The Joint Audit Findings (ISA 260) Report for Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Northamptonshire Chief Constable

Year ended 31 March 2026

24 November 2026

Grant Thornton

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Dear Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

Joint Audit Findings for the year ended 31 March 2026

This Joint Audit Findings Report presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to yourselves as those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process and confirmation of auditor independence, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260. Its contents have been discussed with management.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose all defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

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We encourage you to read our transparency report which sets out how the firm complies with the requirements of the Audit Firm Governance Code and the steps we have taken to manage risk, quality and internal control particularly through our Quality Management Approach. The report includes information on the firm's processes and practices for quality control, for ensuring independence and objectivity, for partner remuneration, our governance, our international network arrangements and our core values, amongst other things. This report is available at transparency-report-2025-.pdf (grantthornton.co.uk).

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the kind assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Laurelin Griffiths

Director
For Grant Thornton UK LLP

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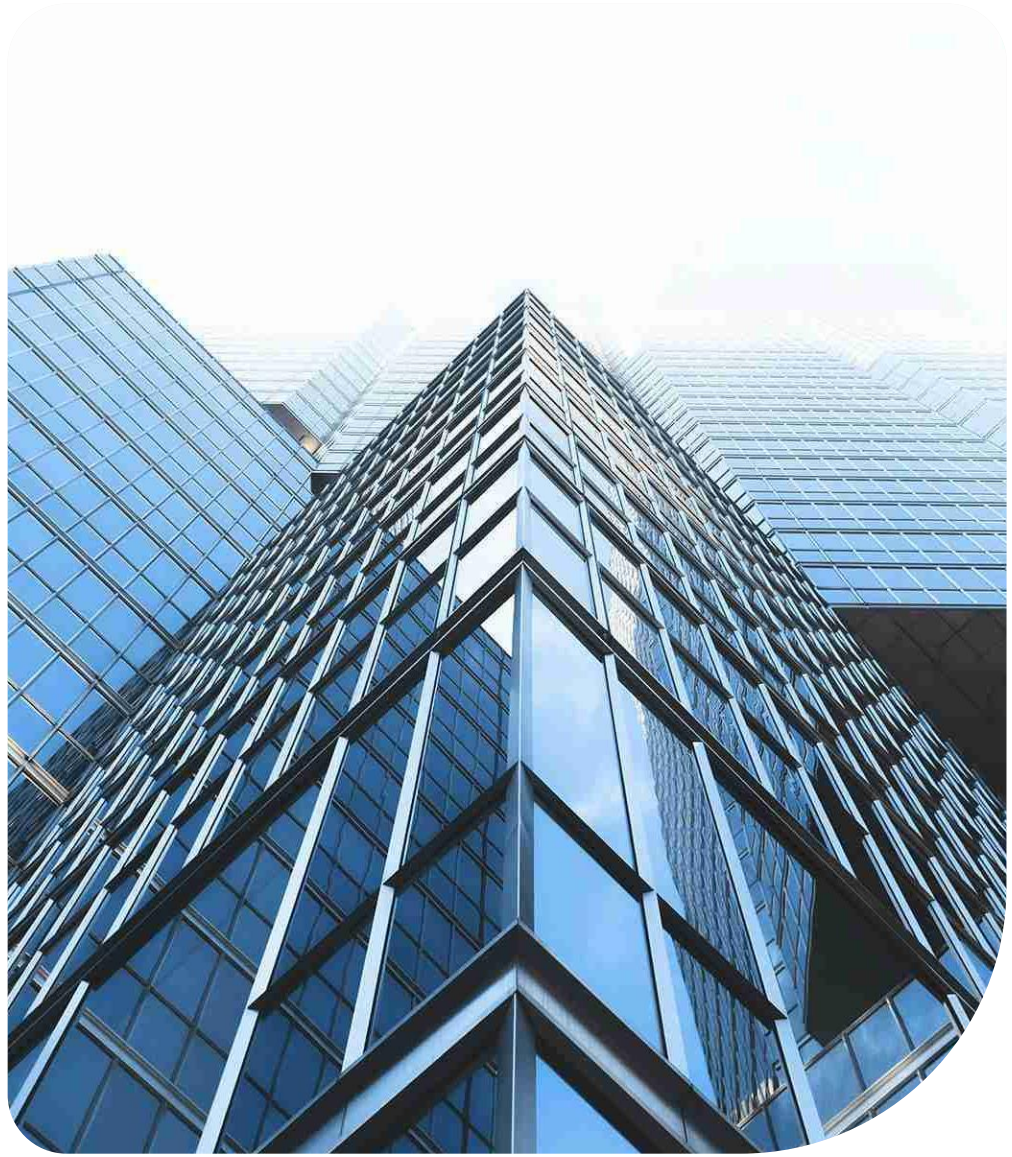

