

Audit Completion Report

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Cleveland and
the Chief Constable for Cleveland

September 2023



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Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'Statement of Responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies' and the 'Appointing Person Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the Chief Constable for Cleveland are prepared for the sole use of Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the Chief Constable for Cleveland and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Mazars, an international advisory and accountancy group. Mazars LLP is registered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.



Steve Turner, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
Mark Webster, Chief Constable for Cleveland

Cleveland Police
Police Headquarters
Community Safety Hub
1 Cliffland Way
Middlesbrough
TS9 9GL

19 September 2023

Dear Sirs

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2023

We are pleased to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2023. The purpose of this document is to summarise our audit conclusions.

The scope of our work, including identified significant audit risks and other areas of management judgement, was outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum which we finalised on 8 August 2023. We have reviewed our Audit Strategy Memorandum and concluded that the original significant audit risks and other areas of management judgement remain appropriate. We would like to express our thanks for the assistance of your team during our audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 07896 684 771.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gavin Barker", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Gavin Barker

Director, Mazars LLP

Mazars LLP
Bank Chambers
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1DF

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01

Section 01:

Executive summary

1. Executive summary

Principal conclusions and significant findings

The detailed scope of our work as your appointed auditor for 2022/23 is set out in the National Audit Office's (NAO) Code of Audit Practice. Our responsibilities and powers are derived from the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and, as outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, our audit has been conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and means we focus on audit risks that we have assessed as resulting in a higher risk of material misstatement.

In section 4 of this report we have set out our conclusions and significant findings from our audit. This section includes our conclusions on the audit risks and areas of management judgement in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, which include:

- Management override of controls; and
- Net defined benefit liability valuation; and
- Valuation of land and buildings (PCC and Group only).

Misstatements and internal control recommendations

Section 5 sets out internal control recommendations. Section 6 sets out any audit misstatements and unadjusted misstatements total. Section 7 outlines our work on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland (PCC) and the Chief Constable for Cleveland's (CC) arrangements arrangements to achieve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources.

Status and audit opinion

At the time of preparing this report, there are the following significant matters 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.

Subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the remaining audit work, we have the following conclusions:



Audit opinion

We anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. Our proposed audit opinion is included in the draft auditor's report in Appendix B.



Value for Money

We are yet to complete our work in respect of the PCC and CC's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023. We anticipate reporting a significant weakness and recommendation in relation to the 'inadequate' ratings on preventing crime and good use of resources following the most recent HMICFRS inspection in 2021/22. Further detail on our Value for Money work is provided in section 07 of this report.



Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

We have not yet received group instructions from the National Audit Office in respect of our work on the Group's WGA submission. We are unable to commence our work in this area until such instructions have been received.



Wider powers

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the PCC and CC and to consider any objection made to the accounts. No questions or objections have been received.

02

Section 02:

Status of the audit

2. Status of the audit

There are currently no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion, subject to the outstanding matters detailed below.

Audit area	Risk of material adjustment or significant change	Description of the outstanding matters
Property, plant and equipment	Medium	Valuation of land and buildings still outstanding.
Pensions	Medium	Completion of our IAS19 work programme including pension fund assurance from the pension fund auditor.
IT Controls	Low	Completion of IT General Control environment.
Disclosures and other areas	Low	Awaiting direct confirmation of one bank account; presentation and disclosure checklist; Narrative Report.
Review and closure procedures	Medium	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	Low	Reviewing and submitting the Whole of Governments Accounts consolidation schedules. The NAO has not yet issued guidance to auditors therefore we are unable to complete.

High - Likely to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements.

Medium - Potential to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements.

Low - Not considered likely to result in material adjustment or change to disclosures within the financial statements.

03

Section 03: **Audit approach**

3. Audit approach

Changes to our audit approach

We provided details of our intended audit approach in our Audit Strategy Memorandum in September 2023. We have not made any changes to our audit approach since we presented our Audit Strategy Memorandum

Materiality

Our provisional materiality at the planning stage of the audit was set at 2% of gross revenue expenditure at the surplus/deficit level which was of £4.992m for the Group, £3.476m for the PCC and £4.012m for the Chief Constable. No changes to the materiality level set at the planning stage have been made.

