



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

Summary Internal Controls Assurance (SICA) Report

May 2024

Final



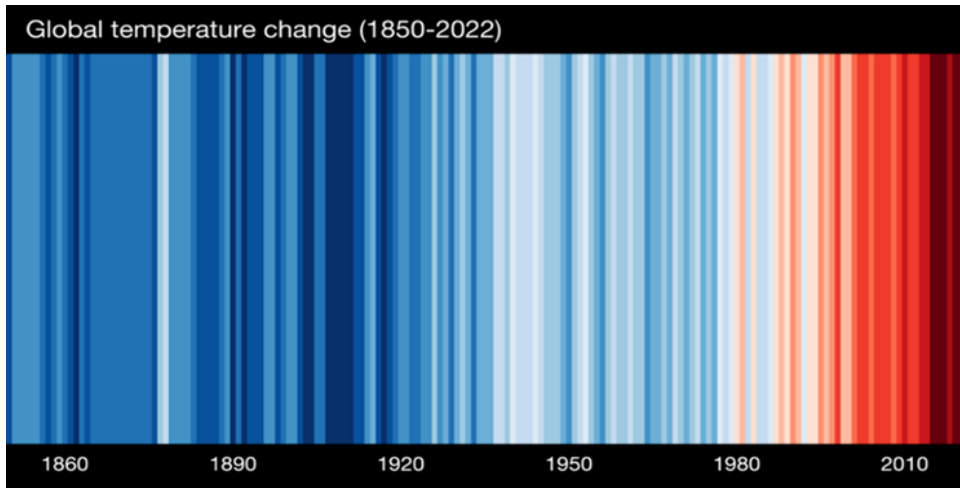
Summary Internal Controls Assurance

Introduction

1. This summary controls assurance report provides the Audit Committee with an update on the emerging Governance, Risk and Internal Control related issues and the progress of our work at Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and the Chief Constable Gwent Police at 30th May 2024.

Global Temperature Change

2. The scientific evidence is clear that the impacts of global warming are having an effect on our weather globally and locally and these impacts may result in a disruption to the services that we deliver. These climatic changes may also result in increased demand for our services and so we need to be prepared for these predicted changes. Extreme weather events are likely to be more frequent and more intense and we are all suffering the impacts of climate change in our daily lives, right here in the UK. 2023 was the warmest year on record globally, with average temperatures 1.48° C above pre-industrial levels. That is very nearly at the point (1.5° C) at which the United Nations believe that some regions and ecosystems will face an existential challenge. All the indicators suggest that the upward trend in temperatures is set to continue until at least the end of the century. Here in the UK, rising temperatures are leading to higher incidence of hypothermia, heart attack, respiratory failure and drownings as people struggle to escape the heat. Higher temperatures are accompanied by greater rainfall and flooding as warmer air holds more water than colder air.



We are advising our clients on their approach to making changes that address both mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation is about reducing the likelihood of climate change through cutting our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and living within very strict net-zero (or better) limits. Adaptation is about changing the way that we work and live; to accommodate the - already inevitable – effects of climate change. Adaptation involves revising public services to reflect an increase in demand for housing that keeps us cool in summer as well as warm in winter. Our clients face particular adaptation challenges as they work to keep people safe, through measures including improved housing (for both heating and cooling), information about climate risks, places of refuge, healthcare provision at all levels, public order safety, flood defences, fire fighting and public transport to name but a few.

At TIAA we are working with our clients to prepare and review climate risk assessments; prepare and review action plans for mitigation and adaptation in the face of identified risks; raise awareness of climate risks across all service areas; and begin to tackle wider implications, such as air pollution and biodiversity.

Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, and it is immediate and localised. Sources of air pollutants that affect our health are typically the same sources of greenhouse gases, including burning fossil fuels for transport and heating in the domestic properties.

Working together can help to tackle wider issues outside of the direct control of any individual organisation, working collaboratively to deliver climate change action and address the UK carbon reduction targets to achieve lasting change.

Audits completed since the last SICA report to the Joint Audit Committee

- 3. The table below sets out details of audits finalised since the previous meeting of the Audit Committee.

Audits completed since previous SICA report

Review	Evaluation	Key Dates			Number of Recommendations			
		Draft issued	Responses Received	Final issued	1	2	3	OEM
Counter Fraud	Substantial	26/03/2024	22/04/2024	08/05/2024	0	0	0	0
Pensions	Substantial	04/05/2024	15/05/2024	16/05/2024	0	0	0	0

- 4. There are no issues arising from these findings which would require the annual Head of Audit Opinion to be qualified.

Progress against the 2023/24 and 2024/2025 Annual Plans

- 5. Our progress against the Annual Plan for 2023/24 is set out in Appendix A and 2024/25 Annual Plans in Appendix B.

