

**North Yorkshire Police
Joint Independent Audit Committee
(JIAC)**



Thursday 4th December 2025

DRAFT Summary Minutes

Meeting: Joint Independent Audit Committee
Date and Time: Thursday 4th December 2025, 15:00 – 17:00hrs
Location: Haigh Conference Room, Alverton Court Police Headquarters and via Teams
Chair: Roman Pronyszyn

Attendees:

Name	Role
Roman Pronyszyn (RP)	Committee Member & Vice Chair
Heather Cook (HC)	Committee Member
Michael Porter (MPo)	YNYCA OPFCC Assistant Director of Resources (Deputy s73 Officer)
Paul Clark (PC)	YNYCA Governance & Assurance Manager
Scott Bisset (SB)	NYP Deputy Chief Constable
Louise Branford-White (LB-W)	NYP Chief Finance Officer
Louise Flight (LF)	NYP Risk Manager
Gillian Havelock (GH)	NYP Head of Strategy and Governance
Jo Blenkinsopp (JB)	NYP Data Protection Officer
Michelle Phillips (MPH)	Evolve Legal Services - Head of Civil Litigation
Dan Harris (DH)	Internal Audit - RSM Risk Assurance Services – Associate Director
Mark Outerside (MO)	External Audit - Forvis Mazars LLP - Director
Ian McClelland (IM)	NYP Governance Support Officer

Apologies:

Name	Role
Dr Stuart Green	Committee Member & Chair
Lisa Stitt	NYP Assistant Chief Officer

Items and Decisions:

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
881	Attendance and Apologies. Attendance and apologies are noted above. With only two Members in attendance, the quorate threshold was not met to approve any necessary decisions. Any decisions required would be deferred and sent to SG for comment.	Refer to Minute #898
882	Declaration of Interest. There was one declaration of interest. a. Agenda Item 17 - Firearms Licensing. PC declared that he is a registered firearms licence holder and will therefore withdraw from the meeting prior to agenda item 17 (Minute #897).	

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
883	<p>Minutes and Actions of Previous Meeting. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23.09.25 were reviewed. There were no comments or amendments and the Minutes were recorded as accurate and were proposed for approval by RP, seconded by HC.</p>	Approved
884	<p>Matters Arising.</p> <p>Open Action #68. Chief Constable’s Detective Numbers Presentation. Chair noted that the action had been open for over 14 months and the detective numbers presentation would now be considerably out of date. The presentation had initially been highlighted as a risk to NYP, SB provided assurance that in the intervening 14 months that risk has been considerably mitigated and will be de-escalated from the Force Risk Register. An update on detective numbers will be provided at a future meeting. This action is closed.</p> <p>Open Action #78. Health & Safety Audit – Review of Action Deadlines. LB-W provided an update on the three medium priority health and safety risks; the ongoing Risk Assessment monitoring has already been achieved and closed and the remaining two (implementation of a safety training module and the development of an automated DSE form) are on schedule to be closed by 31.12.25. DH confirmed he was entirely satisfied with the revised timelines. LB-W is to confirm completion of the remaining two actions at the next meeting, after which the action would be closed.</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Remains open</p>
885	<p>Internal Audit Reports and Plan Progress. All audits and reports were presented by DH, questions and challenges were fully addressed.</p> <p>a. Progress Report. A high level overview was provided on the progress to date. DH explained that whilst two reviews have been finalised with positive opinions, several audits were required to be rescheduled or paused due to resource demands during the recent HMIC inspection, and that the Internal Audit team is working with officers to pragmatically manage the revised plan, including identifying a replacement for the Crime Data Integrity review which has been realigned to the FY26/27 audit schedule in order to include any findings from HMIC so the audit can be scoped accordingly. Both the Complaints and Commission audits are currently in DRAFT circulation and will be finalised in a timely manner. SB elaborated on the unique complaints process in NYP and the value of allowing recent process changes to embed before finalising the Complaints Audit and the intention to use the time to enhance examination of complaints arrangements. RSM are in agreement with this approach. DH provided assurance to the committee that all necessary work would be completed in time for the annual report to be completed. The Progress Report was approved.</p> <p>b. Benchmarking Report. This was the first time the benchmarking data had been presented. DH summarised the report, noting that NYPs's high-priority audit results are above the sector average for negative opinions, which reflects a risk-driven audit strategy. SB urged caution and not over-relying on the benchmarking averages, emphasising the need to target audits at areas requiring improvement rather than aiming to compete for enhanced sector averages, the current approach to proactively target areas of risk provides meaningful organisational assurance. The Benchmarking Report was noted.</p> <p>c. Emerging Risk Radar. DH highlighted the main risks identified across all industry sectors included cyber-attacks and AI governance, and recommended regular testing of business continuity plans. SB confirmed that this very useful document would be reviewed at the next NYP Risk, Assurance and Improvements Board (RAIB) and used to inform cyber readiness preparations. LF was able to provide assurance that having</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p>

