



Audit Completion Report

Chief Constable for Northumbria
Year ending 31 March 2018



NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE
Proud to Protect



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Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies' and the 'Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to the Chief Constable are prepared for the sole use of the Chief Constable and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

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Mr W Keenen
Chief Constable, Northumbria Police
Police Force Headquarters
North Road, Ponteland
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE20 0BL

26 July 2018

Dear Mr Keenen

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2018

We are pleased to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2018. The purpose of this document is to summarise our audit conclusions.

The scope of our work, including identified significant audit risks and other areas of management judgement, was outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum which we presented to the Joint Independent Audit Committee on 19 February 2018. We have reviewed our Audit Strategy Memorandum and concluded that the original significant audit risks and other areas of management judgement remain appropriate.

We would like to express our thanks for the assistance of your team during our audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0781 375 2053.

Yours faithfully

Signed: {{_es_:signer1:signature}}

Cameron Waddell
Partner
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

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VAT number: 839 8356 73

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of this report and principle conclusions

The Audit Completion Report sets out the findings from our audit of the Chief Constable for Northumbria for the year ended 31 March 2018, and forms the basis for discussion at the meeting on 26 July 2018.

The detailed scope of our work as your appointed auditor for 2017/18 is set out in the National Audit Office's (NAO) Code of Audit Practice. Our responsibilities and powers are derived from the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Sections 2 and 5 of this report outline the detailed findings from our work on the financial statements and our conclusion on the Chief Constable for Northumbria's arrangements to achieve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. As we outline on the following page, our work is substantially complete and, subject to the satisfactory completion of the outstanding work, at the time of issuing this report we have the following conclusions:

Opinion on the financial statements

We anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. Our proposed audit opinion is included in the draft auditor's report in Appendix B.

Value for Money conclusion

We anticipate concluding that the Chief Constable for Northumbria had proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Our draft auditor's report, including proposed conclusion, is provided in Appendix B

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

We anticipate completing our work on your WGA submission, in line with the group instructions issued by the NAO, by the deadline of 31 August 2018. We anticipate reporting that the WGA submission is consistent with the audited financial statements.

Wider powers

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Chief Constable for Northumbria and consider any objection made to the accounts. To date we have not received any questions or objections.

Misstatements and internal control recommendations

Section 3 sets out the internal control recommendations that we make, together with an update on any prior year recommendations.

Section 4 outlines the misstatements noted as part of our audit as at the time of issuing this report. If any additional misstatements are noted on completion of the outstanding work, these will be reported to the Chief Constable for Northumbria in a follow-up letter.

Executive summary

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Status of our audit work

We have substantially completed our work on the financial statements and Value for Money conclusion for the year ended 31 March 2018. At the time of preparing this report

| Audit area | Description of outstanding matters |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fraud and related parties | Work to examine disclosure of Related parties information currently ongoing, no issues found so far. |
| Expenditure & Funding Analysis | Consistency with other statements and supporting documentation to be tested |
| Pensions | Accuracy of disclosures in main statements has been verified to actuary reports with no issues. Disclosure notes still to be checked for typographical errors and omissions. Further work will be done to ensure the work done by the actuary is reasonable. |
| Audit closure procedures | This includes internal consistency checks, agreeing amendments and post balance sheet events. |

We will provide the Chief Constable with an update in relation to these outstanding matters in a follow-up letter, prior to signing the auditor's report.

Our audit approach

We provided details of our intended audit approach in our Audit Strategy Memorandum in March 2018. We have not made any changes to our audit approach since we presented our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Materiality

We set materiality at the planning stage of the audit at £6.101 million using a benchmark of 2% of Gross Operating Expenditure. Our final assessment of materiality, based on the final financial statements and qualitative factors is £6.440 million, using the same benchmark. We set our trivial threshold (the level under which individual errors are not communicated to the Chief Constable), at £193k based on 3% of overall materiality.



2. SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

Set out below are the significant findings from our audit. These findings include:

- our audit conclusions regarding significant risks and key areas of management judgement outlined in the Audit Strategy Memorandum;
- our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. On page 7 we have concluded whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework and commented on any significant accounting policy changes that have been made during the year;
- any further significant matters discussed with management; and
- any significant difficulties we experienced during the audit;

Significant risks and key areas of management judgement

As part of our planning procedures we considered the risks of material misstatement in the Chief Constable's financial statements that required special audit consideration. Although we report identified significant risks at the planning stage of the audit in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, our risk assessment is a continuous process and we regularly consider whether new significant risks have arisen and how we intend to respond to these risks. No new risks have been identified since we issued our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Significant risk

Management override of controls

Description of the risk

Management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur there is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud on all audits.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk through performing audit work over accounting estimates, journal entries and significant transactions outside the normal course of business or otherwise unusual.

Audit conclusion

Work is ongoing in this area as at 6 July 2018

2. SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

Significant risk

Defined benefit liability valuation

Description of the risk

The financial statements contain material pension entries in respect of the retirement benefits. The calculation of these pension figures, both assets and liabilities, can be subject to significant volatility and includes estimates based upon a complex interaction of actuarial assumptions. This results in an increased risk of material misstatement.

How we addressed this risk

We discussed with key contacts the significant changes to the pensions estimates prior to the preparation of the final accounts. In addition to our standard programme of work in this area, we:

- evaluated the management controls you have in place to assess the reasonableness of the figures provided by the actuaries; and
- considered the reasonableness of the actuaries outputs, referring to an expert's report on all actuaries nationally which is commissioned annually by the National Audit Office.

Audit conclusion

Work is ongoing in this area as at 6 July 2018

2. SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

Qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices

We have reviewed the Chief Constable's accounting policies and disclosures and concluded they comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code), appropriately tailored to the Chief Constable's circumstances.

Draft accounts were received from the Chief Constable on 31 May 2018 and were of a good quality.

Significant difficulties during the audit

During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.

Wider responsibilities

Our powers and responsibilities under the 2014 Act are broad and include the ability to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law; and
- issue an advisory notice under schedule 8 of the 2014 Act.

We have not exercised any of these powers as part of our 2017/18 audit.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account.



3. INTERNAL CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of our audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit we have considered the internal controls in place relevant to the preparation of the financial statements. We do this in order to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statement and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, nor to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and that we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported. If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control we might have identified more deficiencies to be reported or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported. Our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

Our findings and recommendations are set out below.

We have not identified any significant deficiencies as a result of our work this year.

Follow up of previous internal control points.

We did not raise any internal control points in 2016/17.



4. SUMMARY OF MISSTATEMENTS

We set out below the misstatements identified for adjustment during the course of the audit, above the level of trivial threshold of £183k.

The first table outlines the misstatements that were identified during the course of our audit which management has assessed as not being material either individually or in aggregate to the financial statements and does not currently plan to adjust.

The second table outlines the misstatements that have been adjusted by management during the course of the audit.

Unadjusted misstatements 2017/18 – None identified as at 6 July 2018

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Balance Sheet

Dr (£'000) Cr (£'000) Dr (£'000) Cr (£'000)

1 Dr:
Cr:

Insert explanation

2 Dr:
Cr:

Insert explanation

3 Dr:
Cr:

Insert explanation

4 Dr:
Cr:

Insert explanation

4. SUMMARY OF MISSTATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Adjusted misstatements 2017/18 – None identified as at 6 July 2018

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Balance Sheet

Dr (£'000) Cr (£'000) Dr (£'000) Cr (£'000)

1 Dr:
Cr:

Insert explanation

2 Dr:
Cr:

Insert explanation

3 Dr:
Cr:

Insert explanation

4 Dr:
Cr:

Insert explanation

Disclosure amendments as at 6 July 2018

Annual Governance Statement – A disclosure has been added to outline that the Internal Audit service was provided by Gateshead Council. This is now consistent with the disclosure in the PCC's Annual Governance Statement.

5. VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION

Our approach to Value for Money

We are required to form a conclusion as to whether the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in his use of resources. The NAO issues guidance to auditors that underpins the work we are required to carry out in order to form our conclusion, and sets out the criterion and sub-criteria that we are required to consider.

