

3 August 2021

Ian Bruce
Acting Ethical Standards Commissioner
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Dear Ian

Thank you for sharing your draft Strategic Plan.

It is helpful to see how you intend to frame the work and activities of your office in the coming months and years. It is particularly welcome to see such a clear statement of the values which will underpin your approach.

The Accounts Commission regularly reviews and makes use of your work to provide additional evidence and insight to governance and leadership in the public bodies that we audit. The integrity and credibility of your work is therefore of importance to us.

A focus on the experience of citizens and for the Ethical Standards Commissioner providing independent investigation of and assurance about the conduct of leaders of public bodies is critical to the development of trust in our public services. The Accounts Commission is supportive of any steps you will take to embed this in your work.

I hope this response is helpful and I, and the Secretary to the Commission, would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Elma Murray OBE

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Interim Chair of the Accounts Commission