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
	<p>scrutinised the document, the relevant areas highlighted on the Risk Radar where already captured within the NYP Risk Register and Business Continuity processes. Committee Members present noted the briefing reports.</p> <p>d. Emergency Services News Briefing November 2025 and Failure to Prevent Fraud Brifing. DH noted that these two separate documents were provided for information only. The documents are hopefully useful to understand sector trends, risks and prevention measures including references to International Fraud Awareness Week and available resources for further learning. Committee Members present noted the briefing reports.</p> <p>e. Firearms Licensing – Confidential. Link to item #897.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
886	<p>Audit Recommendations Tracker Live Internal Audit Actions. GH provided an update and overview of the 13 open audits and 37 open actions. Of note, there are only two actions for vetting that are overdue, with three more due by the end of December.</p> <p>SB provided an update on the vetting process challenges, describing the difficulties in managing vetting due to increased demand and limited resources, the use of risk-based decisions for role changes, and the recent appointment of a temporary Force Vetting Manager. Despite the challenges, NYP does remain compliant with regular and robust oversight. There are ongoing plans to explore technological solutions to improve vetting productivity and reduce reliance on simply increasing staff numbers, in response to unexpected increases in officer recruitment.</p> <p>MPO noted the significantly improved picture than presented at previous meetings. This is a reflection of the ongoing hard work. Committee Members present approved the report.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
887	<p>HMICFRS Reports / Overview. GH provided an update on the progress made against the HMICFRS Reports, noting that the latest PEEL inspection had only ended the previous week with the report expected in Mar 26. GH reported that 47 recommendations and Areas For Improvement (AFIs) are in progress, of which only eight are specific to NYP, the remainder originate from national thematic reports. There are 15 recommendations / AFIs under assessment by HMIC for closure. Due to the improved governance through the RAIB, there are no overdue recommendations.</p> <p>The SOC inspection report is due to be received on 18.12.25. Notification has been received for a joint NYP/NYFRS cyber security inspection to take place in Jan 26.</p> <p>SB highlighted the organisational focus on improving governance and oversight of recommendation delivery, referencing progress on closing old recommendations and the aim to address new recommendations contemporaneously. Committee Members present approved the report.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
888	<p>Principle Risk Register (PRR) and Business Continuity (BC) Overview. LF provided an update on the developments of the PRR and BC activity during the period 03.06.25 – 13.11.25. LF explained that the PRR now includes nine risks, up from three, with new entries such as misinformation, cyber-attack, and the government net zero target, reflecting alignment with the RSM Emerging Risk Radar. The escalation of the six new risks were all approved at the Nov 25 RAIB. SB discussed the importance of escalating significant risks to the PRR for organisational and public reassurance, even if they are</p>	

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	<p>managed effectively at lower levels. The PRR is a transparent document reflecting that NYP are aware and fully preparing to mitigate the risks.</p> <p>LF described nine business continuity incidents during the reporting period, including IT outages, a premises closure due to insect infestation, and a building evacuation due to a suspicious item handed in by a member of the public. All incidents were managed according to established plans. The Priority 1 incident from Oct 24 (previously reported to JIAC), has one remaining action still open which is expected to be complete and closed prior to the scheduled Jan 26 RAIB.</p> <p>Most recently, a Forcewide National Power Outage exercise took place on 30.09.25 to validate NYPs corporate business plan. Initial findings were presented at the Nov 25 RAIB and a further update will be presented at the Jan 26 board.</p> <p>HC challenged the procedures taken following a reported data loss. SB confirmed that all such incidents are discussed with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) for reporting decisions, with a transparent approach to engagement and logging. Committee Members present approved the report.</p>	Approved
889	<p>Civil Claims Overview for the Period 01.07.25 – 30.09.25. MPh presented the report, noting an increase in Public Liability Claims within this period which arise from allegations of wrongful arrest/false imprisonment, personal injury or malicious prosecution. The increase (32 compared to an average of 25 over the preceding three quarters) has been primarily driven by a specific firm of solicitors and the use of AI by litigants, with most claims being denied. There have been no significant Employee Liability or Third Party Motor claims.</p> <p>Assurance was provided that claims data and learning points are regularly reported to the Chief Officer Team, the Driver Standards Group, and the Organisational Learning Board, with the first report sent to the latter in Nov. Committee Members present approved the report.</p>	Approved
890	<p>Finance and Accounts. MPo and LB-W discussed the scheduling of an Extra-ordinary JIAC Meeting to review, discuss and potentially approve the FY24/25 Auditors Annual Report. Subject to being able to achieve quorum, 26.02.26 was suggested, this date would ensure compliance with the publication deadline.</p> <p>IM is to liaise with all Members and key stakeholders and send the invite once confirmed.</p>	New Action #79 (IM)
891	<p>External Audits - Audit Progress Report. MO provided a verbal update on the external audit, confirming that planning is well underway and resources in place to ensure the FY24/25 audit is complete in readiness for the extra-ordinary meeting scheduled for Feb to review them. No weaknesses have been identified within the draft value for money arrangements. Committee Members present noted the update.</p>	Noted
892	<p>Information Assurance Report – Performance Indicator In Fulfilling Statutory Information Requests. JB presented an overview of the relevant performance indicators and NYP’s compliance with statutory timescales for the period 30.04.25 – 31.10.25. There has been a notable increase in Freedom of Information (FOI) and Subject Access Requests (SAR), partly due to repeat requests facilitated by AI, which has created additional workload for the Records Management Teams. FOIs increased from 296 for the same period last year to 650 for this period. Despite the increased volume, the team has improved on-time response rates for FOI requests to 80-85%, attributed</p>	