The overall criterion is that, 'in all significant respects, the Chief Constable had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.' To assist auditors in reaching a conclusion on this overall criterion, the following sub-criteria are set out by the NAO:

- Informed decision making.
- Sustainable resource deployment.
- Working with partners and other third parties.

Commentary against each of the sub-criteria, and an indication of whether arrangements are in place, is provided below.

| Sub-criteria | Commentary | Arrangements in place? |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Informed decision making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an up-to-date Governance Framework available on the website covering both the Chief Constable and PCC. • Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan is the responsibility of the Chief Constable. Performance is monitored at the Strategic Management Board, underpinned by a number of operational delivery groups. The PCC and the Interim Chief of Staff scrutinise progress, along with performance, at a monthly scrutiny meeting with the Chief Constable and his team. • An experienced Chief Constable and PCC management team is in place. • There is regular reporting to the Chief Constable and PCC of both performance and financial information. • The Police and Crime Panel (hosted by Gateshead Council and independent of both the Chief Constable and PCC) meet 6 times per year and hold the PCC to account. | Yes |

5. VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION

| Sub-criteria | Commentary | Arrangements in place? |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Informed decision making (continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="355 312 1058 416">• An Annual Governance Statement is prepared, reviewed and challenged by JIAC before being included in the financial statements. <li data-bbox="355 457 1058 520">• An up to date risk register and risk management arrangements are in place and regularly reported to relevant committees. <li data-bbox="355 561 1058 737">• There is a Police and Crime Plan in place for the period 2017 to 2021. The purpose, vision, values, priorities and strategic objectives of the PCC are developed in consultation with the Chief Constable. In turn, the Chief Constable produces the Policing Plan, for which he is responsible, from the Police and Crime Plan. <li data-bbox="355 779 1058 841">• Performance is monitored through a robust framework based around the Chief Constable's Delivery Plan. <li data-bbox="355 882 1058 1017">• An updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), covering the period 2018/19 to 2021/22, and including the 2018/19 budget was approved in February 2018. The MTFS is clearly linked to the Police and Crime Plan. <li data-bbox="355 1058 1058 1199">• Alongside the annual budget and MTFS is the comprehensive workforce strategy that includes the recruitment, training and development of officers and police staff whilst continuing to manage necessary change through the prudent use of reserves. | Yes |



5. VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION

| Sub-criteria | Commentary | Arrangements in place? |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Sustainable resource deployment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An updated MTFS, covering the period 2018/19 to 2021/22, and including the 2018/19 budget was approved in February 2018. The MTFS is clearly linked to the Police and Crime Plan. Both the CC and PCC have a history of meeting financial targets with no previous budget deficits. The level of general fund balances is approved annually as part of the approval of the MTFS. An up to date asset register is in place. The Capital Programme, included in the 2018/19 to 2021/22 approved MTFS, sets out the Police's investment priorities. Capital schemes are appraised and prioritised to ensure they reflect key investment requirements. A Workforce Strategy is in place that includes recruitment, training and development of officers and police staff. | Yes |
| Working with partners and other third parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration agreements to which the Chief Constable and PCC are parties to are published on the PCC's website. Both the Chief Constable and PCC are aware of the importance of collaboration. This is evidenced in the Collaboration and Partnership Strategy, updated May 2016. Areas of collaboration with other police forces and public organisations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-locating with partners wherever possible, including fire and rescue services, councils and local community groups; Continuation of the 7 force Section 22A collaboration agreement. The agreement provides an overarching framework for areas of collaboration in the region. Currently the agreement covers the following capabilities across the 7 forces: Disaster Recovery Identification and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear incidents); and A collaborative working agreement between the legal teams of Northumbria Police and North Tyneside Council in order to provide advice, support and resilience to one another. The North East Regional Special Operations Unit (NERSOU) collaboration between Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland forces. | Yes |

5. VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION

| Sub-criteria | Commentary | Arrangements in place? |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Working with partners and other third parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The force has a number of collaboration arrangements in place with Durham Constabulary including kennel services, fingerprint enhancement services, public order training and forensic services. ○ Northumbria participates in National Procurement Frameworks which are delivering significant savings on an on-going basis, particularly in areas such as vehicle purchase, ICT contracts and uniform. ○ The force has written procedures for procuring products and services, which are within its Code of Corporate Governance. | Yes |

Significant Value for Money risks

The NAO's guidance requires us to carry out work to identify whether or not a risk to the Value for Money conclusion exists. Risk, in the context of our Value for Money work, is the risk that we come to an incorrect conclusion rather than the risk of the arrangements in place at the Chief Constable being inadequate. In our Audit Strategy Memorandum, we reported that we had not identified any significant Value for Money risks.