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Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audits of Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (the 'PFCC') and Northamptonshire Chief Constable and the preparation of the PFCC's and Chief Constable's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 for those charged with governance.

Financial statements

Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial positions of the PFCC, Group and Chief Constable's income and expenditure for the year
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting and prepared in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We are also required to report whether other information published together with each set of audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Narrative Report) is materially consistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise whether this information appears to be materially misstated.

Our audit work was completed remotely during July-October. Our findings are summarised on pages 12 to 21. We have not identified any adjustments to the financial statements of the Chief Constable that impact on the Chief Constable's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. We have identified two adjustments to the financial statements of the PFCC, however there was no impact on the PFCC's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and consequently there was no impact to the group's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The adjustments also had no impact on the level of the PFCC, Group and Chief Constable's usable reserves.

We have raised recommendations for management set out on pages 29 to 30 and reported our follow up of prior year's recommendations on pages 31 to 32.

Our work is substantially complete, subject to the following outstanding matters;

- final quality reviews by the audit manager and engagement lead
- receipt of management representation letters
- review of the final sets of financial statements.

We have concluded that the other information to be published with the financial statements, is consistent with our knowledge of your organisations and the financial statements we have audited.

Subject to the outstanding items above, we anticipate being able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over the transactions and balances within the financial statements, with the exception of the Police Pension liability at 31 March 2025, due to a lack of assurance over the member data that underpins this valuation. Our anticipated opinion in relation to the Chief Constable's financial statements is a qualified "except for" opinion, on the basis that, except for the matter that we have not been able to gain assurance over the prior year police pension liability, the financial statements give a true and fair view. Out anticipated opinion on the PFCC and Group financial statements is also a qualified "except for" opinion for the same reason.

We anticipate issuing the auditors reports on 25 November 2026.

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Headlines (continued)

Value for money (VFM) arrangements

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice (the 'Code'), we are required to consider whether the Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Auditors are required to report in more detail on the Authority's overall arrangements, as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit.

Auditors are required to report their commentary on the Authority's arrangements under the following specified criteria:

- Financial sustainability
- Governance
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

We have completed our VFM work and our detailed commentary is set out in the separate Joint Auditor's Annual Report, which is presented alongside this report. We identified a significant weakness in the group's arrangements and so are not satisfied that the group has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources. Our findings are set out in the value for money arrangements section of this report (Section 3).

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Headlines (continued)

Statutory duties

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the 'Act') also requires us to:

- report to you if we have applied any of the additional powers and duties ascribed to us under the Act
- to certify the closure of the audit.

We have completed the majority of our work required under the Code. However we cannot formally conclude the audits and issue audit certificates in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have not receive confirmation from the NAO that the group audit (Whole of Government Accounts) has been certified by the C&AG and that no further work is required to be undertaken in order to discharge the auditor's duties in relation to consolidation returns under paragraph 2.11 of the Code.

We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Significant matters

We did not encounter any significant difficulties or identify any significant matters arising during our audits.

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Headlines (continued)

Regaining assurance

As we have previously reported, on 30 September 2024, the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 came into force. This legislation introduced a series of backstop dates for local authority audits. These Regulations required audited financial statements to be published by the following dates:

- For years ended 31 March 2025 by 27 February 2026
- For years ended 31 March 2026 by 31 January 2027
- For years ended 31 March 2027 by 30 November 2027

The statutory instrument is supported by the National Audit Office's (NAO) new Code of Audit Practice 2024. The backstop dates were introduced with the purpose of clearing the backlog of historic financial statements and to enable the reset of local audit. Where audit work is not complete, this will give rise to a disclaimer of opinion. This means the auditor has not been able to form an opinion on the financial statements.