Use of experts

There are no changes to our planned approach since issuing our Audit Strategy Memorandum as set out below:

Item of account	Management’s expert	Our expert
Pensions Defined Benefits Liability / Asset	AoN for police officers; and Hyman’s Robertson LLP for LGPS	NAO’s Consulting Actuary (PWC)
Property, plant and equipment valuation	Valuer - Sanderson Wetherall	

Service organisations

There are no changes to our planned approach since issuing our Audit Strategy Memorandum as set out below:

Items of account	Service organisation	Audit approach
Payment of pension lump sums and monthly pension payroll to retirees under the Police Pension schemes.	XPS	Walkthrough of transactions as part of planning work. Testing of pensions at the year-end.

3. Audit approach

Group audit approach

See below, the information on the group audit approach.

Group component	Approach adopted	Key points or other matters to report
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland	Full audit	Mazars LLP
Chief Constable for Cleveland	Full audit	Mazars LLP

Full audit

Performance of an audit of the component's financial information prepared for group reporting purposes using component materiality

Audit of balances and/or disclosures

Performance of an audit of specific balances and/or disclosures included in the component's financial information prepared for group reporting purposes, using component materiality

Specific audit procedures

Performance of specific audit procedures on the component's financial information

Review procedures

Review of the component's financial information prepared for group reporting purposes using the component materiality assigned

04

Section 04: **Significant findings**

4. Significant findings

In this section we outline the significant findings from our audit. These findings include:

- our audit conclusions regarding other significant risks and key areas of management judgement outlined in the Audit Strategy Memorandum;
- our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. On page 14 we have concluded whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework and commented on any significant accounting policy changes that have been made during the year;
- any further significant matters discussed with management; and
- any significant difficulties we experienced during the audit.

Significant risks

Management override of controls	Description of the risk
	In all entities, management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, we consider there to be a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and thus a significant risk on all audits.
	How we addressed this risk We addressed this risk through performing audit work over: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accounting estimates impacting amounts included in the financial statements;• Consideration of identified significant transactions outside the normal course of business; and• Journals recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparation of the financial statements.
	Audit conclusion Subject to completion of outstanding items, there are no significant issues arising from our work that we are required to report to you.

4. Significant findings

Net defined benefit liability valuation	Description of the risk <p>The financial statements contain material pension entries in respect of retirement benefits. The calculation of these pension figures, both assets and liabilities, can be subject to significant volatility and includes estimates based upon a complex interaction of actuarial assumptions. This results in an increased risk of material misstatement. In addition, For 2022/23, a net asset position is being reported for the LGPS for the first time.</p> <hr/> How we addressed this risk <p>We discussed with key contacts any significant changes to the pension estimates. In addition to our standard programme of work in this area, we evaluated the management controls you have in place to assess the reasonableness of the figures provided by the Actuary and considered the reasonableness of the Actuary's output, referring to an expert's report on all actuaries nationally.</p> <p>We reviewed the appropriateness of the key assumptions included within the valuations, compared them to expected ranges and reviewed the methodology applied in the valuation. We considered the adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements.</p> <p>We also sought assurance from the auditor of the Teesside Pension Fund.</p> <hr/> Audit conclusion <p>Our work is ongoing in this area. We also require the pension fund auditor's letter of assurance. We have not identified any significant issues to bring to your attention at this stage.</p>
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Valuation of land and buildings	Description of the risk <p>The financial statements contain material entries on the Balance Sheet as well as material disclosure notes in relation to the PCC and Group's holding of PPE.</p> <p>Although the PCC and Group use a valuation expert to provide information on valuations, there remains a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with the revaluation of PPE due to the significant judgements and number of variables involved in providing revaluations. We have therefore identified the valuation of PPE to be an area of significant risk</p> <hr/> How we addressed this risk <p>We addressed this risk by considering the PCC and Group's arrangements for ensuring that PPE values are reasonable and we used data on valuation trends and relevant indices to assess the reasonableness of the valuations provided by the external valuer. We also assessed the competence, skills and experience of the valuer.</p> <p>We discussed methods used with the valuer and examined supporting information. We used indices provided by NAO's valuation expert (Montague Evans) to confirm the assets not revalued are unlikely to have materially changed in value. We tested the revaluations in year to valuation reports and supporting calculation sheets to ensure that the calculations were correct and source data agrees.</p> <hr/> Audit conclusion <p>Our work is ongoing in this area. We have not identified any significant issues to bring to your attention at this stage.</p>
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4. Significant findings

