



Report to the PCC for Cleveland and the CC of Cleveland Police

28th September 2023

Annual Report of the Cleveland Joint Audit Committee

Cleveland Joint Audit Committee

Annual Report

FOREWARD

The Purpose of this report is to provide assurance that the Joint Audit Committee is satisfactorily undertaking its role and responsibilities to enhance public trust and confidence in the governance of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Cleveland Police. It provides an overview of the areas of work considered by the Committee during 2022/23 and details the areas that the Committee thought worthy of mention. It provides the PCC and CC with the assurance that the Committee has fulfilled its terms of reference and demonstrates the added value that has been delivered by the Independent Committee to both the PCC and Chief Constable (CC) and also the wider public throughout 2022/23.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This annual report of the Cleveland Joint Audit Committee covers the 2022/23 financial year.
- 1.2 The Cleveland Joint Committee was established in 2012, with a refresh in 2017, when all roles within the Committee were advertised and appointed to. 2022 saw a similar refresh as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee vacated their roles after the maximum length of Membership of the committee, which is 8 years.
- 1.3 The Committee has a wide range of responsibilities that are captured within the annually reviewable Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference in place throughout 2022-23 are reproduced at Appendix A for information.
- 1.4 The table below details last year's Committee members. The Committee would like to place on record its thanks to the Officers of the PCC and CC, and both the internal and external auditors who have supported its work throughout the year.

Members of the Joint Audit Committee

Role	Member	Dates in role
Chair	Stuart Green	From 1st May 2022
Vice Chair	Joanne Gleeson	From 1st May 2022
Member	Gill Rollings	Throughout financial year
Member	Andrew Prest	Throughout financial year
Member	Elizabeth Hall	From 1st June 2022

1.5 The Committee returned to the normal quarterly cycle of 4 meetings for the 2022/23 financial year. The meetings all took place at the 'usual' times and all work of the Committee has taken place with the meetings taking place on the following dates:

- 30th June 2022
- 29th September 2022
- 15th December 2022
- 30th March 2023

1.6 Meetings during the year have been held in a number of ways, some fully via Teams, some fully in person and some a mixture of both. A pre-meeting with both the Internal and External auditors, without management, has also taken place.

2 EXTERNAL AUDIT

2.1 Mazars LLP have been the external auditors for the PCC Group throughout 2022/23.

Audit of the Statements of Accounts for 2021/22

2.2 The Committee considered the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 at our meeting in June 2022 – the accounts had been produced by your Officers a month earlier than the statutory deadline and were subsequently made available for Audit.

2.3 The Statutory deadline for the completion of the 2021/22 Audit was the 30th September 2022, however the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 remains outstanding.

2.4 The Committee considered an Audit Completion Report from your External Auditors, Mazars, at our meeting in September 2022 that stated:

'We have substantially completed our audit in respect of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022. At the time of preparing this report, significant matters remain outstanding as outlined in section 2. We will provide an update to you in relation to the significant matters outstanding through issuance of a follow up letter.'

- 2.5 These significant matters were:
- We are still completing our work on pensions including awaiting the letter of assurance from the pension fund auditor.
 - Review and closure procedures - Including reviews of completed work, checking the final version of the financial statements and consideration of any post balance sheet events.
 - Whole of Government Accounts - Reviewing and submitting the Whole of Governments Accounts consolidation schedules. The NAO has not yet issued guidance to auditors.
- 2.6 Mazars update the Committee at our next meeting on 15 December 2022 that 'they were unable to complete our audit of the 2021/22 financial statements and issue our audit opinion because we had not received the pension fund assurance letter from the auditor of the Teesside Pension Fund.'
- 2.7 At our Committee Meeting in March 2023, Mazars further reported that 'Unfortunately, we have still not received the assurance letter. As a result of this delay, another issue has now arisen in relation to pension fund disclosures.'
- 2.8 **As of writing this report the Audit of the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts remains outstanding over 14 months after the accounts were submitted for Audit.**
- 2.9 The Committee is not aware of any issues with the accounts that were produced by your Officers and will seek assurances from your External Auditors that the 2021/22 accounts will be finalised as soon as possible and that the process for 2022/23 will be much smoother.