Progress in actioning priority 1 & 2 recommendations

- 6. We have made no Priority 1 recommendations (i.e. fundamental control issue on which action should be taken immediately) since the previous SICA.

Frauds/Irregularities

- 7. We have not been advised of any frauds or irregularities in the period since the last SICA report was issued.

Other Matters

8. We have issued a number of briefing notes and fraud digests, shown in Appendix C, since the previous SICA report.

Responsibility/Disclaimer

9. 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.


Appendix A: Progress against Annual Plan 2023-24


System	Planned Quarter	Current Status	Comments
Collaborative			
Data Protection Act	2	Draft Report issued:	All four forces. Lead force: Gwent Police Draft Report with TIAA Delivery Support Team to be issued as draft
Payroll	3	Final Report issued: 01/02/2024	All four forces. Lead force: North Wales Police Presented to JAC March 2024
Debtors	3	Final Report issued: 08/02/2024	All four forces. Lead Force: Dyfed-Powys Police Presented to JAC March 2024
Counter Fraud	3	Final Report issued: 08/05/2024	All four forces. Lead Force: North Wales Police Presented to JAC June 2024
Telematics	4	Draft Report issued: 27/03/2024	All four forces. Lead force: South Wales Police
Creditors	2	Final Report issued: 22/01/2024	The three forces are South Wales Police, Gwent Police and Dyfed Powys Police. Lead force: Dyfed Powys Police Presented to JAC March 2024
Treasury Management	3	Final Report issued: 18/12/2023	The three forces are South Wales Police, Gwent Police and North Wales Police. Lead force: North Wales Police Presented to JAC March 2024
Risk Management	3	Final Report issued: 15/12/2023	The three forces are Gwent Police, Dyfed Powys Police and North Wales Police. Lead force: Gwent Police
Joint Scientific Investigation Unit (Gwent Police and South Wales Police)	2	Final Report issued: 06/10/2023	The two forces are Gwent Police and South Wales Police. Lead force: South Wales Police Presented to JAC March 2024


System	Planned Quarter	Current Status	Comments
Firearms Licencing (Gwent Police and South Wales Police)	3	Final Report issued: 08/02/2024	The two forces are Gwent Police and South Wales Police. Lead force: Gwent Police Presented to JAC March 2024.
Information Disclosures (Gwent Police and South Wales Police)	4	Final Report issued: 04/12/2023	Suggested that dates are brought forward in light of high-profile FOI breaches. The two forces are Gwent Police and South Wales Police. Lead force: Gwent Police Presented to JAC March 2024
HR Recruitment and Training	4	Fieldwork commenced: 22/01/2024	The two forces are Gwent Police and South Wales Police. Lead force: South Wales Police
Gwent Police Only			
Strategic Planning	1	Final Report issued: 19/11/2023	Presented to JAC November 2023
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA)	1	Final report issued: 24/10/2023	Presented to JAC November 2023
Complaints Handling (OPCC)	1	Final report issued: 10/11/2023	Presented to JAC November 2023
Expenses and Additional Payments	2	Suggested date: 28/11/2023	Presented to JAC March 2024
Budgetary Control	3	Final Report issued: 22/01/2024	Presented to JAC March 2024
Pensions	3	Final Report issued: 16/05/2024	Presented to JAC June 2024
Commissioning	3	Final Report issued: 01/12/2023	Presented to JAC November 2023
Contract Management	4	Fieldwork commenced: 12/02/2024	The selected contract is cleaning.
Service Improvement Board	4	Fieldwork commenced: 22/01/2024	Draft report pending.
Estates Management - Delivery	4	Fieldwork commenced: 11/03/2024	
Follow Up	4	Interim Draft Report issued: 20/03/2024	
Contingency	1-4	TBC	2 Days – not used.
Liaison with Audit Wales	NA		Attendance at practitioner group meetings.


System	Planned Quarter	Current Status	Comments
Annual Planning	1-4	Final Plan issued: 19/06/2024	
Annual Report	1	Draft Report issued: 30/05/2024	
Audit Management	1-4		

KEY:

 To be commenced

 Site work commenced

 Draft report issued

 Final report issued

Appendix B: Progress against Annual Plan 2024-25

System	Planned Quarter	Current Status	Comments
Collaborative			
Uniform Stores	2	Suggested date: 05/08/2024	Lead force: Gwent Police To include: Gwent Police, North Wales Police, possibly Dyfed Powys Police
Health and Safety	2	Suggested date: 16/07/2024	Lead force: North Wales Police To include: North Wales Police, Gwent Police, Dyfed Powys Police
Sustainability	2	Suggested date: 01/07/2024	Lead force: Gwent Police To include: Gwent Police, North Wales Police, Dyfed Powys Police
Payroll	3	Suggested date: TBC	Lead force: Dyfed Powys Police To include: All four forces
ISO Accreditation	3	Suggested date: TBC	Lead force: South Wales Police To include: South Wales Police, Gwent Police, Dyfed Powys Police
Connect Teams Channels	4	Suggested date: TBC	Lead force: Gwent Police To include: All four forces
Gwent Police Only			
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA)	1	Suggested date: 01/07/2024	
HR Management – Absence Management	1	Suggested date: 08/07/2024	
Business Continuity Management	2	Suggested date: 08/07/2024	
Contract Management	2	Suggested date: 08/07/2024	
Vetting	2	Suggested date: 26/07/2024	
HR Management – Skills Map and Planning	2	Suggested date: 22/07/2024	

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System	Planned Quarter	Current Status	Comments
Occupational Health – Referral, Process and Cost	2	Suggested date: 29/07/2024	
Whistleblowing	2	Suggested date: 19/08/2024	
General Ledger	3	Suggested date: TBC	
Creditors	3	Suggested date: TBC	
Capital Programme	4	Suggested date: TBC	
Estates Management – Strategy	4	Suggested date: TBC	
Follow Up - Interim	2	Suggested date: TBC	
Follow Up – Year End	4	Suggested date: TBC	
Contingency	NA		7 days
Liaison with Audit Wales	1-4		
Annual Planning	1	Draft Plan issued: 12/03/2024	
Annual Report	4		
Audit Management	1 – 4		

KEY:

	To be commenced		Site work commenced		Draft report issued		Final report issued
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Appendix C: Briefings on Developments in Governance, Risk and Control

TIAA produce regular briefing notes to summarise new developments in Governance, Risk, Control, Counter Fraud and Security Management 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 briefings issued in the last three months which may be of relevance to Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Chief Constable Gwent Police is given below:

Summary of recent Client Briefings and Alerts

Date Issued	Sector	Briefing Type	Subject	Website Link	TIAA Comments
22 APRIL 2024	All	TIAA Article	As Featured in The Saturday Telegraph – Evolving Cyber Crime Threats Require a Different Approach to Cyber Security	As Featured In The Saturday Telegraph - Evolving Cyber Crime Threats Require a Different Approach to Cyber Security - TIAA	Our latest feature in The Saturday Telegraph discusses the ever-evolving cyber crime landscape and why traditional security measures may not be enough. Learn how our Cyber Security Advisory services can help you stay protected all year round, not just during your annual penetration test.
17 APRIL 2024	All	TIAA Article	Earth Day – Invest in Our Planet: Green IT	Earth Day - Invest In Our Planet: Green IT - TIAA	Green IT is a drive for a more sustainable and responsible digital landscape. In this article, we delve into the significance of Green IT and its impact on our world.
12 APRIL 2024	All	TIAA Report	TIAA Environmental Performance Report 2022/23	TIAA Environmental Performance Report 2022/23 - TIAA	TIAA runs an Environmental Management System to manage and reduce its environmental impacts. Key environmental impacts considered as part of the Environmental Management System include energy use, waste generation, travel and resource use. Our Environmental Performance Report for 2022/23 is now available.
26 MARCH 2024	All	Client Briefing Note	Procurement Act 2023	Available on the TIAA Client Portal	The Procurement Bill, which will reform the existing Procurement Rules, received Royal Assent in October 2023. In early 2024 secondary legislation (regulations) will be laid to bring some elements of the Bill and the wider regime into effect. The Procurement Act is expected to be implemented in October 2024 following at least six months notice. We share the key points.
26 MARCH 2024	All	TIAA Article	As Featured In The Saturday Telegraph – What Gives Your Board Confidence In Your Internal Investigations Ability?	As featured in the Saturday Telegraph - what gives your Board confidence in your internal investigations ability? - TIAA	Does your business need help with HR Investigations? Our latest article in the Saturday Telegraph highlights the importance of having a specialist team handle these complex and sensitive matters.
15 MARCH 2024	All	Security Alert	Serious Organised Crime Theft Warning – Purses & Wallets	Serious organised crime theft warning – purses & wallets - TIAA	An organised group of thieves, specialising in the theft of purses, wallets and the subsequent fraudulent use of stolen credit cards have been operating in the southwest and elsewhere in the UK in recent months. The offenders dress smartly and often wear an NHS/Council style lanyard. We provide key advice.

13 MARCH 2024	All	Anti-Crime Alert	Action Fraud Launches Holiday Fraud Campaign	Action Fraud launches holiday fraud campaign - TIAA	Action Fraud has launched a crucial campaign to combat holiday fraud. As the holiday season approaches, scammers are on the prowl. Read our key advice.
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