Qualitative aspects of the PCC and Group and Chief Constable's accounting practices

We have reviewed the Group, PCC and CC's accounting policies and disclosures and concluded they comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets, published in November 2022, appropriately tailored to the Group, PCC and CC's circumstances.

Draft accounts were received from the Group, PCC and CC by 30 June 2023 and were of a good quality, supported by good working papers.

Significant matters discussed with management

There were no significant matters discussed with management.

Significant difficulties during the audit

During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.

Wider responsibilities

Our powers and responsibilities under the 2014 Act are broad and include the ability to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law;
- make an application for judicial review; and
- issue an advisory notice under schedule 8 of the 2014 Act.

We have not exercised any of these powers as part of our 2022/23 audit.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account. No such questions or objections have been raised.

05

Section 05:

Internal control recommendations

5. Internal control recommendations

As part of our audit of the financial statements, we obtained an understanding of internal controls sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing and extent of testing performed. Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, we are required to communicate to Audit and Finance Committee (as those charged with governance) any significant deficiencies identified during the course of our work.

The purpose of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit we have considered the internal controls in place relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and that we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported. If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control we might have identified more deficiencies to be reported or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported. Our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

No significant findings or recommendations in relation to internal controls have been noted as at the date of this report.

06

Section 06:

Summary of misstatements

6. Summary of misstatements

This section outlines the misstatements identified during the course of the audit, above the trivial threshold for adjustment of £150k for the Group, £104k for the PCC and £138k for the CC. We have not identified any adjusted or unadjusted misstatements to primary statements. Disclosure amendments are set out below.

Disclosure amendments

We identified the following adjustments during our audit that have been corrected by management:

Group and PCC

Note 16 - Cash and cash equivalents : The narrative discloses £1.206m for the proceeds of crime and seized cash account – this should be £2.090m.

Note 30 - Borrowings (maturity period) : The disclosure for loan maturity is incorrect. The amount of £2.26m shown as due between 5/10 years should be £1.5m with the balance of £760k shown between 2/5 years. The same error occurred for the 21/22 disclosure - the £3.02m in the 5/10 years period should be £1.5m with the balance of £1.52m shown between 2/5 years. Both years have been amended.

Note 12 - Capital commitments: This is shown as £2.532m which is actually the carry forward amount. The commitments total for 2022/23 should be £1.700m.

Movement in Reserves : The statement has omitted the entries for 'other comprehensive income and expenditure'. This is presentational as the overall total is included correctly.

Note 27 - PFI : Finance cost within the period 2-5 years for Uraly Nook is shown as £1.656m but should be £1.134m per the PFI model.

Note 14: Financial Instruments : From 1 November 2012, the government introduced the 'Certainty Rate' which reduced the PWLB standard interest rate by 20 basis points (0.20%) on loans from PWLB to principal local authorities who provide information as required on their plans for long-term borrowing and associated capital spending. This was not reflected in the fair value calculations which resulted in a £331k difference to the disclosed amounts. The fair value of loans was shown as £13.246m but should be £12.914m.

Group and Chief Constable

Note 39 - Collaborative Arrangements : The financial table relating to the Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit had been omitted from the financial statements. The note has now been added to include the Tactical Training Centre and Forensic Collision Investigation (FCIN).

Note 9 - Remuneration : There are 2 senior officers remunerations which are incorrect as they omitted expenses of £4,300 and other payments of £8,168,. There are a further two officers on the breakdown of salaries that are included in the wrong remuneration bandings.

Note 21 (PCC and Group) and Note 14 (Chief Constable) Pensions : The assumption for increases in the pension revaluation for the local government pension scheme is no longer provided by the Actuary and therefore has now been removed from the table.