Annual Completion Report 2020/21

- 2.10 This was presented to the Committee by the external auditors on 11th November 2021. The Report explained that the External Auditors were unable to complete their audit and issue their audit opinion on the financial statements until they received assurance from the pension fund auditor.
- 2.11 The Pension Fund auditor provided their letter to the Auditors during December 2021 which is after the statutory timetable for audit completion of 30 November 2021, meaning that the issue of their final audit report was delayed and finally issued on the 14th December 2021.
- 2.12 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, notices were published to explain the delay in the receipt of audited financial statements.
- 2.13 Updates on 2020/21 were received by the Committee throughout 2022/23 with the last update from Mazars being '*We received group instructions from the National Audit Office (NAO) allowing us to complete our work on 2020/21 Whole of Government accounts and we issued an assurance statement to the National Audit Office on 15 December 2022. However, we are unable to issue*

our certificate formally closing the 2020/21 audit because the NAO have not yet responded to our query about whether the Group has been selected for additional procedures. When we receive confirmation on this, we will be able to issue the audit certificate and finally bring the 2020/21 audit to a conclusion.'

Value for Money Conclusion 2020/21 and 2021/22

- 2.14 As part of the Annual Completion Report the External Auditors are required to report on the arrangements for Value for Money. They are required to 'form a conclusion as to whether the PCC and CC have made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its 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.'
- 2.15 As a result of the pandemic, the National Audit Office updated its guidance to auditors in April 2021 to allow auditors to delay the completion of their work on VFM arrangements. The revised guidance requires auditors to complete their work and issue their Auditor's Annual Report no more than three months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements.
- 2.16 Given the date of the opinion of the financial statements was the 14th December 2021, this should have meant a Value for Money conclusion being provided by the 14th February 2022.
- 2.17 This Value for Money conclusion was provided to the meeting in December 2022 and stated '*We report a significant weaknesses in arrangements relating to the 'Inadequate' rating of the Force by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) from its report in 2019, and the need to accelerate the progress made in addressing the issues identified.'*
- 2.18 The Value for Money conclusion for 2021/22, as with the remainder of the Audit remains outstanding at the time of writing this report however the Committee is reassured that the Auditors have recognised that: '*Previously we had anticipated that the significant weaknesses and recommendations we would report would be the same as for our 2020/21 report, and we would reflect any improvement in the text. Although not issued until March 2023, the HMICFRS report is labelled as the 2021/22 Peel Inspection, and clearly included assessment work during that year. Our initial view is that this is the outcome for 2021/22 and we need to reflect this in our own report for the 2021/22 audit year, which would mean reflecting the improvements and reframing our significant weaknesses and recommendations so that they are focused on the two remaining areas assessed as Inadequate'*
- 2.19 As with all areas of External Audit reporting the Committee is keen to see improvements around timeliness of reporting and will look to hold Mazars to account throughout 2023/24.

3 INTERNAL AUDIT

- 3.1 The provider of PCC and CC's Internal Audit Service changed from the 1st April 2020 to RSM, who were appointed on a 3-year contract with the option to extend this contract for an additional 2 years.
- 3.2 The Audit Plan for 2022/23 was developed by carrying out an analysis of your risk registers (Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable), and assurances provided by other providers e.g. HMICFRS. The plan was discussed with both Chief Finance Officers and the wider Force Executive.
- 3.3 The Joint Committee commented on, considered and endorsed the 2022/23-2024/25 internal audit strategy at its meeting in May 2022 to ensure that the work could start for the new financial year as soon as possible.
- 3.4 During the course of the year, the Committee has closely monitored progress against the objectives and programme of work set out in the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23.

Internal Audit reports

- 3.5 In recognition of the significant challenges that have been raised about the organisation, management have significantly increased the scope and level of internal audit work to be undertaken as part of the new contract. The aim of which is to provide independent assurance, or otherwise, on key areas of risk and governance of the organisation.
- 3.6 The audit work for the year to the 31 March 2023 involved 9 separate reviews which were assessed based on the level of assurance that the PCC and CC can take from the controls within the areas under review and how well they are being adhered to/implemented.

