



## Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee

3 November 2022

Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee held on Thursday 15 September 2022 via MS Teams

Board Members present:	Mary Pitcaithly (Committee Chair) Paul Edie (Committee Member) Katharina Kasper (Committee Member) Grant Macrae (Committee Member) Catriona Stewart (Committee Member) Jane Ryder (observing)
Board Member apologies:	None
In attendance:	<u>Police Scotland</u> Deputy Chief Officer David Page Alastair Corfield, Financial Controller Chief Superintendent Richard Thomas Caroline Stepley, Financial Accounting Specialist  <u>Scottish Police Authority</u> Lynn Brown, Chief Executive Officer John McNellis, Head of Finance, Audit and Risk Amanda Coulthard, Head of Strategy and Performance  <u>Audit Scotland</u> Gillian Woolman, Audit Director Stephanie Harold, Senior Audit Manager Jackie Farmer, Senior Auditor

	<u>Azets</u> Elizabeth Young, Partner  <u>SPA Secretariat</u> Karen Vallance, Governance Support Officer
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## 1. WELCOME AND STANDING ITEMS

The Committee Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees, confirming contingency plans should she be disconnected from the call.

The Chair confirmed that during the period of national mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth, as a mark of respect the Authority was only dealing with urgent business. Therefore the meeting would only consider the Authority's Draft Annual Report and Accounts. Other business due to be taken would be considered at a future meeting.

The Committee held a Minutes silence.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** no apologies from Committee Members;
- **NOTE** no declarations of interest;
- **AGREE** that, in accordance with paragraph 20 of the SPA Standing Orders, the Committee would consider item 7 in private for the reasons set out on the agenda.

## 7. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022

### 7.1 AUDIT SCOTLAND 2021/22 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS AND THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND

Members considered the Annual Audit Report. Gillian Woolman (GWoolman) highlighted a number of key points as detailed in the paper, drawing particular attention to the main judgements within each section. It was noted that management had accepted all findings.

In discussion the following matters were raised:

- Members sought comment on whether risks that have no clear passage from red to green should be re-scored. GWoolman confirmed the recommendation relating to risk was to provoke discussion within Senior Management on that point. GWoolman

confirmed External Audit would not expect risks to remain red long term. David Page agreed red risks ratings should not be used for leverage and confirmed Police Scotland were trying to actively manage all risks, however some risk movement was curtailed due to funding. G Woolman encouraged further work to be done to move risks from red.

- Chief Executive Lynn Brown (LBrown) questioned whether the Authority would receive a Section 22 Report and heard that, at the current stage, there was nothing highlighted to or from the Auditor General that would inform a Section 22.
- Thanks were paid to Audit Scotland staff, who were attending their final Committee meeting as the Authority's External Auditors.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the report

## 7.2 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022

Members considered the report which presented the draft Scottish Police Authority Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) 2021/22 (audited) for consideration. LBrown highlighted there were only very minor differences from the draft considered in July, and the Chair's foreword had been re-edited to include comment on recent funding issues.

In discussion the following matters were raised:

- Members heard there were two unadjusted audit differences. Both relate to accruals that were assessed as not material and would be rectified in the next year's accounts. LBrown confirmed there were no unresolved disputes with External Audit regarding the accounts.
- G Woolman commented that both reports were clear and the appendix which tracked changes was helpful.
- Thanks were paid to both the SPA and Police Scotland finance teams.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- **RECOMMEND** the Annual Report and Accounts to the Authority for approval.

*end*