07

Section 07: **Value for Money**

7. Value for Money

Approach to Value for Money

We are required to consider 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 and sets out the reporting criteria that we are required to consider. The reporting criteria are:

- **Financial sustainability** - How the PCC and CC plan and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services
- **Governance** - How the PCC and CC ensure that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks
- **Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness** - How the PCC and CC use information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services

At the planning stage of the audit, we undertake work to understand the arrangements that the PCC and CC has in place under each of the reporting criteria and we identify risks of significant weaknesses in those arrangements. Although we describe this work as planning work, we keep our understanding of arrangements under review and update our risk assessment throughout the audit to reflect emerging issues that may suggest significant weaknesses in arrangements exist.

The table overleaf outlines the risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements that we have identified, the risk-based procedures we have undertaken, and the results of our work.

Where our risk-based procedures identify actual significant weaknesses in arrangements we are required to report these and make recommendations for improvement. Where such significant weaknesses are identified, we report these in the audit report.

The primary output of our work on the PCC and CC's arrangements is the commentary on those arrangements that forms part of the Auditor's Annual Report. We intend to issue the Auditor's Annual Report in after we have issued our audit opinion on the financial statements.

Status of our work

We are yet to complete our work in respect of the PCC and CC's arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2023. Although our work in this area of the audit is ongoing, at the time of preparing this report, there is one significant weakness in arrangements and recommendation which will be brought forward from the prior year. We will provide further details on the significant weakness and recommendation when the wording of this has been clarified as part of our 2021/22 reporting.

Our draft audit report at Appendix B is worded that we have completed our work in relation to the PCC and CC's arrangements, which is the position we anticipate when we issue our audit report. We will communicate any changes in this position at the point of reporting.

We have matters to report in respect of a significant weaknesses in arrangements brought forward from the prior year.

As part of our 2020/21 audit, we identified a significant weaknesses in the PCC and Chief Constable's arrangements in relation to an inspection report issued by HMICFRS in 2019. In March 2023 a further HMICFRS inspection report in relation to 2021/22 was published. In our 2021/22 VFM reporting, the significant weakness and recommendation reported in 2020/21 has been closed and a new significant weakness and recommendation is to be reported based on the specific findings of the 2021/22 HMICFRS inspection report.

At the time of writing the final wording of the 2021/22 significant weakness and recommendation has not been finalised.

The wording for our audit report for 2022/23 will be finalised following VFM moderation and Consultant Partner Review processes for 2022/23, which have not yet been initiated.

As noted above, our commentary on the PCC and CC's arrangements will be provided in the Auditor's Annual Report at a later date.

Appendices

A: Draft management representation letter

B: Draft audit report

C: Independence

D: Other communications

Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Gavin Barker
Mazars
The Corner
Bank Chambers
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1DF

September 2023

Dear Gavin

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and Group - audit for year ended 31 March 2023

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the Group (the PCC and Group) for the year ended 31 March 2023 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets ("the Code Update"), published in November 2022.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information.

I have provided you with:

- Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- Unrestricted access to individuals within the PCC and Group you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Chief Finance Officer that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information. As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all relevant committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with the Code and International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the PCC and Group's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that any significant assumptions used by the PCC and Group in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- Information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- The amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the PCC and Group have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with Code.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom. We have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Chief Finance Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error. I have disclosed to you:

- All the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- All knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the PCC and Group involving:
 - management and Those Charged With Governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the PCC and Group's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code. I have disclosed to you the identity of the PCC and Group's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment and intangible assets below their carrying value at the statement of financial position date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Charges on assets

All the PCC and Group's assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

Future commitments

I am not aware of any plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Ukraine

We confirm we have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of Russian Forces entering Ukraine on the PCC and Group and there is no significant impact on the PCC and Group's operations from restrictions or sanctions in place.

Global Banking Challenges

We confirm that we have assessed the impact on the Authority of the on-going Global Banking challenges, in particular whether there is any impact on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, and on the post balance sheet events disclosures.

We confirm that our exposure (either direct cash exposure or direct / indirect through investments) with Silicon Valley Bank, Credit Suisse, Signature Bank or any other bank in a distress situation, is not material.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Going concern

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of the COVID-19 Virus pandemic on the PCC and Group, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties and am satisfied the going concern assumption remains appropriate and that no material uncertainty has been identified.