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	<p>to adequate staffing, though there is concern that further increases may challenge this performance.</p> <p>Three data breaches were reported to the ICO during the period, all resulting in no further action, and the team maintains a transparent approach to reporting and engagement with the ICO.</p> <p>SB noted the dual impact of AI; whilst noting that it increases request volume, NYP is actively exploring robotics and AI solutions to improve internal processing efficiency, with appropriate governance checks and balances in place. Committee Members present approved the report.</p>	Approved
893	<p>DRAFT AGS 24/25 - Progress on Areas for Improvement Within 25/26. LF provided an update on the progress made on the noted areas for development captured within the FY24/25 AGS. All three areas for development have been updated and were discussed.</p> <p>DH noted that a follow-up review will provide Members with independent assurance as to the progress of the three areas.</p> <p>SB provided assurance that there is management accountability across all Chief Officer portfolios and that RSM will be welcomed back to the Force to cross-check that their actions are being carried out. Committee Members present approved the report.</p>	Approved
894	<p>Forward Planner. GH presented the Forward Planner. There were no observations or amendments, and the Planner was otherwise approved.</p>	Approved
895	<p>Next Meetings.</p> <p>a. Extraordinary Meeting. Linked to Minute #890 above, a date in Feb 26 will be confirmed for a single agenda item to review FY24/25 accounts. Hybrid attendance.</p> <p>b. Main Meeting. Thu 19th Mar 26 at 10:00. Hybrid attendance.</p>	Approved
896	<p>Proposed Dates of 2026 Meetings: Thursday 25th June 2026 at 10:00. Thursday 24th September 2026 at 10:00. Thursday 17th December 2026 at 10:00.</p>	Approved
897	<p>Closed Session: PC withdrew from the meeting.</p> <p>a. Firearms Licensing – confidential. DH presented the findings of the Firearms Licensing Audit, reporting a <i>substantial assurance</i> opinion with only minor actions required; very good controls are in place and complied with. SB welcomed the report emphasising the importance of ensuring robust controls within this high-risk area of business which carries much vulnerability to the public. SB noted that NYP has the highest level of firearms and shotguns in the country. This audit provides valuable assurance for both internal and public stakeholders. Committee Members present approved the report.</p>	Approved
898	<p>Post Meeting Addendum. <i>The DRAFT Minutes were presented to Committee Member SG for review. SG had been sighted on all meeting papers.</i></p>	All Noted and Accepted agenda

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
	<i>SG had no further questions or comments and supported all outcomes, actions and decisions made during the meeting.</i>	items were supported.

Actions Agreed:

No.	Action / Update	Owner	Date Issued	Date Closed
68	Chief Constable's Detective Numbers Presentation. Chair directed that the presentation provided previously by the Chief Constable is to be forward to PB and PT, subject to satisfactory clearance of vetting requirements.	IM	19.09.24	04.12.25
78	Health & Safety Audit. The 30 September 2026 deadline for three Medium priority actions is to be reviewed. This is too generous a deadline within such a critical area.	LB-W	23.09.25	
79	Extraordinary Meeting to Review FY24/25 Auditors Annual Report. IM is to liaise with all Members and key stakeholders and send the invite once confirmed.	IM	04.12.25	