

**Internal Audit** 

**FINAL** 

# Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and the Chief Constable Gwent Police

**Summary Internal Controls Assurance (SICA) Report** 

2019/20

November 2019



#### Introduction

1. This summary report provides the Joint Audit Committee (JAC) with an update on the progress of our work for the Police and Crime Commissioner Gwent and the Chief Constable Gwent Police as at 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## Progress against the 19/20 Annual Plan

2. Our progress against the Annual Plan for 2019/2020 is set out in Appendix A. The results of these reviews are also summarised at Appendix A. A copy of the Annual Plan for the year is included at Annex B.

#### **Internal Control Framework**

3. The key strategic governance, risk management and control matters identified from the nine reviews completed since the previous SICA are summarised below. There are no issues arising from these findings which would require the annual Head of Audit Opinion to be qualified.

Key Strategic Governance, Risk Management and Control Matters

Review	High level							
	Robust processes are in place for reporting and investigating internal concerns. However, this process does not refer to whistleblowing guidance in either governing literature or decision making. Specifically:							
	<ul> <li>There is no standalone specific Whistleblowing Policy in place and whistleblowing does not form part of other reporting concerns policies.</li> </ul>							
Duty Resource Management	<ul> <li>The process of assessing concerns does not take into consideration whether a case could be categorised as whistleblowing and therefore follow the guidance.</li> </ul>							
	<ul> <li>Arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that all Police Sergeants or staff with line management responsibility that are expected to use the GRS system as part of their role are provided with specific training and guidance on how to use the system and also instruction on the expectations placed upon them and the roles and responsibilities.</li> </ul>							
	<ul> <li>Minimum staffing levels are currently not set within the GRS system for all local policing areas.</li> </ul>							
Risk Management – Mitigating Controls	<ul> <li>There are adequate arrangements in place for the identification, management and reporting of risk.</li> <li>Risk 4851 is defined as high risk, but no timescales have been defined for the delivery of the identified mitigating actions and controls to allow progress to be monitored.</li> <li>Project risk registers need to adopt consistent scoring with the Strategic Risk Register to assist in comparability</li> </ul>							
	and interpretation.							



Review	High level
Fleet Management – Repairs and Maintenance	<ul> <li>Gwent Police have effective fleet management arrangements in place.</li> <li>The Fleet Strategy be updated to reflect there is no longer a Vehicle Replacement Policy in place.</li> <li>Vehicle XXXXBZW identified as being overdue for servicing be passed onto the relevant Technicians to book in and complete the service.</li> </ul>
New HQ – Contract Management – (Quarter 2)	<ul> <li>Sub-contractors from the BAM select list were invited to participate in a mini-tender process for a range of work packages.</li> <li>At least two tender returns were received for every work package ensuring competition.</li> <li>The tender process appears to be robust with no issues being identified during this review that would affect the individual tender outcomes.</li> </ul>
HR – Absence Management	<ul> <li>This review identified that comprehensive arrangements are in place for monitoring, reviewing and ensuring compliance with the attendance management policies through appropriate governance and reporting arrangements. The following matters were identified: <ul> <li>Sample testing of police officer and police staff absence management records identified instances where line managers have not fully complied with the associated procedures and it is recommended that a reminder be sent reminding them of their responsibilities.</li> <li>The Compassionate Leave Policy and Shared Parental Leave Policy need to be reviewed and updated.</li> <li>Return to work interviews need to be completed in a timely manner.</li> <li>Fit notes need to be chased in accordance with policy after the 14 days grace period.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Fixed Assets	<ul> <li>The review confirmed that appropriate controls are in place within Gwent Police for ensuring that assets are identified and recorded accurately within the organisation's fixed asset registers.</li> <li>It was not possible to test the new Fixed Assets module as originally planned, as the new module was not yet in full operation.</li> <li>Process documentation continues to need to be developed for fixed assets in accordance with the ongoing project to update the Finance Procedure Manual.</li> <li>A fixed deadline needs to be set for the full operation of the new Fixed Assets module.</li> </ul>