As a result, the PFCC and Chief Constable have received disclaimers of opinions for the financial statements for the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. During the 2024/25 audit, we commenced a programme of work to enable us to regain sufficient assurance to return to issuing unqualified audit reports. Although we made good progress, we were not able to complete all of our planned procedures ahead of the 2024/25 backstop date of 27 February 2026. The limitations imposed by not having assurance on opening balances mean that for the PFCC we were unable to form an opinion on the 2024/25 financial statements, and for the CC we needed to modify our opinion on the 2024/25 financial statements.

We have continued this work alongside the 2025/26 audit process. We have identified two issues from this work which are included on page 16. Due to the issue relating to Police Pension Fund member data underpinning the actuarial valuations at Marh 2025, we are unable to issue unqualified audit reports for 2025/26 and expect to qualified "except for" reports.

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Group audit

In accordance with ISA (UK) 600 Revised, as group auditor we are required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the components and the consolidation process to express an opinion on whether the group financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The table below summarises our final group scoping, as well as the status of work on each component.

Component	Risk of material misstatement to the group	Scope (planning)	Scope (final)	Status	Comments
Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner	Yes	Full audit	Full audit	G	Details of progress included in this report.
Northamptonshire Chief Constable	Yes	Full audit	Full audit	G	Details of progress included in this report.

R Planned procedures are incomplete and/or significant issues have been identified that require resolution.
A Planned procedures are ongoing/subject to review with no known significant issues.
G Planned procedures are substantially complete with no significant issues outstanding.

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Our approach to materiality

As communicated in our Audit Plan dated 28 April 2026, we determined materiality at the planning stage as PFCC £4.5m, Chief Constable £5.8m and Group £6.2m, based on 2.5% of prior year gross expenditure. At year-end, we have reconsidered planning materiality based on the draft consolidated financial statements and have increased our materiality due to the increase in expenditure during the year.

A recap of our approach to determining materiality is set out below.

Basis for our determination of materiality

We have determined financial statement materiality based on a proportion of the gross expenditure of the group, the PFCC and the Chief Constable for the financial year. In the prior year we used the same benchmark.

Upon receipt of draft consolidated financial statements we have reassessed and revised our materiality levels for the increase in expenditure incurred during the year. Our revised materialities are PFCC £5.1m, Chief Constable £6.25m and Group £6.8m.

For our audit testing purposes we apply the lowest of these materialities, which is £5.1m (PY £4.1m), which equates to 2.5% of the PFCC's gross expenditure for the year.

Performance materiality

We have determined component performance materialities to be set at between £3.825m and £5.1m. For our audit testing we have applied the lowest of these, which is £3.825m, which equates to 75% of the PFCC's financial statements materiality.

Specific materiality

Due to the public interest in senior officer remuneration disclosures, we design our procedures to detect errors in specific accounts at a lower level of precision, which we have determined to be applicable for senior officer remuneration disclosures. We will apply materiality of £32,000 to the total senior officer remuneration, and this will be applied at an individual officer level.

Reporting threshold

We will report to you all misstatements identified in excess of £0.225m, in addition to any matters considered to be qualitatively material.

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Our approach to materiality

A summary of our approach to determining materiality is set out below.

	Group (£)	PFCC (£)	Chief Constable (£)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	6,800,000	5,100,000	6,250,000	Our materiality thresholds equate to approximately 2.5% of the gross operating costs for the group, the PFCC and the Chief Constable, respectively. This assessment reflects the fact that the group operates in a stable, publicly funded environment, and no significant control deficiencies have been identified in the prior year or in the course of our audit planning.
Performance materiality	5,100,000	3,825,000	4,687,500	Performance materiality has been set at 75% of financial statements materiality. This reflects our risk-assessed knowledge of potential for errors occurring. Performance materiality is used for the purposes of assessing the risks of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. This is the amount we set at less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole, to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole.
Specific materiality for senior officer remuneration	32,000 for all audit work			Due to the public interest in senior officer remuneration disclosures, we design our procedures to detect errors in specific accounts at a lower level of precision, which we have determined to be applicable for senior officer remuneration disclosures. We will apply headline materiality of 2.5% to the total senior officer remuneration, and this will be applied at an individual officer level.
Reporting threshold	225,000 for all audit work			The reporting threshold has been set at 5% of financial statements materiality.

