

Mr Jeff Cuthbert, Police & Crime Commissioner
Ms Pam Kelly, Chief Constable
Gwent Police Head Quarters
Turnpike Rd
Cwmbran NP44 2XJ

Reference: 2212A2020-21

Date issued: 7 January 2021

Dear Mr Cuthbert and Ms Kelly

Annual Audit Letter – Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Chief Constable of Gwent Police 2019-20

This letter summarises the key messages arising from my statutory responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and my reporting responsibilities under the Code of Audit Practice.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable (CC) complied with their responsibilities relating to financial reporting and use of resources

It is the PCC and CC's responsibility to:

- put systems of internal control in place to ensure the regularity and lawfulness of transactions and to ensure that their assets are secure;
- maintain proper accounting records;
- prepare a Statement of Accounts in accordance with relevant requirements; and
- establish and keep under review appropriate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources.

The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires me to:

- provide an audit opinion on the accounting statements;
- review the body's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and
- issue a certificate confirming that I have completed the audit of the accounts.

Police bodies in Wales prepare their financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. This Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards. On 12 October 2020 I issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements for both the PCC and CC confirming that they present a true and fair view of each body's financial position and transactions. My report is contained within the Statement of Accounts. The key matters arising from the accounts audit were reported to members of the Joint Audit Committee in my Audit of Financial Statements report on 7 October 2020.

I am satisfied that the PCC and CC have appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

My consideration of the body's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness has been based on:

- the audit work undertaken on the statement of accounts;
- the results of the audit work undertaken on the PCC's and the CC's systems of internal control, as reported in the Annual Governance Statements;
- an evaluation of the PCC's and CC's systems based on a self-assessment completed by officers;
- the results of previous work carried out by the Auditor General;
- the results of the work of other external review bodies, eg HMIC, where relevant to my responsibilities; and
- any other work, including from Internal Audit, that I considered necessary to discharge my responsibilities.

For the purposes of my work, I evaluated the PCC's and the CC's systems against a number of questions. This approach is set out in detail in **Appendix 1** to this letter. For each question, I consider whether there are gaps in the arrangements expected to be in place, and the significance of those gaps.

I am satisfied, given the work I have undertaken, that the PCC and CC have appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources.

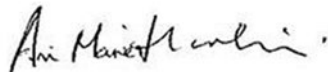
I issued a certificate confirming that the audit of the accounts of the PCC and CC have been completed on 8 December 2020

I received no electors' questions or objections in relation to the 2019-20 audit. Having given an audit opinion on the financial statements and concluded on the PCC's and the CC's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, I was able to certify that the audit was complete when I issued my audit opinion.

Financial audit fee

The financial audit fee for 2019-20 is currently being reviewed and is expected to be slightly in excess of the agreed fee set out in the Annual Audit Plan 2020. I will agree any additional fees with the Chief Finance Officer and the Assistant Chief Officer – Resources before updating the Joint Audit Committee members at their Spring 2021 meeting.

Yours sincerely



Ann-Marie Harkin

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

cc Darren Garwood-Pask, Chief Finance Officer

Nigel Stephens, Assistant Chief Officer - Resources

Appendix 1

Criteria to assess arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in his use of resources

Exhibit 1: criteria for assessing arrangements

Corporate performance management and financial management arrangements	Questions on arrangements
Establishing objectives determining policy and decision making	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements for setting, reviewing and implementing his strategic and operational objectives?
Meeting the needs of users, stakeholders and the local population	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place channels of communication with the local population, users of the service, and other stakeholders including partners, and are there monitoring arrangements to ensure that key messages about services are taken into account?
Monitoring and reviewing performance	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements for monitoring and scrutiny of performance, to identify potential variances against strategic objectives, standards and targets, for taking action where necessary and reporting to the Commissioner/Chief Constable?
Compliance with established policies	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements to maintain a sound system of internal control, including those for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, and internal policies and procedures?

Corporate performance management and financial management arrangements	Questions on arrangements
Operational and financial risks	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements to manage his significant business risks?
Managing financial and other resources	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements to evaluate and improve the value for money he achieves in his use of resources?
	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements to ensure that his spending matches his available resources?
	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements for managing and monitoring performance against budgets, taking corrective action where appropriate, and reporting the results to senior management and the Commissioner/Chief Constable?
Proper standards of conduct etc.	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements for monitoring and scrutinising performance, to identify potential variances against strategic objectives, standards and targets for taking action?
	Has the Commissioner/Chief Constable put in place arrangements that are designed to promote and ensure probity and propriety in the conduct of his business?