

102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

8 Nelson Mandela Place  
Glasgow  
G2 1BT

The Green House  
Beechwood Business Park North  
Inverness  
IV2 3BL

T: 0131 625 1500

E: [info@audit-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@audit-scotland.gov.uk)

[www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk)



## Dumfries and Galloway IJB Board

23 September 2025

### Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board Audit of 2024/25 annual accounts

#### Independent Auditor's Report

1. My audit work on the 2024/25 annual accounts is now substantially complete. Subject to receipt of a revised set of annual accounts for final review, we anticipate being able to issue unmodified audit opinions in the Independent Auditor's Report on 23 September 2025. The proposed Independent Auditor's Report is attached at [Appendix A](#).

#### Annual Audit Report

2. Under International Standards on Auditing in the UK, I am required to report specific matters identified from the audit of the annual accounts to those charged with governance of Dumfries and Galloway IJB in sufficient time to enable appropriate action. I present for the IJB Board's consideration my draft Annual Audit Report on the 2024/25 audit. The section headed "Significant findings and key audit matters" sets out the issues identified in respect of the annual accounts, including those that I am required to report to you.

3. The Annual Audit Report also sets out conclusions on the wider scope areas that frame public audit as set out in the Code of Audit Practice.

4. The Annual Audit Report will be issued in final form after the audit of the annual accounts has been completed.

#### Uncorrected misstatements

5. I also report to those charged with governance all uncorrected misstatements in the annual accounts which I have identified during the course of my audit, other than those of a trivial nature, and request that these misstatements be corrected.

6. There are no uncorrected misstatements to report.

#### Other ISA (UK) matters

7. In presenting this letter and Annual Audit Report to the IJB Board I seek confirmation from those charged with governance on the following matters:

- if they are aware of any instances of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud,
- if they are aware of any subsequent events that have occurred since the date of the financial statements,

- if they are content that the methods, assumptions, and data used in making accounting estimates in the annual accounts are appropriate,
- if all related party relationships and transactions they are aware of are reflected in the annual accounts, and
- if they are aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.

**8.** Any issues that I have identified from my audit in relation to other ISA (UK) matters that I am required to report to those charged with governance have been reported in the section headed “Other matters to report” in the Annual Audit Report.

### **Representations from Section 95 Officer**

**9.** As part of the completion of our audit, I am seeking written representations from the Interim Chief Finance Officer, who is the Section 95 Officer, on aspects of the annual accounts, including the judgements and estimates made.

**10.** A draft letter of representation is attached at [Appendix B](#). This should be signed and returned to me by the Section 95 Officer with the signed annual accounts prior to the Independent Auditor’s Report being signed.

## Appendix A: Proposed Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board and the Accounts Commission

### Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

#### Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board for the year ended 31 March 2025 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the 2024/25 Code).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board as at 31 March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2024/25 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed by the Accounts Commission on 3 April 2023. My period of appointment is five years, covering 2022/23 to 2026/27. I am independent of the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

## **Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting**

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

These conclusions are not intended to, nor do they, provide assurance on the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board's current or future financial sustainability. However, I report on the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board's arrangements for financial sustainability in a separate Annual Audit Report available from the [Audit Scotland website](#).

## **Risks of material misstatement**

I report in my Annual Audit Report the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my judgements thereon.

## **Responsibilities of the Interim Chief Finance Officer and IJB Board for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Interim Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Interim 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.

In preparing the financial statements, the Interim Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to discontinue the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board's operations.

The IJB Board is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My 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 my 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 decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above

to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- using my understanding of the local government sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 are significant in the context of the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board;
- inquiring of the Interim Chief Finance Officer as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board;
- inquiring of the Interim Chief Finance Officer concerning the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;
- discussions among my audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of my auditor's report.

## **Reporting on other requirements**

### **Opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the audited parts of the Remuneration Report**

I have audited the parts of the Remuneration Report described as audited. In my opinion, the audited parts of the Remuneration Report have been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

## **Other information**

The Interim Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information in the annual accounts. The other information comprises the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Responsibilities and the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report.

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

### **Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

### **Matters on which I am required to report by exception**

I am required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

## **Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities**

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

## **Use of my report**

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Fiona Mitchell-Knight FCA  
Audit Director  
Audit Scotland  
4th Floor  
The Athenaeum Building  
8 Nelson Mandela Place  
Glasgow, G2 1BT