Review	High level							
Victims' Hub	The Connect Gwent Victims' Hub is in line with the PCC's Police and Crime Plan objectives and there are now arrangements in place for monitoring and reporting on delivery of the objectives inherent in commissioning the service through the Force's Victims Board.  There have been a number of issues which have impacted upon delivery of the service in the past twelve months and, although the need for change is recognised by the Force, a number of the monitoring and reporting mechanisms have either recently been established or re-introduced, or are planned to take effect going forward.  This includes:  Embedding of the recently established Victims Board;  Completion of the Victims Services Model Project led by the Force's Business Change team;  Completion of the review and comparison of the use of the 'Victim Contract Management' (VCM) form by other Forces and delivery of associated training through the Force Training day in April 2020 and a communication package to encourage and support the use of the form;  Development of Standard Operating Procedures and arrangements for training of Gwent Police staff employed within the Hub;  Development of an agreed performance framework for delivery and management of the contract with Victim Support and implementation of formal contract management meeting with the provider.							
Interim Follow Up (Quarter 2)	<ul> <li>The key findings were:</li> <li>The Force has made good progress in addressing the recommendations raised. Gwent Police have implemented 35 out of 47 (74%) recommendations reviewed.</li> <li>The Priority 1 recommendation from the Creditors review relating to the collection of duplicate payments remains outstanding. £311k of the initial £1,045k remains outstanding.</li> </ul>							
Follow Up - Fleet Management – Single System	<ul> <li>The key findings were:</li> <li>Six out of the eight (75%) recommendations reviewed have been implemented by Gwent Police with one (12.5%) still outstanding and one (12.5%) not implemented.</li> <li>Three out of the six (50%) generic recommendations have been implemented by the three Fleet Managers with three (50%) still outstanding.</li> </ul>							

## **Emerging Governance, Risk and Internal Control Related Issues**

4. We have identified no emerging risks which could impact on the overall effectiveness of the governance, risk and internal control framework of the organisation.



### **Audits Completed since the last report to Joint Audit Committee**

5. The table below sets out details of the one audit finalised since the previous meeting of the Joint Audit Committee.

			Key Dates		R	Numb ecomme	per of endation	s
Review	Evaluation	Draft issued	Responses Received	Final issued	1	2	3	OE
<b>Duty Resource Management</b>	Reasonable	09/08/2019	28/08/2019	02/09/2019	-	4	2	3
Risk Management - Mitigating Controls	Reasonable	30/08/2019	06/09/2019	11/09/2019	-	2	3	3
Fleet Management – Repairs and Maintenance	Substantial	26/09/2019	11/10/2019	14/10/2019	-	-	2	-
New HQ – Contract Management – (Quarter 2)	Substantial	07/11/2019	08/11/2019	08/11/2019	-	-	-	-
HR Management – Absence Management	Reasonable	04/09/2019	21/11/2019	22/11/2019	-	3	8	1
Fixed Assets	Substantial	20/11/2019	22/11/2019	22/11/2019	-	-	2	-
Victims' Hub	Limited	28/10/2019	22/11/2019	22/11/2019	1	2	1	-
Interim Follow Up	N/A	29/10/2019	22/11/2019	22/11/2019	-	-	-	-
Follow Up - Fleet Management - Single System	N/A	06/09/2019	25/11/2019	26/11/19	-	-	-	-

### **Changes to the Annual Plan 2019/20**

6. No further changes have been made since the previous Joint Audit Committee other than to the timing of some of the planned audits. As previously reported, an additional review of Collaborative Change review was requested by South Wales and Gwent Police. The 10 day audit was split equally between the two forces and a single report has been issued.

### **Changes to the Internal Audit Strategy**

7. An updated audit plan has been issued which includes the areas identified by the four Welsh Forces for collaborative review. Indicative dates have been provided for each audit. Planning meetings have been held and audit planning memorandums are being issued for each review.

## Frauds/Irregularities

8. We have not been advised of any frauds or irregularities in the period since the last summary report was issued.



#### Liaison

9. Liaison with external audit: We maintain ongoing communication with Wales Audit Office including attending the Police Practitioner Group meetings.

