 31 March 2022, Quality of public audit in Scotland 2021/22, Q4 Corporate performance report, Draft Audit Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22, Interim Corporate Plan 2022/23. Copies of the key papers have been loaded onto the Commission's SharePoint site and brought to members' attention.
- 1 June – Audit Committee meeting.

Audit Scotland engagement

- 6 June – Monthly catch up with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland and Accountable Officer, Audit Scotland.
- 6 June – Monthly catch up with Antony Clark, Interim Controller of Audit and Executive Director of Performance Audit and Best Value, and Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission.
- 8 June – Leadership Group meeting to discuss Commission Change Programme.
- 20 June – Joint Work Programme discussion with Stephen Boyle, Tim McKay, Interim Deputy Chair, Antony Clark, Patrick McFall and Joanna Mansell Communications Advisers, Michelle Borland, Business Manager and Gemma Diamond, Audit Director, Performance Audit and Best Value.
- 22 June – Introductory meeting with Kenny Oliver, Executive Director of Innovation and Quality.

External engagement

- 7 June – Introductory meeting with Colin Beattie, Convener, The Scottish Commission for Public Audit (SCPA), accompanied by Paul Reilly.
- 7 June – Introductory meeting with Sharon Dowey MSP, Scottish Conservative & Unionist party and SCPA member accompanied by Paul Reilly.
- 21 June – Evidence session at Local Government Housing and Planning Committee on local government overview reports accompanied by Antony Clark, Carol Calder, Audit Director, Blyth Deans, Audit Manager and Lucy Jones, Senior Auditor.
- 21 June – Introductory meeting with John-Paul Marks, Permanent Secretary.

3. Commission business has been as follows:

- Regular catch ups with Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin, Executive Assistant to the Commission.
- 1 June – Meeting to discuss Controller of Audit recruitment with Gatenby Sanderson.
- 7 & 29 June & 27 July – Communications Group catch up with Simon Ebbett, Communications Manager, Joanna Mansell, Paul Reilly, and Jillian Elgin.
- 8 & 20 June – Preparatory sessions for attendance at Local Government Housing & Planning Committee with Antony Clark, Carol Calder, Blyth Deans, Lucy Jones and Joanna Mansell.
- 9 June – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 10 June – Longlist meeting for Controller of Audit recruitment with Andy Cowie and Geraldine Wooley Commission Members and Stephanie Wilson, Gatenby Sanderson.
- 27 June – Adult mental health sponsor meeting with Christine Lester, Commission Member, Stephen Boyle, Antony Clark, Angela Canning, Audit Director, Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, Natalie Goddard, Senior Auditor, Eva Thomas-Tudo, Audit Manager, Claire Tennyson, Auditor, Performance Audit and Best Value and Joanna Mansell.
- 27 June – Media preparation for Integration Joint Boards (IJB) publication with Blyth Deans, Christopher Lewis, Senior Auditor, Performance Audit and Best Value and Joanna Mansell.
- 28 June – Local Government, Housing and Planning (LGHP) debrief session with Antony Clark, Carol Calder, Blyth Deans, Lucy Jones and Joanna Mansell.
- 28 June - Shortlisting meeting for Controller of Audit recruitment with Andy Cowie, Geraldine Wooley and Stephanie Wilson, Gatenby Sanderson.
- 28 June – Best Value Working Group meeting. Updates are shared with Commission members at each monthly Commission meeting as a standing item on our agenda.
- 29 June – Media interviews for Integration Joint Board overview report.

- 30 June – Strategic Scrutiny Group catch up with Tina Yule, Chair of Operational Scrutiny Group.
- 20 July – Catch up with David Robertson, Digital Services Manager.
- 20 July – Catch up with Gordon Robertson, Learning and Development Assistant Manager and Paul Reilly around Commission learning and development.
- 27 July – Forward planning meeting with Tim McKay and Paul Reilly to discuss up and coming Commission business.

4. Other areas of work have included the Commission Change Programme.

Forthcoming activities

5. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 2 August – Commission member recruitment shortlisting meeting.
- 2 August – Scottish Government meeting around covid recovery.
- 3 August – Monthly catch up with Stephen Boyle.
- 3 August – Improvement Service elected member event.
- 10 August – Monthly catch up with Alan Alexander.
- 10 August – Strategic Scrutiny discussion.
- 11 August – Account Commission meeting.

Conclusion

6. The Commission is invited to:

- a) note this report and enquire about any areas of interest
- b) consider whether there are any changes that they would wish to see to the format and content of the report for the future.

William Moyes
Chair
1 August 2022