

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes
11 October 2021 2020 09:45 - 10:00
Via Video Conference



Committee Members

Professor Alasdair Smith – Acting Chair
Professor Francis Breedon

Attendees

Dame Susan Rice - Chair, Scottish Fiscal Commission
John Ireland - Chief Executive
Mark Taylor – Audit Scotland
Stephanie Harold - Audit Scotland
Martin Nolan - Audit Scotland
Head of Internal Audit - SG Directorate for Internal Audit and Assurance
James H White - Governance Manager - secretariat

Apologies

Professor David Ulph - Chair
Gillian Carty - External Member
Internal Audit Manager - SG Directorate for Internal Audit and Assurance
Susie Warden - Head of Strategy, Governance and Corporate Services

1. Welcome and Introduction

Professor Alasdair Smith opened the meeting, noting apologies given. There were no declarations of interests or notification of any other business. The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record. The action log was noted.

2. Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021

John Ireland introduced the Annual Report which reviews the Commission's work in 2020-21, reflecting the impact of COVID-19. He thanked Commission staff for the work on both producing both the draft report and raw material to enable Audit Scotland's audit work.

Mark Taylor highlighted Audit Scotland's covering letter and annual audit report, confirming that the audit work was substantially complete (subject to today's meeting) and the intention was for the accounts to be signed today.

He noted that the Commission had achieved an unqualified and unmodified opinion, which was a very good outcome, and that there were no unadjusted misstatements. He clarified that the terms of the written representations letter to be signed by John Ireland were standard and no additional representations were required.

As part of the audit process, Audit Scotland had reviewed the governance and internal control systems, noting that they remained effective and unaffected by COVID-19. Audit Scotland acknowledged the improvement already been made to improve controls for making journal transfers and on-going progress made on recommendations made in previous reports.

Although remote working had raised challenges for completing the Audit, Mark Taylor expressed his thanks for the support and cooperation from Commission staff, which helped to facilitate the process.

The Committee noted the good progress and which had been reflected in Audit Scotland's positive Audit Report. It confirmed that since the date of the financial statements there were no matters which needed to be brought to the attention of Audit Scotland.

The Audit and Risk Committee:

- noted Audit Scotland's Audit Report (and covering letter) and the management response; and
- agreed to recommend that the Governance Board should approve the Annual Report and Accounts.

Alasdair Smith recorded the thanks of the Committee to Audit Scotland and the Commission's Corporate Services team for their work on both the annual audit and Annual Report and Accounts.

3. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The next normal meeting was scheduled for Monday, 25 October 2021.

Scottish Fiscal Commission: Strategy, Governance and Corporate Services
11 October 2021