



Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable for Gwent Police

Joint Audit Committee 4 March 2019 - Update Paper

2018-19 financial statements

Audit Plan 2019

The Audit Plan 2019 has been agreed with management and will be presented to the March 2019 JAC meeting.

Interim Audit Work

We commenced our detailed planning and interim audit testing in January 2019.

To date, we have:

- identified the key risks relating to this year's financial statements, which we have listed in our Audit Plan 2018;
- reviewed payroll expenditure, non-pay expenditure and income systems and undertaken transaction testing for periods 1 to 8;
- gained an understanding of the implementation of the new fixed asset register module; and
- met with management and Finance Staff to discuss the progress being made against the detailed closedown plan that was presented to the December JAC meeting, and are pleased to see that good progress is being made.

Our second interim audit visit is planned for the week commencing 18th March and we will continue our transaction testing for the remainder of the 2018-19 financial year. During our second visit, we plan to review the month 9 financial statements as generated by CIPFAs Big Red Button to allow early review of structure, format and disclosure.

We will continue to work with Finance over the coming months to help ensure a smooth year-end closedown and final accounts audit so that we have agreed final versions of the financial statements for approval by the Joint Audit Committee by the end of July 2019.

Post Project Learning

On 4 February 2019, we attended a joint post project learning session with representatives from all four Welsh Forces and the four WAO audit teams, sharing experiences from the 2017-18 financial statements audit and planning for the 2018-19 financial statements audit. As part of our discussions, we considered whether there is further audit work that can be undertaken prior to receiving the draft 2018-19 financial statements, in readiness for statutory earlier closing deadline of 31 July 2019.

Other matters for consideration

Audit Fees

We have now published our Fee Scheme for 2019-20, following approval by the National Assembly's Finance Committee.

In October 2017, we published "The complex public audit fee regime in Wales – a case for change" following stakeholder consultation on simplifying the regime. The issues are still being considered by the National Assembly's Finance Committee.

Faster closing

The Finance Team continue to work towards producing the draft financial statements by 31 May 2019 and we plan to be on site to start our final accounts audit on 3rd June 2019.

We will continue to work with Finance over the coming months to help ensure a smooth year-end closedown and final accounts audit so that we have agreed final versions of the financial statements by the end of July, for approval by the JAC.

Tracy Veale - Financial Audit Manager
20 February 2019