



Internal Audit

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Police and Crime Commissioner Cumbria & Cumbria Constabulary

Internal Audit Annual Report

2023/24

June 2024

Internal Audit Annual Report

Introduction

This is the 2023/24 Annual Report by TIAA on the internal control environment at the Police and Crime Commissioner Cumbria & Cumbria Constabulary. The annual internal audit report summaries the outcomes of the reviews we have carried out on the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control. This report is designed to assist the Board in making its annual governance statement.

Our approach is based on the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing which have been developed by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and incorporate the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). In 2022, TIAA commissioned an External Quality Assessment (EQA) of its internal audit service. The independent EQA assessor was able to conclude that TIAA 'generally conforms to the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the mandatory elements of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF)'. 'Generally conforms' is the highest rating that can be achieved using the IIA's EQA assessment model.

Ongoing quality assurance work was carried out throughout the year and we continue to comply with ISO 9001:2015 standards. Our work also complies with the IIA-UK Professional Standards and relevant guidance issued by the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015.

Internal Audit Planned Coverage and Output

The 2023/24 Annual Audit Plan approved by the Joint Audit Committee was for 190 days of internal audit coverage in the year.

During the year there were two changes to the Audit Plan. The ICT Use of Social Media and Risk Mitigating Controls (Deep Dive) reviews were deferred to Quarter 1 of 2024-25 due to resourcing at TIAA.

The planned work that has been carried out against the plan and the status of work not completed is set out at Annex A.

No extra work was carried out which was in addition to that set out in the Annual Audit Plan.

HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT'S ANNUAL OPINION

TIAA is satisfied that, for the areas reviewed during the year, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Cumbria has reasonable and effective risk management, control and governance processes in place.

This opinion is based solely on the matters that came to the attention of TIAA during the course of the internal audit reviews carried out during the year and is not an opinion on all elements of the risk management, control and governance processes or the ongoing financial viability or your ability to meet financial obligations which must be obtained by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Cumbria from its various sources of assurance.

HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT'S ANNUAL OPINION

TIAA is satisfied that, for the areas reviewed during the year, the Chief Constable Cumbria Constabulary has reasonable and effective risk management, control and governance processes in place.

This opinion is based solely on the matters that came to the attention of TIAA during the course of the internal audit reviews carried out during the year and is not an opinion on all elements of the risk management, control and governance processes or the ongoing financial viability or your ability to meet financial obligations which must be obtained by the Chief Constable Cumbria Constabulary from its various sources of assurance.

Assurance

TIAA carried out 12 reviews, which were designed to ascertain the extent to which the internal controls in the system are adequate to ensure that activities and procedures are operating to achieve the Organisations' objectives. For each assurance review an assessment of the combined effectiveness of the controls in mitigating the key control risks was provided. Details of these are provided in Annex A and a summary is set out below.

Assurance Assessments	Number of Reviews
Substantial Assurance	6 (3)
Reasonable Assurance	6 (9)
Limited Assurance	0 (0)
No Assurance	0 (0)

The areas on which the assurance assessments have been provided can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against misstatement or loss and their effectiveness is reduced if the internal audit recommendations made during the year have not been fully implemented. *(x) denotes previous year comparison.

We made the following total number of recommendations on our audit work carried out in 2023/24. *(x) denotes previous year comparison.

Urgent	Important	Routine
0 (0)	14 (18)	7 (18)

Audit Summary

Control weaknesses: There were no areas reviewed by internal audit where it was assessed that the effectiveness of some of the internal control arrangements provided 'limited' or 'no assurance'.

Recommendations Made: We have analysed our findings/recommendations by risk area and these are summarised below.

Risk Area	Urgent	Important	Routine
Directed			
Governance Framework	0	6	1
Risk Mitigation	0	3	0
Compliance	0	4	2
Delivery			
Performance Monitoring	0	1	4
Sustainability	0	0	0
Resilience	0	0	0

Operational Effectiveness Opportunities: One of the roles of internal audit is to add value and during the financial year we provided advice on opportunities to enhance the operational effectiveness of the areas reviewed and the number of these opportunities is summarised below.

Operational
1 (2)

Independence and Objectivity of Internal Audit

There were no limitations or restrictions placed on the internal audit service which impaired either the independence or objectivity of the service provided.

Performance and Quality Assurance

The following Performance Targets were used to measure the performance of internal audit in delivering the Annual Plan.

Performance Measure	Target	Attained
Completion of Planned Audits *	100%	86%
Audits Completed in Time Allocation	100%	100%
Draft report issued within 10 working days of receipt of responses	95%	95%
Final report issued within 10 working days of receipt of responses	95%	100%
Compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards	100%	100%

* Excludes HMICFRS Action Plan review cancelled by client.

Release of Report

The table below sets out the history of this Annual Report.

Date Report issued:	June 2024
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Annexes

Annex A

Actual against planned Internal Audit Work 2023/24

System	Type	Planned Days	Actual Days	Assurance Assessment	Comments
Absence Management	Assurance	15	15	Reasonable	
Vetting	Assurance	15	15	Reasonable	
Fleet - Strategy and Management of Fleet	Assurance	12	12	Reasonable	
Accounts Payable (Creditors)	Assurance	10	10	Substantial	
Victim Support Services	Assurance	10	10	Substantial	
General Ledger	Assurance	6	6	Substantial	
Grievance Reporting and Management	Assurance	15	15	Substantial	
Partnerships and LGR	Assurance	10	10	Reasonable	
Risk - Insurance	Assurance	8	8	Substantial	
Recruitment - Induction	Assurance	14	14	Substantial	
ANPR Cameras	Assurance	12	12	Reasonable	
Corporate Health and Safety	Assurance	12	12	Reasonable	
Risk –Mitigating Controls (Deep Dive)	Assurance	10	0		Deferred to 2024/25
Use of Social Media	Assurance	12	0		Deferred to 2024/25
Follow-up	Follow Up	7	7		
Annual Planning	Management	2	2	-	Annual Plan issued
Annual Report	Management	2	2	-	Annual Report issued
Audit Management	Management	18	18	-	-
	Total Days	190	168		