These assurance levels are as follows:

- **Substantial assurance:** Taking account of the issues identified, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and / or the Chief Constable of Cleveland can take substantial assurance that the controls upon which the organisations relies to manage this risk are suitably designed, consistently applied and effective.
- **Reasonable assurance:** Taking account of the issues identified, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and / or the Chief Constable of Cleveland can take reasonable assurance that the controls upon which the organisations relies to manage this risk are suitably designed, consistently applied and effective. However, we have identified issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure that the control framework is effective in managing the identified risk.

- **Partial assurance:** Taking account of the issues identified, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and / or the Chief Constable of Cleveland can take partial assurance that the controls upon which the organisations relies to manage this risk are suitably designed, consistently applied or effective. Action is needed to strengthen the control framework to manage the identified risk.
- **Minimal assurance:** Taking account of the issues identified, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and / or the Chief Constable of Cleveland cannot take assurance that the controls upon which the organisations relies to manage this risk are suitably designed, consistently applied or effective. Urgent action is needed to strengthen the control framework to manage the identified risk.

3.7 Of the 9 audits that received assurances during the 2022/23 audit the assurance levels were as follows:

Assurance Level	No. of Audits
Substantial	2
Reasonable	3
Partial	2
Minimal	2

3.8 These 9 audits generated 44 actions that were agreed by management. The actions are graded High, Medium or Low depending on the urgency and priority with which they need to be addressed. The 44 actions were split as follows:

Action level	No. of Recommendations
High	13
Medium	15
Low	16

3.9 The number of actions issued in 2022/23 was higher than the volume raised in 2021/22 (of 35) and these came from less audits (9 versus 12), however unlike 2021/22, when the progress in dealing with the actions raised by Internal Audit was highlighted as a concern, in 2022/23 both follow-up audits showed that 'Good Progress' was being made on previous actions.

3.10 The Committee welcomes this progress and looks forward to seeing this maintained in 2023/24 and beyond.

3.11 In addition to the core Internal Audit Programme there was also an Advisory peace on work done in relation to GDPR which resulted in 5 recommendations, 2 High, 2 Medium and 1 Low.

3.12 A monitoring report on the implementation of audit recommendations is submitted to the Committee every six months. The last report relating to the 2022/23 financial year, was in June 2023 and showed 23 outstanding

recommendations (this is a significant reduction from the 60 outstanding actions reported a year ago).

- 3.13 Of these 23, a further 16 have been identified as complete by the Force and therefore awaiting signed off by the auditors. Before those items are signed off, this leaves actions outstanding at the following levels:

- High – 7
- Medium – 9
- Low – 7

The Head of Audit's annual report

- 3.14 The Head of Audit's annual report was received by the Committee in June 2023 relating to the work carried out primarily in the financial year 2022/23. The report concluded that:

Office of the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner

The organisation has an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control.

However, our work has identified further enhancements to the framework of risk management, governance and internal control to ensure that it remains adequate and effective.

Cleveland Police

The organisation has an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control.

However, our work has identified further enhancements to the framework of risk management, governance and internal control to ensure that it remains adequate and effective.

HMICFRS

- 3.15 Prior to August 2022, the governance and scrutiny arrangements associated with HMICFRS fell under the responsibility of the Deputy Chief Constable led Inspection and Audit Monitoring Board, with routine progress monitoring of AFIs and recommendations delegated to the appropriate Delivery and Assurance Group.
- 3.16 Following a review of the Force's corporate meeting framework which identified the need for a single governance meeting to manage all inspection, risk and audit related activity, this Board has now merged with the Risk and Governance Group to form a new Audit Inspection and Risk (AIR) Board.
- 3.17 The Committee is sighted on both the terms of reference for the AIR Board and the 'end to end' process followed from the Force receiving a notice to improve through to an action being formally closed by HMICFRS, and shows who is responsible at each stage.