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Overview of audit risks

The below table summarises the significant risks discussed in more detail on the subsequent pages.

Significant risks are defined by ISAs (UK) as an identified risk of material misstatement for which the assessment of inherent risk is close to the upper end of the spectrum due to the degree to which risk factors affect the combination of the likelihood of a misstatement occurring and the magnitude of the potential misstatement if that misstatement occurs.

Other risks are, in the auditor's judgement, those where the risk of material misstatement is lower than that for a significant risk, but they are nonetheless an area of focus for our audit.

Risk title	Relates to	Risk level	Change in risk since Audit Plan	Fraud risk	Level of judgement or estimation uncertainty	Status of work
Management override of controls	All	Significant	↔	✓	Low	G
Valuation of land and buildings	PFCC & Group	Significant	↔	×	High	G
Valuation of the gross pension fund liability	CC & Group	Significant	↔	×	High	G

↑ Assessed risk increase since Audit Plan
↔ Assessed risk consistent with Audit Plan
↓ Assessed risk decrease since Audit Plan

G Not likely to result in material adjustment or change to disclosures within the financial statements
A Potential to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements
R Likely to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements

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Significant risks

Risk identified	Relates to	Audit procedures performed	Key observations
Management override of controls Under ISA (UK) 240, there is a non-rebuttable presumption that the risk of management override of controls is present in all entities.	PFCC, CC & Group	We have: • evaluated the design and implementation of management's controls over journals • analysed the journals listing and determined the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals • identified and tested unusual journals made during the year and the accounts production stage for appropriateness and corroboration • gained an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied by management and considered their reasonableness and • reviewed accounting policies and any changes to those policies	In our testing of unusual journals, we have identified journals that have been approved by senior personnel. Therefore, we have rolled forward our recommendation from the prior year (page 32) that management look to improve processes to ensure senior personnel are not influencing the journals being posted. Our audit work has not identified any other issues in respect of management override of controls. We are satisfied that judgements made by management are appropriate and have been determined using consistent methodology. Having assessed management judgements and estimates individually and in aggregate we are satisfied that there is no material misstatement arising from management bias across the financial statements.

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Significant risks (continued)

Risk identified	Relates to	Audit procedures performed	Key observations
Valuation of land and buildings This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved (£75.099m as at 31 March 2026 draft accounts) and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions. The valuation also depends on the completeness and accuracy of source data such as floor areas and subjective inputs such as obsolescence factors. We therefore have identified that the accuracy of the key inputs and assumptions driving the valuation of land and buildings, and surplus assets, as a significant risk.	PFCC and Group	We have: • documented our understanding management's process and controls for the calculation of the estimate • evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of management's expert • evaluated the consistency of the disclosure with the valuation report • evaluated the basis on which the valuations have been carried out • evaluated the information and assumptions used by the valuer • evaluated the accounting entries for the valuation • evaluated the reasonableness of the assumptions used to form the estimate • tested, on a sample basis, revaluations made during the year, agreeing key source data used such as floor areas and build costs to suitable independent evidence and confirming that the valuation methodology has been correctly applied; and • tested revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the asset register.	The CIPFA Code has been updated for 2025/26 and requires land and buildings to be revalued every five years, supported by indexation in the intervening years. Our review of the PFCC's approach identified that all land and buildings have been revalued during the year, which is not in accordance with the requirements of the Code. This does not result in any misstatement within the financial statements, but we have included a recommendation on page 30 that going forward the requirements of the Code in relation to the revaluation of land and buildings are followed. Our testing of the revaluations on land and buildings identified that the incorrect floor area had been used in the revaluation of one right of use asset. A revised revaluation has been obtained and the value has decreased by £2.619m. No other issues have been identified. Having assessed management judgements and estimates individually and in aggregate we are satisfied that there is no material misstatement arising from management bias across the financial statements

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Significant risks (continued)

