

Annual Audit Letter 2013/14

Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire

October 2014



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Mrs J Mulligan
Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
12 Granby Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
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24 October 2014

Dear Mrs Mulligan

Annual Audit Letter 2014

We are delighted to present to you this years Annual Audit Letter.

We carried out the audit in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice for Local Government bodies as issued by the Audit Commission and delivered all expected outputs in line with the timetable established by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 and the National Audit Office.

I would like to express my thanks for the assistance of the finance team, as well as Senior Officers and the Joint Independent Audit Committee, during the audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0191 383 6314 or cameron.waddell@mazars.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Cameron Waddell
Director
Mazars LLP

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Our reports are prepared in the context of the Audit Commission’s ‘Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies’. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to members or officers are prepared for the sole use of the Authority and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

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Overall messages

Purpose of this letter

Our Annual Audit Letter provides a summary of our work and findings for the 2013/14 audit period for the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire (the Commissioner), and other interested parties.

In addition to this letter, we issued and presented our Audit Completion Report to the Joint Independent Audit Committee on 22 September 2014 which provides more detail of the work we have undertaken as the Commissioner's external auditor in 2013/14.

Our audit of the statement of accounts

We issued an audit report including an unqualified opinion on the Commissioner's (and group) statement of accounts on 24 September 2014.

Our audit proceeded smoothly and we did not encounter any significant issues whilst undertaking our work. Any errors identified were not significant in nature. The finance team were cooperative during our work and the accounts and working papers were of a good quality.

The main findings of our audit of the statement of accounts can be found in our Audit Completion Report.

Our Value for Money conclusion

We performed our work in line with the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice for Local Government bodies and the Commission's guidance on the Value for Money conclusion for 2013/14. Our audit report included a conclusion that the Commissioner had proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Our work in this area focussed on the two criteria specified by the Audit Commission, considered joint arrangements and documents issued in conjunction with the Chief Constable for North Yorkshire (the Chief Constable), and included:

Our work in this area focussed on the two criteria specified by the Audit Commission and included:

- A review of the Commissioner's/Chief Constable's Annual Governance Statement;
- Consideration of inspection work carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in North Yorkshire;
- A review of the main assumptions in the Commissioner's/Chief Constable's medium term financial plan;
- A review of the Commissioner's/Chief Constable's budget monitoring system; and
- Consideration of the stage 2 transfer arrangements that had been put in place.

The main findings of which can be found in our Audit Completion Report.

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

We provide assurance to the National Audit Office (NAO), as the auditor of central government departments, in relation to the consistency of the Commissioner's WGA consolidation pack with the audited statement of accounts. As the Commissioner's activity is below the threshold set by the NAO for a full review of WGA, the procedures we were required to carry out were limited to consideration of Property, Plant and Equipment and pensions entries. We reported that the Commissioner's consolidation pack was consistent with the audited statement of accounts on 24 September 2014.

Our other responsibilities

As the Commissioner's appointed external auditor, we have other powers and responsibilities as set out in the Audit Commission Act 1998. These include responding to questions on the accounts raised by local electors as well as a number of reporting powers such as reporting in the public interest. We did not receive any questions or objections in relation to the Commissioner's 2013/14 accounts from local electors, nor did we exercise our wider reporting powers.

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Fees

As outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum issued and presented to the Joint Independent Audit Committee on 24 March 2014, the Audit Commission sets a scale fee for our audit and certification work. The fees applicable to our work in 2013/14 are summarised below.

Element of work	2012/13 Final Fee	2013/14 As previously reported	2013/14 Final Fee
Code audit work	£48,000	£43,240	£43,240
Total	£48,000	£43,240	£43,240

We confirm that we did not undertake any non-audit work during the year.

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Future challenges/other commentary

One of the key challenges in the coming years facing the Commissioner, working with the Chief Constable for North Yorkshire, is the need to do more for less. In a period of continuing reductions in public spending, it is likely that the next few years will be even more difficult than the past few as budgets continue to reduce.

Each year undoubtedly becomes harder and the scope for reducing expenditure without affecting service standards becomes more and more difficult. The Commissioner and Chief Constable, however, continue to consider a range of options, including increased partnership working and varying plans quickly as demands change.

A key challenge is that the success of achieving previous year's savings means stakeholders might perceive that the continued achievement of savings can continue easily to meet the significant spending reductions required.

The challenge faced by the Commissioner and Chief Constable should not be underestimated, and we will continue to monitor the situation during this coming year's audit.

Should you require any further information on this letter or on any other aspects of our work, please contact:

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