## **Progress actioning Priority 1 recommendations**

10. We have been advised that progress of completion of recommendations is monitored internally and not to include within this summary report, following a decision at the February 2016 Joint Audit Committee.

#### **Other Matters**

- 11. We have issued the following briefing notes and fraud digests since the last Joint Audit Committee, details of which are included in Appendix D:
  - All Sectors NCSC Email Security Guidance;
  - All Sectors Data Breach Hits 4,000 Housing Association Clients;
  - All Sectors Best Practice When Using Work WhatsApp Groups;
  - All Sectors Guidance on Cyber Security for major Events;
  - All Sectors Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Cyber Security Breaches Survey;
  - All Sectors ICO Changes Guidance on Timespan for Actioning Subject Access Requests;
  - All Sectors NAO Guidance for Audit Committees on Cloud Services;
  - All Sectors Cyber Assurance Framework 3.0; and
  - All Sectors Government Announces Independent Review of the Prevent Arrangements.

## Responsibility/Disclaimer

12. This report has been prepared solely for management's use and must not be recited or referred to in whole or in part to third parties without our prior written consent. The matters raised in this report not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or all the improvements that might be made. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared, and is not intended, for any other purpose. TIAA neither owes nor accepts any duty of care to any other party who may receive this report and specifically disclaims any liability for loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature, which is caused by their reliance on our report.



## **Progress against the Annual Plan for 2019/20**

System	Planned Quarter	Days	Current Status	Comments
Counter Fraud – Whistleblowing	2	7	Final report issued 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	September JAC
<b>Duty Resource Management</b>	2	6	Final report issued 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019	
Risk Management – Mitigating Controls	2	10	Final report issued 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	
Fleet Management – Repairs and Maintenance	2	5	Final report issued 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	
New HQ – Contract Management – (Quarter 2)	2	4	Final report issued 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Moved from planned quarter 2 to quarter 3
HR Management – Absence Management	2	7	Final report issued 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019	
Fixed Assets	3	5	Final report issued 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019	
Victims' Hub	3	6	Final report issued 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019	
Follow Up – Interim (Quarter 2)	2	5	Final report issued 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019	
Fleet Management – Single System Follow Up	2	5	Final report issued 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	
Collaborative Change Control	N/A	5*	Draft report issued 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	* Additional audit not included in plan Initial draft issued 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2019
General Ledger	3	5	Draft report issued 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	
Budgetary Control	3	5	Fieldwork completed	
Treasury Management	3	5	Fieldwork completed	
Local Policing – Property and Cash	3	6	Planned – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2019	APM issued
New HQ – Contract Management (Quarter 4)	4	4	Planned – 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	APM to be issued
Performance Management	4	10	Planned - 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020	APM to be issued
Corporate Communications	4	6	Planned – 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	APM to be issued
Internet / Email / Social Media	4	5	Planned – 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2020	APM to be issued



System	Planned Quarter	Days	Current Status	Comments
Follow Up – Quarter 4	4	5	Planned – 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	APM to be issued in February 2020
Contingency	1-4	2		As required – note an additional audit – Collaborative Change Control has been undertaken (Budget 5 days)
Liaison with Wales Audit Office	1-4	2		
Annual Planning	1	4	Final collaborative plan issued 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	
Client Portal	1-4			
Management, Planning & Joint Audit Committee Reporting/Support	1-4	15		
			Collaborative Audits	
Estate Management - Delivery Lead Force - North Wales	2	6	Draft report issued to Lead Force on 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	APM issued 22nd August 2019 – North Wales (Lead force) Start date in North Wales – 24th September 2019.
Collaborative Review – Single Online Home Lead Force – North Wales	3	5	Fieldwork commenced at GWP 14th November 2019	APM issued on 3rd October 2019 to North Wales (Lead force). Start date in North Wales – 11th November 2019
Debtors Lead Force – Dyfed Powys	3	5	Draft report issued to Lead Force on 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	APM issued on 22nd August 2019 to Dyfed Powys (Lead Force) DPP start date - 14th October 2019
Creditors  Lead Force – Gwent Police	3	6	Fieldwork commenced – 14th October 2019	APM issued on 28th August 2019 to Gwent (Lead force). GWP start date - 14th October 2019
Payroll Lead Force – South Wales	3	6	Fieldwork commenced at Lead Force - Planned date for Gwent Police – 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	APM issued on 14th August 2019 to South Wales Police (Lead force). SWP start date – 25th November 2019