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the PCC and Group will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Annual Governance Statement

I am satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the PCC and Group's risk assurance and governance framework and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Unadjusted misstatements

I confirm that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix (if required)

Yours sincerely

Chief Finance Officer

Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Gavin Barker
Mazars
The Corner
Bank Chambers
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1DF

September 2023

Dear Gavin

Chief Constable for Cleveland - audit for year ended 31 March 2023

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Chief Constable for Cleveland (the Chief Constable) for the year ended 31 March 2023 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (“the Code Update”), published in November 2022.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information.

I have provided you with:

- Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- Unrestricted access to individuals within the Chief Constable you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Chief Finance Officer that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information. As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all relevant committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with the Code and International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Chief Constable’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that any significant assumptions used by the Chief Constable in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- Information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- The amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Chief Constable have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with Code.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom. We have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Chief Finance Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error. I have disclosed to you:

- All the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- All knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Chief Constable involving:
 - management and Those Charged With Governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Chief Constable's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code. I have disclosed to you the identity of the Chief Constable's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment and intangible assets below their carrying value at the statement of financial position date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Charges on assets

All the Chief Constable's assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

Future commitments

I am not aware of any plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Ukraine

We confirm we have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of Russian Forces entering Ukraine on the Chief Constable and there is no significant impact on the Chief Constable's operations from restrictions or sanctions in place.

Global Banking Challenges

We confirm that we have assessed the impact on the Authority of the on-going Global Banking challenges, in particular whether there is any impact on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, and on the post balance sheet events disclosures.

We confirm that our exposure (either direct cash exposure or direct / indirect through investments) with Silicon Valley Bank, Credit Suisse, Signature Bank or any other bank in a distress situation, is not material.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Going concern

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of the COVID-19 Virus pandemic on the Chief Constable, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties and am satisfied the going concern assumption remains appropriate and that no material uncertainty has been identified.

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Chief Constable will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Annual Governance Statement

I am satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Chief Constable's risk assurance and governance framework and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Unadjusted misstatements

I confirm that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix (if required)

Yours sincerely

Chief Finance Officer

Appendix B: Draft audit report

Independent auditor’s report to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the Group

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and Group (the PCC and Group) for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Group and PCC Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements, the Group and PCC Movement in Reserves Statements, the Group and PCC Balance Sheets, the Group and PCC Cash Flow Statement, the Group Police Pension Fund and Net Assets Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (“the Code Update”), published in November 2022.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the PCC and Group as at 31st March 2023 and of the PCC and Group’s expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the PCC and Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chief Finance Officer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, and taking into account the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the PCC and Group’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Appendix B: Draft audit report

Other information

The other information comprises the Annual Governance Statement and information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Chief Finance Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Finance Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Chief Finance Officer is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, on the assumption that the functions of the PCC and Group will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the PCC and Group to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Appendix B: Draft audit report

Based on our understanding of the PCC and Group, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Local Government Act 2003 (and associated regulations made under section 21), the Local Government Finance Acts of 1988, 1992 and 2012, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- inquiring with management and the PCC, as to whether the PCC and Group is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- considering the risk of acts by the PCC and the Group which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We evaluated the Chief Finance Officer's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of management and the PCC on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management and the PCC. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

We are also required to conclude on whether the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. We performed our work in accordance with Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statement and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom, and Supplementary Guidance Note 01, issued by the National Audit Office in February 2023.

Appendix B: Draft audit report

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Report on the PCC’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if, in our view we are not satisfied that the PCC has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023.

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in January 2023, we have identified the following significant weakness in the PCC’s arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

In September 2023 we identified a significant weakness in relation to financial sustainability and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness for the 2021/22 year. In our view this significant weakness remains for the year ended 31 March 2023:

Significant weakness in arrangements – issued in a previous year	Recommendation
<i>The summarised wording to be included in the audit report has not yet been agreed and an update will be provided in our follow up letter when we are in a position to issue our final report.</i>	

Responsibilities of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

The PCC is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the PCC has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the PCC’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in January 2023.

