



WALES **AUDIT** OFFICE
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Audit of Financial Statements Report

North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority

Audit year: 2012-13

Issued: September 2013

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Anthony Barrett, as Appointed Auditor, intends to issue an unqualified audit report on your financial statements. There are no issues to report to you prior to their approval.

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Summary report

Introduction

1. Anthony Barrett, as Appointed Auditor, is responsible for providing an opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of North Wales Fire & Rescue (“the Authority”) at 31 March 2013 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.
2. We do not try to obtain absolute assurance that the financial statements are correctly stated, but adopt the concept of materiality. In planning and conducting the audit, we seek to identify material misstatements in your financial statements, namely, those that might result in a reader of the accounts being misled.
3. The quantitative levels at which we judge such misstatements to be material for the Authority are £310,000 for income and expenditure items and balance sheet items. Whether an item is judged to be material can also be affected by certain qualitative issues such as legal and regulatory requirements and political sensitivity.
4. International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260 requires us to report certain matters arising from the audit of the financial statements to those charged with governance of a body in sufficient time to enable appropriate action.
5. This report sets out for consideration the matters arising from the audit of the financial statements of the Authority, for 2012-13, that require reporting under ISA 260.

Status of the audit

6. We received the draft financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 on 28 June 2013 in accordance with the agreed timetable and have now substantially completed the audit work.
7. We are reporting to you the more significant issues arising from the audit, which we believe you must consider prior to approval of the financial statements. The audit team has already discussed these issues with Dawn Docx and Sandra Forrest.

Proposed audit report

8. It is the Appointed Auditor’s intention to issue unqualified audit report on the financial statements once you have provided us with a Letter of Representation based on that set out in [Appendix 1](#).
9. The proposed audit report is set out in [Appendix 2](#).

Significant issues arising from the audit

Uncorrected misstatements

10. There are no misstatements identified in the financial statements, which remain uncorrected.

Corrected misstatements

11. There are misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which we consider should be drawn to your attention due to their relevance to your responsibilities over the financial reporting process. They are set out with explanations in [Appendix 3](#).

Other significant issues arising from the audit

12. In the course of the audit, we consider a number of matters both qualitative and quantitative relating to the accounts and report any significant issues arising to you. There were no issues arising in these areas this year:
- **We have no concerns about the qualitative aspects of your accounting practices and financial reporting.** We found the information provided to be relevant, reliable, comparable, material and easy to understand. We concluded that accounting policies and estimates are appropriate and financial statement disclosures unbiased, fair and clear.
 - **We did not encounter any significant difficulties during the audit.** We received information in a timely and helpful manner and were not restricted in our work.
 - **There were no significant matters discussed and corresponded upon with management which we need to report to you.**
 - **There are no other matters significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process that we need to report to you.**
 - **We did not identify any material weaknesses in your internal controls** We report these where you are not already aware of them or where they may be symptomatic of broader weaknesses in the overall control environment.
 - **There are not any other matters specifically required by auditing standards to be communicated to those charged with governance.**

Independence and objectivity

13. As part of the finalisation process, we are required to provide you with representations concerning our independence.
14. We have complied with ethical standards and in our professional judgment, we are independent and our objectivity is not compromised. There are no relationships between the Wales Audit Office and the Authority that we consider to bear on our objectivity and independence.

Appendix 1

Final Letter of Representation

(Audited body's letterhead)

Anthony Barrett
Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

KPMG LLP
3 Assembly Square
Britannia Quay
Cardiff Bay
CF10 4AX

(Date)

Representations regarding the 2013 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the year ended 31 March 2012 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- full access to:
 - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;

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- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
 - our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
 - our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others;
 - our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements;
 - the identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

Significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. There have been no uncorrected misstatements.

Representations by North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority on [insert date].

Signed by:

[Officer who signs on behalf of management]

Date:

Signed by:

[Officer or Member who signs on behalf of those charged with governance]

Date:

DRAFT

Appendix 2

Proposed audit report of the Appointed Auditor to the North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority

Independent auditor's report to the Members of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

I have audited the accounting statements and related notes of:

- North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority; and
- Fire Fighters Pension Fund

for the year ended 31 March 2013 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's accounting statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes.

Fire Fighters Pension Fund's accounting statements comprise the Fund Account and the Net Assets Statement.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012-13 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Respective responsibilities of the responsible financial officer and the independent auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 7, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, including pension fund accounts, which gives a true and fair view.

My responsibility is to audit the accounting statements and related notes in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounting statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounting statements and related notes sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounting statements and related notes are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's and Fire Fighters Pension Fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the responsible financial officer and the overall presentation of the accounting statements and related notes.

In addition, I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Explanatory Foreword to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounting statements and related notes. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on the accounting statements of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

In my opinion the accounting statements and related notes:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority as at 31 March 2013 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012-13.

Opinion on the accounting statements of Fire Fighters Pension fund

In my opinion, the pension fund accounts and related notes:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of Fire Fighters Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2013 and of the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at that date; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012-13.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, the information contained in the Explanatory Foreword for the financial year for which the accounting statements and related notes are prepared is consistent with the accounting statements and related notes.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the Governance Statement on which I report to you if, in my opinion, it does not reflect compliance with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

Anthony Barrett
Appointed Auditor
Wales audit Office,
24 Cathedral Road,
Cardiff,
CF11 9LJ
September 2013

Appendix 3

Summary of corrections made to the draft financial statements which should be drawn to the attention of the Fire Authority

During our audit we identified the following misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which we consider should be drawn to your attention due to their relevance to your responsibilities over the financial reporting process.

A number of minor presentational amendments have also been made to the draft financial statements.

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
Dr Provisions £880,400 Cr Creditors £880,400	Known	Correction of classification of costs related to the Wrexham project
Dr Plant & Equipment £96,000 Cr Operating Lease Charge £96,400	Known	Capitalisation of assets previously held as operating leases that were purchased during the year.
Dr Plant & Equipment £113,446 Cr Computer Costs £113,446	Known	Capitalisation of laptops previously expensed.
Dr Land and Buildings Cost £413,000 Cr Land and Buildings Accumulated Depreciation £413,000	Known	Classification correction of revaluation carried out in respect of land and buildings.
Dr Plant and equipment cost £1,861,000 Cr Plant and equipments depreciations £1,861,000	Known	Being reclassification of lease disposal adjustment



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