### KEY:

	=	To be commenced	
	=	Site work commenced	
	=	Draft report issued	
	=	Final report issued	



## **Collaborative Annual Plan 2019/20**

Quarter	Audits	Туре	Days	Rationale and Scope
2	Estate Management - Delivery Lead Force – North Wales	Assurance	24	Rationale Collaborative Review. Scope The review will consider how two contracts at each Force are delivered in accordance with the Estates Strategy. Leads Lead Force – North Wales
3	Debtors Lead Force – Dyfed Powys	Assurance	20	Rationale Financial Risk, Collaborative Review.  Scope The review considers the raising of debtor accounts, collection of income, receipting, storage and banking of income received by each organisation. The scope of the review does not include identification of the activities giving rise to income for the organisation, the basis of calculating the rates to be charged or that all income receivable has been identified. The number of transactions tested in the sampling will be the same for each organisation.  Leads Lead Force – Dyfed Powys
3	Payroll Lead Force – South Wales	Assurance	24	Rationale Financial Risk, Collaborative Review.  Scope The review considers the arrangements for: the creation, amendment and deletion of payroll records; payment of allowances and pay awards; and payment of salaries. The scope of the review does not include determination of salary scales, appointment and removal of staff, severance payments or reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses, or pension arrangements. The number of transactions tested in the sampling will be the same for each organisation.  Leads Lead Force – South Wales



Quarter	Audits	Туре	Days	Rationale and Scope
3	Creditors Lead Force – Gwent Police	Assurance	24	Rationale A review to test areas of exposure to fraud has been included in each year of the plan.  Scope The review considers the arrangements for authorising and paying costs incurred by each organisation and the arrangements for control of the payment methods and devices. The scope does not include providing an assurance that the expenditure was necessary or that value for money was achieved from the expenditure committed. The number of transactions tested in the sampling will be the same for each organisation.  Leads Lead Force – Gwent
3	Collaborative Review – Single Online Home	Appraisal	20	Rationale Collaborative Review.  Scope The review will appraise the effectiveness of the collaboration arrangements for the pan wales Single Online Home Project. The scope of the review will also include the effectiveness of the Project Management arrangements.  Leads Lead Force – North Wales
1 - 4	Liaison with Wales Audit Office		8	This time is for liaison with the WAO as External Auditor. This will be undertaken jointly for all organisations.
	Total Co	ollaborative Days	120	
Conti	ribution from each Police and Crime Co	ommissioner and Chief Constable	30	



## **Annual Plan – 2019/20**

Quarter	Audit	Туре	Days	Rationale and Scope
1	Performance Management	Assurance	10	Rationale Key Governance area, reviewed annually.  Scope The review considered the arrangements for providing assurance through the demand management and performance management framework that are used to measure the Force's effectiveness. The scope of the review did not include consideration of the accuracy or completeness of all reports presented to the Board or the appropriateness of all decisions taken.
1	HR Management – Absence Management	Assurance	7	Rationale High risk area.  Scope The review will provide assurance on implementation of Absence Management policy and systems and processes undertaken by line managers at a service level in relation to management of sickness absence, including both short and long term absence.
1	Local Policing – Property and Cash	Compliance	6	Rationale  Key fraud risk, loss of property and cash.  Scope  The review will assess compliance with the key corporate procedures for Property and Cash in the operational areas of East and West.
2	Risk Management – Mitigating Controls	Assurance	10	Rationale Included in each year of the Strategic Plan to ensure that there are effective controls in place for the most significant risks. Number of days will cover the review of two risks.  Scope Two risks currently included in the organisation's risk map will be selected and the effectiveness of the identified controls will be reviewed. The scope of the review does not include consideration of all potential mitigating arrangements or their effectiveness in minimising the opportunities for the identified risks to occur.



