



Internal Audit

FINAL

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

Internal Audit Annual Report

**2023/24**

January 2025

# Internal Audit Annual Report

## Introduction

This is the 2023/24 Annual Report by TIAA on the internal control environment at Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Chief Constable Gwent Police. The annual internal audit report summaries the outcomes of the reviews we have carried out on the Julian House's framework of governance, risk management and control.

Our approach is based on the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing which have been developed by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and incorporate the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). In 2022, TIAA commissioned an External Quality Assessment (EQA) of its internal audit service. The independent EQA assessor was able to conclude that TIAA 'generally conforms to the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the mandatory elements of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF).' 'Generally conforms' is the highest rating that can be achieved using the IIA's EQA assessment model. Ongoing quality assurance work was carried out throughout the year and we continue to comply with ISO 9001:2015 standards.

### HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT'S ANNUAL OPINION

**TIAA is satisfied that, for the areas reviewed during the year, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Chief Constable Gwent Police has reasonable and effective risk management, control and governance processes in place.**

**This opinion is based solely on the matters that came to the attention of TIAA during the course of the internal audit reviews carried out during the year and is not an opinion on all elements of the risk management, control and governance processes or the ongoing financial viability or your ability to meet financial obligations which must be obtained by Julian House from its various sources of assurance.**

## Internal Audit Planned Coverage and Output

The 2023/24 Annual Audit Plan approved by the Joint Audit Committee was for 168 days of internal audit coverage in the year. Two contingency days were included but not used in the year.

During the year there were no changes to the Audit Plan. One review, the HR Recruitment and Training audit has been deferred to 2024/25.

The planned work that has been carried out against the plan and the status of work not completed is set out at Annex A.

## Assurance

TIAA have carried out 21 reviews of which were designed to ascertain the extent to which the internal controls in the system are adequate to ensure that activities and procedures are operating to achieve the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Chief Constable Gwent Police objectives. An Follow Up review was also performed and issued as Draft. For each assurance review an assessment of the combined effectiveness of the controls in mitigating the key control risks was provided. Details of these are provided in Annex A and a summary is set out below.

Assurance Assessments	Number of Reviews	Previous Year
Substantial Assurance	12	12
Reasonable Assurance	7	1
Limited Assurance	2	1
No Assurance	0	0

The areas on which the assurance assessments have been provided can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against misstatement or loss and their effectiveness is reduced if the internal audit recommendations made during the year have not been fully implemented.

We made the following total number of recommendations on our audit work carried out in 2023/24. The numbers in brackets relate to 2022/23 recommendations.

Urgent	Important	Routine
1 (4)	19 (14)	31 (15)

## Audit Summary

**Control weaknesses:** There were two areas reviewed by internal audit where it was assessed that the effectiveness of some of the internal control arrangements provided 'limited' – Information Disclosures and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA).

**Recommendations Made:** We have analysed our findings/recommendations by risk area and these are summarised below.

Risk Area	Urgent	Important	Routine
<b>Directed</b>			
Governance Framework	0 (0)	6 (2)	8 (5)
Risk Mitigation	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)
Compliance	0 (4)	8 (12)	17 (5)
<b>Delivery</b>			
Performance Monitoring	0 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)
Sustainability	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)
Resilience	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (2)

**Operational Effectiveness Opportunities:** One of the roles of internal audit is to add value and during the financial year we provided advice on opportunities to enhance the operational effectiveness of the areas reviewed and the number of these opportunities is summarised below.

Operational
12 (15)

## Independence and Objectivity of Internal Audit

There were no limitations or restrictions placed on the internal audit service which impaired either the independence or objectivity of the service provided.

## Performance and Quality Assurance

The following Performance Targets were used to measure the performance of internal audit in delivering the Annual Plan.

Performance Measure	Target	Attained
Completion of Planned Audits	100%	100%
Audits Completed in Time Allocation	100%	100%
Final report issued within 10 working days of receipt of responses	95%	81%
Compliance with IIA Internal Audit Standards	100%	100%

## Release of Report

The table below sets out the history of this Annual Report.

Date Draft Report issued:	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Date Revised Draft Report Issued:	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Date Final Report Issued:	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2025

## Annexes

### Annex A

#### Actual against planned Internal Audit Work 2023/24

System	Type	Planned Days	Actual Days	Assurance Assessment	Comments
Data Protection Act	Assurance	6	6	Reasonable	
Payroll	Assurance	6	6	Substantial	
Debtors	Assurance	6	6	Substantial	
Counter Fraud	Assurance	6	6	Substantial	
Telematics	Assurance	4	4	Reasonable	
Creditors	Assurance	6	6	Substantial	
Treasury Management	Assurance	5	5	Substantial	
Risk Management	Compliance	5	5	Reasonable	
Joint Scientific Investigation Unit (Gwent Police and South Wales Police)	Assurance	6	6	Reasonable	
Firearms Licencing (Gwent Police and South Wales Police)	Assurance	6	6	Substantial	
Information Disclosures (Gwent Police and South Wales Police)	Assurance	6	6	Limited	
HR Recruitment and Training	Assurance	6	0	N/A	Cancelled
Strategic Planning	Assurance	8	8	Substantial	
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA)	Compliance	6	6	Limited	
Complaints Handling (OPCC)	Assurance	4	4	Reasonable	
Expenses and Additional Payments	Assurance	5	5	Substantial	
Budgetary Control	Assurance	5	5	Substantial	
Pensions	Assurance	5	5	Substantial	
Commissioning	Assurance	7	7	Reasonable	
Contract Management	Assurance	6	6	Substantial	
Service Improvement Board	Appraisal	10	10	Substantial	

System	Type	Planned Days	Actual Days	Assurance Assessment	Comments
Estates Management - Delivery	Assurance	7	7	Reasonable	.
Follow Up - Interim	Follow Up	5	5	Not Applicable	Final Report Issued
Follow Up – Year End	Follow Up	5	5		
Contingency	-	2	0		Contingency days not used
Liaison with Audit Wales	Management	2	2	Not Applicable	
Annual Planning	Management	4	4	Not Applicable	
Annual Report	Management	4	4	Not Applicable	Final report issued
Audit Management	Management	15	15	Not Applicable	
<b>Total Days</b>		<b>168</b>	<b>160</b>		