Risk identified	Relates to	Audit procedures performed	Key observations
Valuation of gross pension liability for LGPS and Police Pension Schemes The Chief Constable's gross pension liability, made up of both the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and Police Pension Scheme (PPS), as reflected in its balance sheet, represents a significant estimate in the financial statements. The methods applied in the calculation of the IAS 19 estimates are routine and commonly applied by all actuarial firms in line with the requirements set out in the Code of practice for local government accounting (the applicable financial reporting framework). The net pension liability is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved (£931.67m at 31 March 2026 draft accounts) and sensitivity of the estimate to changes in the key assumptions. A small change in the key assumptions (discount rate, inflation rate, salary increase and life expectancy) can have a significant impact on the estimated IAS 19 liability. With regard to these assumptions, we have therefore identified the valuation of the gross liability as a significant risk.	Chief Constable and Group	We have: • updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluate the design of the associated controls; • evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management experts (the actuaries for the LGPS and PPS) for this estimate and the scope of the actuaries' work; • assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuaries who carried out the pension fund valuations; • assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided to the actuaries to estimate the liabilities; • evaluated the consistency of the disclosure with the actuarial reports; • undertaken procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performing any additional procedures suggested within the report; and • obtained assurances from the pension fund auditor of the Northamptonshire Pension Fund on the underlying data shared by the fund to the actuary which has been used in the calculation of this estimate.	Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of valuation of the pension liability for either the LGPS or Police Pension Schemes. We have also reviewed the IAS19 assurances from the auditor of the Northamptonshire Pension Fund and no issues have been identified. We have identified minor disclosure amendments that affect both the Chief Constable's and PFCC's accounts. Details of these amendments can be found on pages 23 and 26 respectively.

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Other areas impacting the audit

This section provides commentary on new issues and risks which were identified during the course of the audit that were not previously communicated in the Audit Plan.

Issue	Commentary	Conclusion
Capital Adjustment Account / Revaluation Reserve Prior Period Adjustment	As part of our regaining assurance work we identified that the historic cost depreciation adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account (CAA) and the Revaluation Reserve (RR) has not been made for a number of years. In addition, there were issues noted with the posting of revaluation adjustments in previous years which have led to further misstatements of these reserves. Management have undertaken a review of this issue and have identified that an adjustment of £9.989m is required to correct the balances on the CAA and the RR at 31 March 2026. There is no impact on the PFCC's General Fund balance. Of this adjustment, £9.256m relates to misstatements in previous years. As this is a material balance, a prior period adjustment (PPA) is required.	Management have undertaken a prior period adjustment for this issue. We have reviewed the working to support this adjustment. As part of this work we identified the following issues: • Incorrect historic cost information remains in the FAR re Darby House (the asset previously identified as having issues with the treatment of its revaluations). We are satisfied that this does not impact on the financial statements. We have reviewed the FAR and have not identified any other assets where there is any indicator of a similar issue. • Errors have been identified within management's workings, where incorrect values were used in places. This results in an error in the PPA processed, and the RR/CAA balances at each year-end. The RR is understated, and the CAA overstated by £1,201k, £3,842k and £1,258k at the years ended 31 March 2024, 2025 and 2026 respectively. We have included this as an unadjusted misstatement (see page 25).
Pension Member Data Police Pension Scheme	As part of our regaining assurance work we have undertaken testing on the member data submitted to the actuary that underpinned the 2020 quadrennial valuation, which covers the IAS19 pension valuations for the previous four financial years. As part of this testing we identified one member who had been incorrectly classified as active when they should have been recorded as deferred. As a result we have had to undertake additional testing on the member data. Our extended testing of member data used identified an additional fail.	We are unable to gain sufficient assurance over the data that underpins the 2020 quadrennial valuation. We will report this in our auditor's report. The error identified does not indicate a risk of material misstatement in the valuation at 31 March 2026. From 2025/26 the IAS19 valuation of the Police Pension Schemes were based on the 2024 quadrennial valuation. Equivalent testing of the underlying data for this valuation did not identify issues.

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Other findings – Information Technology

This section provides an overview of results from our assessment of the Information Technology (IT) environment and controls therein which included identifying risks from IT related business process controls relevant to the financial audit. This table below includes an overall IT General Control (ITGC) rating per IT application and details of the ratings assigned to individual control areas.