Quarter	Audit	Туре	Days	Rationale and Scope
2	Counter Fraud - Whistleblowing	Appraisal	7	Rationale Annual review of Counter Fraud arrangements  Scope The appraisal will provide details of how the organisation approaches the topic of whistleblowing versus existing policy and procedure, to ensure that its arrangements in place are operating effectively. The scope of the review will cover:  Desktop Review of procedural documents.  Reporting mechanisms will be tested for their effectiveness against policy.
2	New HQ Contract Management	Compliance	8	Rationale High area of expenditure and high risk project.  Scope The review considers the arrangements for monitoring the development contract for the new Headquarters building. The scope of the review does not include consideration of the funding arrangements or the specification of the developments.
2	Fleet Management – Repairs and Maintenance	Compliance	5	Rationale Previous Limited Assurance assessment, rolling programme of reviews.  Scope The review considers the identification of need; sourcing; payment of purchases; procedures to ensure the organisation operates within the requirements of the policies; and the claims procedures. The scope of the review does not include not include verification that the most economic and appropriate vehicles are being used.
2	Internet/Email/Social Media	Appraisal	5	Reputational risk.  Scope  The review will consider the extent to which the use of social media exposes the Force to data confidentiality risks by examining the content being placed on the various social media platforms.
2	Duty Resource Management	Appraisal	6	Rationale Service delivery risk. Scope The review will appraise the effectiveness of the duty resource management system.



Quarter	Audit	Туре	Days	Rationale and Scope
2	Corporate Communications	Appraisal	6	Rationale Staying Ahead 8 themes, included at the request of the Assistant Chief Officer of the force due to previous audit findings and ongoing changes in the department.  Scope The scope of the review will appraise the effectiveness of the corporate communication strategy.
2	Fleet Management – Single System	Follow Up	3	Rationale  A review of an aspect of Fleet Management has been included in each year of the Audit Strategy. Limited Assurance assessment in 2018/19.  Scope  The review will follow up the recommendations for Gwent from the Single system review in 2018/19.
3	Budgetary Control	Assurance	5	Rationale  Key Audit risk area completed annually. Particularly important due to the continued cuts in funding.  Scope  The review considers the budget preparation process, the monitoring arrangements, and reporting to the Strategy and Performance Board. The scope of the review does not include consideration of the assumptions used in preparing the budgets; depreciation policies; apportionment of central costs; or financial information included in tenders prepared by the organisation.
3	Treasury Management	Assurance	5	Scope  The review considers the arrangements for controlling the investment and borrowing arrangements; compliance with the organisation's overall treasury management policy; reconciliations; and treasury management reporting to committee. The scope of the review does not include consideration of the appropriateness of any individual financial institution or broker or of individual investment decisions made by the Organisation.
3	General Ledger	Assurance	5	Rationale  Key financial risk area completed annually.  Scope  The review considers the arrangements for providing an effective audit trail for data entered onto the general ledger and the appropriateness of the reports generated. The scope of the review does not extend to the budgetary control arrangements and bank reconciliations.