- 3.18 An overview on all areas are brought to the Committee in a similar manner to the Internal Audit actions and the Committee continues to seek assurances around the timely implementation of all actions and the governance processes in place around this area.
- 3.19 The report received from the Force in December 2022 showed that since July 2020, when there were 167 outstanding recommendations and areas for improvement, a further 140 have been issued. Of these 307:
- 87 were closed
 - 57 submitted and awaiting review
 - 16 ready to submit for review
 - 147 work in progress (up from 122 a year early)

4 CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 4.1 The September 2022 meeting of the Committee considered both the PCC and CC's Annual Governance Statements; the Committee recommended that both the PCC and CC adopt the documents presented. The draft versions of both documents for 2022/23 were considered by the Committee in June 2023, feedback will be provided prior to the final version of the 2022/23 Statements being agreed alongside the final statement of accounts for the 2022/23 year.
- 4.2 In addition to the review of the Annual Governance Statements the Committee also receives and endorses any proposed changes to the Code of Corporate Governance. The Committee received very minor proposed changes to the Code in May 2022, which reflected minor changes required to ensure that the code remains up to date.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Committee has an important role in ensuring that both the PCC and CC has effective arrangements for the identification, assessment, mitigation, management and monitoring of risk.
- 5.2 During the year the Committee has considered the strategic risk registers of both the PCC and CC and continues to ensure that the work of Internal Audit is appropriately linked to the Risk Registers to ensure those areas highlighted as a Risk to the organisations are appropriately reviewed.

6 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND COMPLAINTS

- 6.1 The Committee has considered reports detailing any contracts that have been entered into that have not been subject to the approved contract standing orders and the reasoning for this.
- 6.2 The Committee has not had any issues referred to it by the Statutory Officers of either the PCC or CC during 2022/23 and has not been required to consider any Freedom of Information appeals.
- 6.3 In relation to Complaints and Conduct received against the Police Force, Members received a report that provided an overview of the efficiency and effectiveness of the main Directorate of Standards and Ethics functions.
- 6.4 It was reported to the December Committee that the IOPC data had been released for the 2021/2022 period and showed Cleveland Police logged 1690 complaints. This equated to 697 complaints per 1000 employees, with 907 allegations being recorded per 1000 employees. This is the highest rate of complaints per 1000 employees nationally, and fifth highest rate of recorded allegations, which is a reduction from previously being the highest force nationally in this area.
- 6.5 In line with the Terms of Reference for the Committee, the Committee would like to see more details of the number and types of complaints to understand these high levels further and also understand why complaints are so high within Cleveland.
- 6.6 The Committee would also welcome data and reporting from the OPCC in relation to the Model 3 Complaint model to further inform and understand this area of their terms of reference.
- 6.7 Despite the challenges that continue with this area of work the Committee could see evidence of improvement and recognise how vital it is for this to continue and will be looking for further evidence of this throughout 2023/24.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 The Committee received the Annual Health and Safety Report from the Chief Constable in June 2023, covering the 2022/23 financial year.
- 7.2 The report followed on from an Internal Audit review of Health and Safety that was reported to the Committee in December 2022 that concluded that *'Taking account of the issues identified, the Chief Constable can take **minimal assurance** that the controls upon which the organisation relies to manage this area are suitably designed, consistently applied or effective.'*
- 7.3 And that *'Urgent action is needed to strengthen the control framework to manage the identified area.'*

- 7.4 The Committee welcomes the work that has been undertaken since the Internal Audit work was completed and is glad to see that Quarterly Health and Safety meetings have been reintroduced across the force, however very concerned that they stopped/could have stopped in the first place.
- 7.5 The Committee welcomes that in January 2023 the position of a 'stand-alone' Health & Safety Manager was introduced into the Force, however remain concerned that it has so far not been filled on a permanent basis.
- 7.6 The Committee looks forward to significant improvements in this area during 2023/24, including the completion of all of the 9 actions that were set out within the Internal Audit report.
- 7.7 2022-23 saw the overall number of injuries on duty sustained by Police Officers and Police Staff, including PCSOs and Special Constables, increase from 179 to 196. This increase is in line with increase in the number of people employed by the Force and therefore the incident rate has not increase and remains just over 70 injuries per 1,000 employees.