Appendix B: Draft audit report

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the PCC those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the PCC as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the PCC and Group's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack.

Gavin Barker
Director
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

The Corner
Bank Chambers
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1DF

DATE (TBC)

Appendix B: Draft audit report

Independent auditor’s report to the Chief Constable for Cleveland

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Chief Constable for Cleveland (the Chief Constable) for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Chief Constable’s Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Chief Constable’s Movement in Reserves Statement, the Chief Constable’s Balance Sheet, the Chief Constable’s Cash Flow Statement, the Chief Constable’s Police Pension Fund and Net Assets Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (“the Code Update”), published in November 2022.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Chief Constable as at 31st March 2023 and of the Chief Constable’s expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Chief Constable in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chief Finance Officer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, and taking into account the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Chief Constable’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Appendix B: Draft audit report

Other information

The other information comprises the Annual Governance Statement and information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Chief Finance Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Finance Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Chief Finance Officer is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, on the assumption that the functions of the Chief Constable will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Chief Constable to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Appendix B: Draft audit report

Based on our understanding of the Chief Constable, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Local Government Act 2003 (and associated regulations made under section 21), the Local Government Finance Acts of 1988, 1992 and 2012, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- inquiring with management and the Chief Constable, as to whether the Chief Constable is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- considering the risk of acts by the Chief Constable which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We evaluated the Chief Finance Officer's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of management and the Chief Constable on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management and the Chief Constable. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

We are also required to conclude on whether the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. We performed our work in accordance with Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statement and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom, and Supplementary Guidance Note 01, issued by the National Audit Office in February 2023.

Appendix B: Draft audit report

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Report on the Chief Constable’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if, in our view we are not satisfied that the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023.

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in January 2023, we have identified the following significant weakness in the Chief Constable’s arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

In September 2023 we identified a significant weakness in relation to financial sustainability and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness for the 2021/22 year. In our view this significant weakness remains for the year ended 31 March 2023:

Significant weakness in arrangements – issued in a previous year	Recommendation
<i>The summarised wording to be included in the audit report has not yet been agreed and an update will be provided in our follow up letter when we are in a position to issue our final report.</i>	

Responsibilities of the Responsibilities of the Chief Constable for Cleveland

The Chief Constable is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Chief Constable’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in January 2023.

Appendix B: Draft audit report

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the Chief Constable for Cleveland, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Chief Constable those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Chief Constable as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Group's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack.

Gavin Barker
Director
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

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



DATE (TBC)

Appendix C: Independence



As part of our ongoing risk assessment we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We can confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing the Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.

Appendix D: Other communications

Other communication		Response
	Compliance with Laws and Regulations	<p>We have not identified any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management that all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements have been disclosed.</p>
	External confirmations	<p>We did not experience any issues with respect to obtaining external confirmations.</p> <p>We did not identify any significant matters relating to the audit of related parties.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management confirming that:</p>
	Related parties	<p>a. they have disclosed to us the identity of related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which they are aware; and</p> <p>b. they have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.</p>
	Going concern	<p>We have not identified any evidence to cause us to disagree with the Chief Finance Officer that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the Chief Constable for Cleveland will be a going concern, and therefore we consider that the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation of the financial statements.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management, confirming that all relevant information covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements has been taken into account in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements.</p>

Appendix D: Other communications (continued)

Other communication	Response
 Subsequent events	<p>We are required to obtain evidence about whether events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements are appropriately reflected in those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management that all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.</p>
 Matters related to fraud	<p>We have designed our audit approach to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud. In addition to the work performed by us, we will obtain written representations from management, and the PCC and Chief Constable (as those charged with governance), confirming that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. they acknowledge their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud;b. they have disclosed to the auditor the results of management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;c. they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Management;ii. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; oriii. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; andd. they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Gavin Barker, Director

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Mazars is an internationally integrated partnership, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services*. Operating in over 90 countries and territories around the world, we draw on the expertise of 40,400 professionals – 24,400 in Mazars' integrated partnership and 16,000 via the Mazars North America Alliance – to assist clients of all sizes at every stage in their development.

*where permitted under applicable country laws.

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