Quarter	Audit	Туре	Days	Rationale and Scope
3	Fixed Assets	Assurance	5	Rationale  New system.  Scope  The review will examine the adequacy and accuracy of the organisation's Fixed Asset Register, taking into account the processes to add and remove items from the register.
3	Victims Hub	Appraisal	6	Rationale Commissioner's Project.  Scope The review will consider the arrangements for the implementation of the strategy, policy and procedures for delivering the projects which tie in with the PCC's Police and Crime Plan objectives. The review will also consider the arrangements for monitoring and reporting compliance with the Strategy, Policy and Procedures designed to meet the objectives.
1 - 4	Collaborative approach and Single Home Online project	Assurance	30	Joint contract for 19/20 onwards. Collaborative approach and projects listed in Collaborative Plan in Annex C.
4	Follow-up	Follow up	10	Follow-up of implementation of agreed priorities one and two actions from audit reports, ensuring the organisation is implementing recommendations, and providing reports to the Audit and Risk Committee.
1-4	Liaison with Wales Audit Office (WAO)		2	This time is for liaison with the WAO as External Auditor.
1 - 4	Contingency		2	Contingency allowance to be used as required.
1	Annual Planning	Managemen t	4	Assessing the Organisation's annual audit needs – requirement of Internal Audit Standards.
4	Annual Report	Managemen t	4	Reporting on the overall conclusions and opinion based on the year's audits and other information and providing input to the Annual Governance Statement.
1-4	Client Portal			The client portal provides a one stop shop of internal audit reports, progress and recommendation tracker as well as briefings, fraud alerts, fraud updates and committee briefings.
1-4	Management, Planning & Joint Audit and Committee Reporting/Support	Managemen t	15	This time includes: meeting client management, overseeing the audit plan, reporting and supporting the Audit and Risk Committee, liaising with External Audit and Client briefings (including fraud alerts, fraud digests and committee briefings).

Total days 166



## Briefings on Developments in Governance, Risk and Control

TIAA produce regular briefing notes to summarise new developments in Governance, Risk, Control and Counter Fraud which may have an impact on our clients. These are shared with clients and made available through our Online Client Portal. A summary list of those CBNs issued since the last Joint Audit Committee which may be of relevance to Gwent Police is given below. Copies of any CBNs are available on request from your local TIAA team

Date Issued	CBN Ref	Subject	Status	TIAA Comments
15/11/2019	CBN - 19037	All - Government Announces Independent Review of the Prevent Arrangements		No Action Required Audit Committees and Boards/Governing Bodies are advised to note that review of this programme is under way, with the results being due to be reported to the Secretary of State by the end of June 2020.
07/11/2019	CBN - 19034	All - Cyber Assurance Framework 3.0		Action Required Not Urgent ICT functions should consider whether the introduction of the CAF at their organisation will strengthen their control and resilience in relation to cyber security
05/11/2019	CBN - 19033	All - NAO Guidance for Audit Committees on Cloud Services		Action Required Not Urgent Audit Committees and Boards are advised to ensure ICT Strategic plans consider, evaluate and appropriately apply due diligence when considering moving services to a cloud- based platform.
30/10/2019	CBN - 19030	All - ICO Changes Guidance on Timespan for Actioning Subject Access Requests		Action Required Not Urgent  Audit Committees and Boards/Governing Bodies are advised to ensure that current policy and procedure complies with renewed ICO legislation.



Date Issued	CBN Ref	Subject	Status	TIAA Comments
04/11/2019	CBN - 19028	All - Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport - Cyber Security Breaches Survey		Action Required Not Urgent  Audit Committees and Boards are advised to consider their current cyber-security culture, governance and incident response planning, and assess whether this is commensurate with the rising risk of cyber-attack and security breaches.
04/11/2019	CBN - 19027	All - Guidance on Cyber Security for major Events		Action Required Not Urgent  Audit Committees and Boards/Governing Bodies are advised to obtain assurance that the potential cyber-security risks present at major events organised by the organisation are properly identified and addressed.
30/10/2019	CBN - 19025	All – Best Practice When Using Work WhatsApp Groups		Action Required Audit Committees and Boards/Governing Bodies are advised to note the points included when using work WhatsApp groups.
29/10/2109	CBN - 19024	All – Data Breach Hits 4,000 Housing Association Clients		Action Required  Organisations are advised to review their incident management procedures to ensure scenarios such as data breach are fully considered. Good practices include ensuring IT Assets are risk reviewed, and commensurate pro-active IT security is implemented to reduce the risk of breach occurring.
22/10/2019	CBN - 19022	All – NCSC Email Security Guidance		Action Required  Audit Committees and Boards/Governing Bodies obtain assurance that in-house or outsourced IT service providers adopt NCSC Good Practices for cyber-security.