Overall assessment ('reality check')

Having gathered evidence in each area we have conducted a final 'reality check', which included consideration of our cumulative knowledge of the Chief Constable and, in particular:

- reports by statutory inspectorates, other regulators and external advisors;
- achievement of performance and other targets; and
- Performance against budgets and other financial targets.

We do this to identify anything that would make us reconsider our conclusion.



5. VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION (CONTINUED)

Evidence

Auditor assessment

Outputs by statutory inspectorates or other regulators

We considered reports issued by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)) and other inspectorates during the year which might impact on our conclusion.

This included a review of the 2017 PEEL Effectiveness report which judged Northumbria Police to be 'Good' at the way it effectively, efficiently and legitimately keep people safe and reduce crime.

We also reviewed the 2017 value for money profiles. Based on this review, there were no indicators which would suggest weaknesses in the Chief Constable's arrangements, or any information contrary to our knowledge of the Chief Constable.

Achievement of performance and other targets

Performance is good overall and the 2017 value for money profiles are in line with our knowledge.

However the Chief Constable is working to achieve performance improvements in line with the requirements of the Police and Crime Priorities.

Performance against budgets and other financial targets

Both the Chief Constable and PCC have a history of achieving financial targets.

Our overall Value for Money conclusion

Having completed our assessment, and having carried out a 'reality check', we have concluded that our initial risk assessment remains appropriate and we remain confident in our conclusion that the Chief Constable has adequate arrangements in place for each criterion.

We intend to issue an unqualified Value for Money conclusion as set out in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A

DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER

The Chief Constable for Northumbria - audit for year ended 31 March 2018

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the statement of accounts for the Chief Constable for Northumbria (‘the Chief Constable’) for the year ended 31 March 2018 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the statement of accounts give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 (the Code).

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the statement of accounts and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the statement of accounts in accordance with the Code.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the statement of accounts such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Chief Constable’s office you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Chief Finance Officer that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information. As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Chief Constable and Committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with the Code and International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Chief Constable’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that any significant assumptions used by the Chief Constable in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

APPENDIX A

DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Chief Constable have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with Code.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Chief Constable has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Chief Finance Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the statement of accounts may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Chief Constable involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Chief Constable's statement of accounts communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Chief Constable's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Future commitments

I am not aware of any plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

APPENDIX A

DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Chief Constable will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Yours sincerely

Mike Tait
Chief Finance Officer
Date.....



APPENDIX B

DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR NORTHUMBRIA

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Chief Constable for Northumbria for the year ended 31 March 2018 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Chief Constable for Northumbria as at 31 March 2018 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Chief Constable for Northumbria in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Chief Finance Officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Chief Constable for Northumbria's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Chief Finance Officer Responsibilities, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Finance Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Chief Finance Officer is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless the Chief Constable for Northumbria is informed of the intention for dissolution without transfer of services or function to another entity. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Council to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Conclusion on the Chief Constable for Northumbria's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2017, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, the Chief Constable for Northumbria has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Basis for conclusion

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued in November 2017, as to whether the Chief Constable for Northumbria had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider in satisfying ourselves whether the Chief Constable for Northumbria put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Chief Constable for Northumbria had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

APPENDIX B

DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of the Chief Constable for Northumbria

The Chief Constable for Northumbria is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor's responsibilities in relation to review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources
We are required under section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Chief Constable for Northumbria has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Chief Constable for Northumbria's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the Chief Constable for Northumbria, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Chief Constable for Northumbria those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the Chief Constable for Northumbria, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of the Chief Constable for Northumbria in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Cameron Waddell, Partner
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP
Salvus House
Aykley Heads
Durham, DH1 5TS

