Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Chief Constable of Gwent Police

Outline Audit Plan 2025

Audit year: 2024-2025

Date issued: March 2025

This document is a draft version pending further discussions with the audited and inspected body. Information may not yet have been fully verified and should not be widely distributed.

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions. Further information can be found in our [Statement of Responsibilities](https://www.audit.wales/publication/statement-responsibilities-financial-statements-audit).

Audit Wales is the non-statutory collective name for the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office, which are separate legal entities each with their own legal functions. Audit Wales is not a legal entity and itself does not have any functions.

No responsibility is taken by the Auditor General, the staff of the Wales Audit Office or, where applicable, the appointed auditor in relation to any member, director, officer or other employee in their individual capacity, or to any third party.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The section 45 Code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales, the Wales Audit Office and, where applicable, the appointed auditor are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to the Wales Audit Office at infoofficer@audit.wales.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

# About Audit Wales

Our aims:

**Assure**

**Explain**

**Inspire**

the people of Wales that public money is well managed

how public money is being used to meet people’s needs

and empower the Welsh public sector to improve

Our ambitions:

Fully exploit our unique perspective, expertise and depth of insight

Strengthen our position as an authoritative, trusted and

independent voice

Increase our visibility, influence and relevance

Be a model organisation for the public sector in Wales and beyond

Contents

Introduction and my responsibilities 5

Fees and audit team 7

Audit timeline 8

Audit quality 9

# Introduction

This Outline Audit Plan specifies my statutory responsibilities as your external auditor and to fulfil my obligations under the Code of Audit Practice. It also sets out details of my audit team and key dates for delivering my audit team’s activities and planned outputs. I intend sharing a Detailed Audit Plan later in the year following the completion of my planning work. It will set out my estimated audit fee and the work my team intends undertaking to address the audit risks identified and other key areas of audit focus during 2025.



**My audit responsibilities**

I complete work each year to meet the following duties:

* I audit both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable’s financial statements to make sure that public money is being properly accounted for.
* the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable have made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources; and
* the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable are acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting and taking steps to meet their well-being objectives

**Audit of financial statements**

I am required to issue a certificate and report on your financial statements (including the Police Pension Fund) which includes an opinion on their ‘truth and fairness’ and their proper preparation in accordance with accounting and legal requirements. I also make an assessment as to whether the Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement is prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance and is consistent with your financial statements and my knowledge of both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

In addition to my responsibilities for auditing the Commissioner and Chief Constable’s financial statements, I also have responsibility for:

* certifying a return to the Welsh Government which provides information about to support preparation of Whole of Government Accounts;
* responding to questions and objections about the accounts from local electors (additional fees will be charged for this work, if necessary)
* auditing Gwent Police Pension Fund Accounts.

I do not seek to obtain absolute assurance on the truth and fairness of the financial statements and related notes but adopt a concept of materiality. My aim is to identify material misstatements, that is, those that might result in a reader of the accounts being misled. The levels at which I judge such misstatements to be material will be reported to you in my Detailed Audit Plan.

I will also report by exception on a number of matters which are set out in more detail in our [Statement of Responsibilities](https://www.audit.wales/publication/statement-responsibilities-financial-statements-audit-0).

Fees and audit team

In January 2025 I published the [fee scheme](https://www.audit.wales/publication/fee-scheme-2025-26) for the year, approved by the Senedd Finance Committee. This sets out my fee rates. My fee rates for 2025-26 have increased by an average 1.7% because of unavoidable inflationary pressures.

I will provide an estimate of your fee in my Detailed Audit Plan in April 2025, following completion of my detailed risk assessment.

**Your engagement team:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Richard Harries** | **Audit Director (Financial Audit)** |
| **David Williams** | **Audit Manager (Financial Audit)** |
| **Carys Bates** | **Audit Lead (Financial Audit)** |

 **We confirm that our audit team members are all independent of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Gwent Police.**

# Audit timeline

We set out below key dates for delivery of our audit work and planned outputs.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Planned output** | **Work undertaken** | **Report finalised** |
|  Outline Audit Plan 2023 | February 2025 | March 2025 |
|  Detailed Audit Plan 2023 | February – March 2025 | April 2025 |
| Audit of financial statements work:* Audit of Financial Statements Report
* Opinion on the Financial Statements.
 | August – October 2025  | October 2025 |

# Audit quality

My commitment to audit quality in Audit Wales is absolute.

I believe that audit quality is about getting things right first-time.

We use a three lines of assurance model to demonstrate how we achieve this.

We have established an Audit Quality Committee to co-ordinate and oversee those arrangements. We subject our work to independent scrutiny by QAD[[1]](#footnote-2) and our Chair acts as a link to our Board on audit quality. For more information see our [Audit Quality Report 2022](https://www.audit.wales/publication/audit-quality-report-2022-building-trust-audit).

Our People

The first line of assurance is formed by our staff and management who are

individually and collectively responsible for achieving the standards of audit quality to which we aspire.

* Selection of right team
* Use of specialists
* Supervisions and review

Independent assurance

The third line of assurance is formed by those activities that provide independent assurance over the effectiveness of the first two lines of assurance.

* EQCRs
* Themed reviews
* Cold reviews
* Root cause analysis
* Peer review
* Audit Quality Committee
* External monitoring

Arrangements for achieving audit quality

The second line of assurance is formed by the policies, tools, learning & development, guidance, and leadership we provide to our staff to support them in achieving those standards of audit quality.

* Audit platform
* Ethics
* Guidance
* Culture
* Learning and development
* Leadership
* Technical support

1. QAD is the Quality Assurance Department of ICAEW. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)