

Audit and Risk Committee

Report title: External Audit Recommendations Update

Meeting date: 16 June 2025

Time required: 5 minutes

Presenter: Angela Donaldson

Publication decision: Can be published internally and externally.

Input requested

For ARC members to take assurance of the progress and status with regards to implementation of the external audit recommendations following the 2023/24 external audit.

Background and summary

Following the 2023/24 external audit, a number of audit recommendations were made which the ICO accepted. This report provides an update on status of the implementation of the recommendations to following the last update provided to the Committee in April 2025.

Eleven actions were identified in the report for implementation by the ICO, divided into three areas:

- One internal control issue related to management override of controls.
- Two internal control issues related to validity of capital additions.
- Three internal control issues related to the transition to the new finance system Workday
- Four internal control issues relating to the preparation of the financial statements
- One internal control issue relating to 2022/23 (not covered in the new 2023/24 actions) regarding accounting policies

At the meeting in April, it was reported that 10 of the 11 recommendations had been addressed through action we had taken. The final action has now been fully addressed.

The appendix attached provides additional information on the audit recommendations and summary of actions taken and dates these were closed.

Author: Tony Uttley

Reviewers: Angela Donaldson, Rob Tomlinson

Sign off: Jen Green

List of annexes: External audit recommendations – June 2025