[Date]

Date

Executive summary

Significant findings

Internal control
recommendations

Summary of
misstatements

Value for Money
conclusion

Appendices

APPENDIX C INDEPENDENCE

As part of our ongoing risk assessment we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

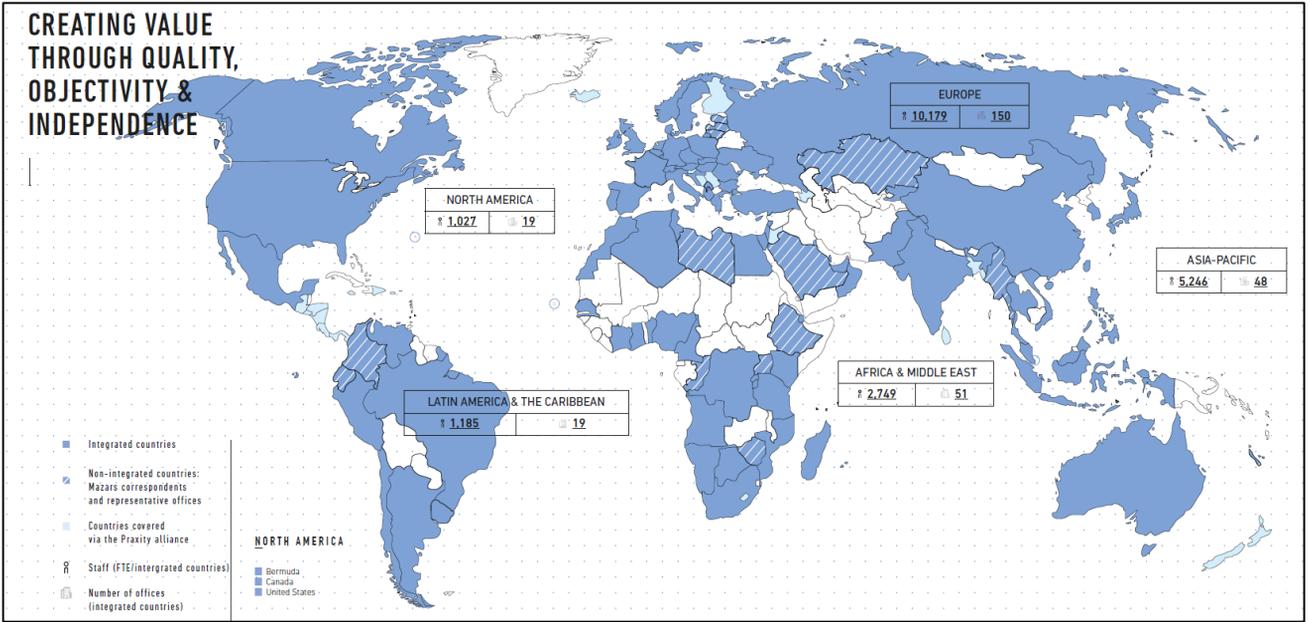
We can confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing the Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.

MAZARS AT A GLANCE

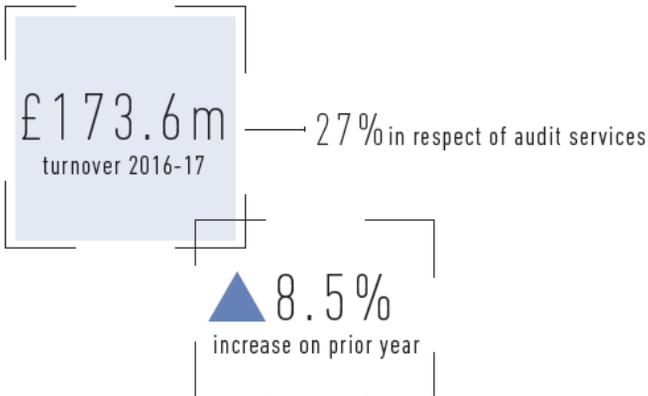
Mazars LLP

- Fee income €1.5 billion
- Over 86 countries and territories
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Mazars Internationally



Mazars in the UK



As at 31 August 2017

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