

Report to	<b>Audit Committee</b>
Date	<b>17 June 2024</b>
Lead Officer	<b>Helen MacArthur, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Finance and Resources</b>
Contact Officer	<b>Angharad Ellis (MIAA)</b>
Subject	<b>Internal Audit Update</b>



## PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update of the work undertaken by North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's (the Authority) internal audit providers, MIAA, for the 2023/24 financial year and for the period to 31 May 2024.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Authority is required to put arrangements in place for the audit of systems of control. MIAA was appointed in June 2023 to provide internal audit services to the Authority.
- 3 The report contained within Appendix 1 provides an overview of the work undertaken during the 2023/24 financial year against the agreed internal audit plan and progress to 31 May 2024.
- 4 During 2023/24, a total of 21 recommendations for improvement were agreed with management. Appendix 2 provides an update of the progress made in implementing these.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5 It is recommended that Members:
  - i) Note the work undertaken by MIAA during 2023/24; and
  - ii) Note the progress made in implementing the 21 agreed recommendations.

## BACKGROUND

- 6 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (the Regulations) require the Authority to make proper and effective arrangements for systems of internal control. This includes the arrangements for the management of risk and adequate and effective financial management.
- 7 The Regulations also require an adequate and effective internal audit of the systems of internal control, the findings of which must be reported to Members of the Authority. The Authority is required to approve the Statement of Internal Control annually.
- 8 The Authority appointed MIAA as its internal auditor at the Audit Committee meeting of 18 June 2023. The Audit Plan was approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 18 September 2023.

## INFORMATION

- 9 The report contained within Appendix 1 provides an overview of the work undertaken during 2023/24 and confirms that the agreed plan was fully delivered.
- 10 A total of 21 recommendations for improvement were made during the delivery of the audits. The report contained at Appendix 2 confirms that all recommendations reaching the agreed implementation date have been fully implemented.

Wellbeing Objectives	The operation of financial systems that are properly controlled supports the delivery of the well-being objectives and longer term sustainability of services.
Budget	Assurance on the existence and operation of internal controls supports the effective budget setting process.
Legal	An effective internal audit arrangement is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) 2014 Regulations
Staffing	The review of key financial systems including payroll provide assurance that controls are present and that payments are in accordance with agreed policies and procedures.
Equalities/ Human Rights/ Welsh Language	The engagement lead with MIAA is bi-lingual and reports will be subject to normal translation processes.
Risks	The internal audit of core financial processes supports the effective identification and management of risks.