8 INSURANCE AND CIVIL CLAIMS

- 8.1 The Committee received a report on Civil Claims during the year, the information provided within this report showed that the number of claims in 2022/23 was the highest since 2015/16.
- 8.2 The Committee is keen to understand whether this is a one-off or a return to the higher level that was seen in the period between 2009-2016, and if it is, why.

9 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY and INCLUSION

- 9.1 The Committee considered a report in relation to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at its meeting in December 2022 relating to the 2021/22 financial year.
- 9.2 The Committee was surprised and concerned to see that despite the significant recruitment of Police Officers over the last 4 years that Male officers continue to comprise 69% of officers serving in 2021/22.
- 9.3 Other areas that will need significant and continued focus from the Force are that:
- 67% of Police Staff are female. (this is the same as 2020/21)
 - Only 2% of the entire workforce identify as BAME (this is the same as 2020/21)
 - Only 1% of the entire workforce indicate they have a disability (down from 2% in 2020/21) and over 1,700 employees have not stated either way.
 - Over 80% of the workforce remain in the age range 26-55
 - The Committee was pleased to see data on sexual orientation was now included within the report and hope that the 45% of people who are 'not stated' will reduce.

- Some progress has been made on the data on religion needs with a reduction in the workforce that have not stated or have unknown information in this area from 40% to 34%.
- 9.4 The committee continues to see the improvements being made in terms of reporting and data, the next step is what strategies and plans will the Force put in place to address some of the significant numerical and statistical differences that these numbers highlight and ensure that the services meet the requirements of our communities, and that our workplace is inclusive and supportive.

10 INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

- 10.1 Due to an administration oversight a report on Information Governance was not included on the agenda for the Committee relating to 2020/21.
- 10.2 The Committee is pleased to report that both this report and the report for 2021/22 were considered at the September 2022 meeting.
- 10.3 The Committee was pleased to note that a new role of Information Governance Manager had been established and was going through recruitment. The Committee look forward to seeing how this progressed and the impact of this new role.
- 10.4 The Committee was also pleased to see that the Records Manager is working on the implementation of a 2-year retention policy to Cleveland Police's email content and that the implementation will include providing users with a 12-month countdown to the change, and instructions on how to manage emails requiring a longer retention period (by exception).
- 10.5 The Committee are keen to understand how this has progressed and also whether this has reduced the risk of processing personal data for longer than is necessary.
- 10.6 The Committee was concerned to see that the number of security incidents in the 12 months to August 2022 had doubled in the last 2 years, to over 300 incidents in a year.

APPENDIX A

AUDIT COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Composition of the Committee

The Audit Committee comprises 5 members who are independent of the Office of the PCC and Cleveland Police. The executive of the Office of the PCC and the Command Team of the Police Force are required to be represented at each meeting of the Committee.

Quorum of the Committee

No business shall be transacted at the meeting of the Audit Committee unless at least 3 Members of the Committee are present.

Press and Public

The Public shall be admitted to all meetings of the Audit Committee unless excluded by resolution in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 (Schedule 12a), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

A member of the public will not be permitted to speak or ask questions at the meeting except with the consent of the meeting chair.

Exclusion of Public Access

The public must be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that confidential information would be disclosed.

Confidential information means information given to the PCC or CC by a Government Department on terms which forbid its public disclosure or information which cannot be publicly disclosed by Court Order.

Items will be considered '**Below the Line**' or 'not for publication' when they contain exempt information as defined by schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Purpose

The Audit Committee is responsible for enhancing public trust and confidence in the governance of the Office of the PCC and Cleveland Police. It also assists the PCC in discharging statutory responsibilities in holding the Police Force to account. This is achieved by;

- Advising the OPCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police according to good governance principles
- Providing independent assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the OPCC and Cleveland Police internal control environment and risk management framework.
- Overseeing the effectiveness of the framework in place for ensuring compliance with statutory requirements (and in particular those in respect of health and safety and equalities and diversity.)
- Independently scrutinising financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the OPCC and Cleveland Police exposure to risks and weakens the internal control environment
- Overseeing governance and monitoring of governance within the organisation.
- Overseeing the financial reporting process

To aid the Committee in delivering its purpose and objectives the PCC will make available funds for the Committee to take independent legal and financial advice where the Committee deems it is reasonably necessary to do so. Where the Committee deems this

advice is necessary it should be discussed and coordinated with the PCCs Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officers of the PCC and CC.

Objectives

The Audit Committee meets at least four times a year (and in effectively discharging its function is responsible for:

Internal Control Environment

- Satisfying itself as to the effectiveness of the internal control framework in operation within the Office of the PCC and Cleveland Police and advising the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police as appropriate.
- Considering the Annual Governance Statement for publication with the annual accounts, together with associated action plans for addressing areas of improvement and advising the PCC as appropriate.

Corporate Risk Management

- Approving the Office of the PCC and Cleveland Police corporate risk management strategy and framework; ensuring that an appropriate framework is in place for assessing and managing key risks to the Office of the PCC and Cleveland Police.
- Considering the financial risks to which the Office of the PCC and Cleveland Police are exposed and approving measures to reduce or eliminate them or to insure against them.
- Providing assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police as appropriate on the effectiveness of the risk management framework in operation.
- Provide oversight and scrutiny of the risk registers of both the PCC and Chief Constable

Regulatory Framework

- Maintain an overview of the governance framework in respect of contract procedure rules, financial regulations and codes of conduct and behaviour and to review and approve on an annual basis any changes to the Code of Corporate Governance.
- Maintain an overview of the work of the Force's Professional Standards Department in relation to an overview of the number and types of complaints.
- To review any issue referred to it by the Statutory Officers of the PCC and Chief Constable and make recommendations as appropriate.
- To monitor the policies of both the PCC and Chief Constable on 'Raising Concerns at Work', anti-fraud and corruption strategy and complaints process.

Internal Audit

- Advising the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police on the appropriate arrangements for internal audit, the appointment of the Internal Auditors and approving the Internal Audit Strategy.
- Approving the internal audit annual programme.
- Overseeing and giving assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police on the provision of an adequate and effective internal audit service; receiving progress reports on the internal audit work plan and ensuring appropriate action is taken in response to audit findings, particularly in areas of high risk.

- Considering the Head of Internal Audit Annual Report and annual opinion on the internal control environment for the Office of the PCC and Cleveland Police; ensuring appropriate action is taken to address any areas for improvement.
- Reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of Office of the PCC and Cleveland Police on fraud, irregularity and corruption.

External Audit

- Advising the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police on the appointment of external auditors.
- Approving on behalf of the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police the external audit programme and associated fees
- Reviewing the external auditor's Audit Completion Report and any other reports; reporting on these to the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police as appropriate and including progress on the implementation of agreed recommendations.
- Reviewing External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter and making recommendations as appropriate to the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police.

Financial Reporting

- Reviewing the Annual Statement of Accounts and make recommendations or bring to the attention of the PCC or CC, any concerns or issues.
- To consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and any changes to them.

Inspection and Review

- Considering HMICFRS, external review agencies and any internal inspection reports that provide assurance on the internal control environment and/or may highlight governance issues for the Office of the PCC and/or Cleveland Police.
- Overseeing and giving assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police that appropriate action is taken in response to HMICFRS findings, including that all actions are implemented, delivered and embedded, particularly in areas of high risk.

Complaints

- Maintain an overview of Force complaints.
- Maintain an overview of complaints against the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and its staff and act as the appeals body when required.

Freedom of Information

- Act as the review body for Freedom of Information appeals

Civil Claims

- Maintain an overview of Civil Claims

Information Governance

- Review Corporate Strategy, policies and procedures in relation to Information Governance for both the PCC and CC.
- Review reports from the Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO), of both the PCC and CC, relating to the implementation of the corporate strategy, compliance with Data Protection Act and other information Governance related legislation.
- Consider any implications for governance and the annual governance statements of both the PCC and CC from issues in this area.