			ITGC control area rating			
IT application	Level of assessment performed	Overall ITGC rating	Security management	Technology acquisition, development and maintenance	Technology infrastructure	Related significant risks/other risks
Unit 4 Agresso	ITGC assessment (design effectiveness and implementation only)	G	G	G	G	Management override of controls

Assessment:

- R - Significant deficiencies identified in IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements
- A - Non-significant deficiencies identified in IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements/significant deficiencies identified but with sufficient mitigation of relevant risk
- G - IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements judged to be effective at the level of testing in scope
- B - Not in scope for assessment

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Other communication requirements

Issue	Commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, and the Joint Independent Audit Committee. We have not been made aware of any incidents in the period and no issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
Matters in relation to related parties	We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed
Matters in relation to laws and regulations	We are aware that on 11 November 2025, the Chief Constable was found guilty of contempt of court. You have not made us aware of any other significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
Written representations	Letters of representation will be requested from both the PFCC and Chief Constable upon completion of our work.
Confirmation requests from third parties	We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests to the PFCC's banking and treasury partners. This permission was granted and the requests were sent.
Disclosures	Our review found no material omissions in the financial statements
Audit evidence and explanations	All information and explanations requested from management was provided.
Significant difficulties	No significant difficulties have been noted.

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Other responsibilities

Issue	Commentary
Going concern	In performing our work on going concern, we have had reference to Statement of Recommended Practice – Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2024). The Financial Reporting Council recognises that for particular sectors, it may be necessary to clarify how auditing standards are applied to an entity in a manner that is relevant and provides useful information to the users of financial statements in that sector. Practice Note 10 provides that clarification for audits of public sector bodies. Practice Note 10 sets out the following key principles for the consideration of going concern for public sector entities: • The use of the going concern basis of accounting is not a matter of significant focus of the auditor's time and resources because the applicable financial reporting frameworks envisage that the going concern basis for accounting will apply where the entity's services will continue to be delivered by the public sector. In such cases, a material uncertainty related to going concern is unlikely to exist, and so a straightforward and standardised approach for the consideration of going concern will often be appropriate for public sector entities. • For many public sector entities, the financial sustainability of the reporting entity and the services it provides is more likely to be of significant public interest than the application of the going concern basis of accounting. Our consideration of the PFCC and Chief Constable's financial sustainability is addressed by our value for money work, which is covered elsewhere in this report. Practice Note 10 states that if the financial reporting framework provides for the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting on the basis of the anticipated continuation of the provision of a service in the future, the auditor applies the continued provision of service approach set out in Practice Note 10. The financial reporting framework adopted by the PFCC and Chief Constable meets this criteria, and so we have applied the continued provision of service approach. In doing so, we have considered and evaluated: • the nature of the PFCC and Chief Constable and the environment in which they operates • the PFCC and Chief Constable's financial reporting framework • the PFCC and Chief Constable's system of internal control for identifying events or conditions relevant to going concern • management's going concern assessment. On the basis of this work, we have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to enable us to conclude that: • a material uncertainty related to going concern has not been identified for either the PFCC or the Chief Constable • management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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Other responsibilities

Issue	Commentary
Other information	We are required to give an opinion on whether the other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Narrative Reports and Annual Governance Statements), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. No inconsistencies have been identified. We plan to issue unmodified opinions in this respect.
Matters on which we report by exception	We are required to report on a number of matters by exception in a number of areas: • if the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with disclosure requirements set out in CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit • if we have applied any of our statutory powers or duties • where we are not satisfied in respect of arrangements to secure value for money and have reported [a] significant weakness/es. Our work on value for money has identified one significant weaknesses see page 33. We have nothing else to report in this regard.

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Other responsibilities

Issue	Commentary
Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	We are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions. Note that work is not expected to be required as the Group is not expected to exceed the threshold.
Certification of the closure of the audit	We intend to delay the certification of the closure of the 2025/26 audits of Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Northamptonshire Chief Constable in the audit reports as confirmation has not been received from the NAO that the group audit (Whole of Government Accounts) has been certified by the C&AG and therefore no further work is required to be undertaken in order to discharge the auditor's duties in relation to consolidation returns under paragraph 2.11 of the Code.

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Audit adjustments – Chief Constable

We are required to report all non-trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted misstatements

No adjusted misstatements have been identified at the date of issuing our report. We will provide an update to Management and those charged with governance should any issues be identified from the remaining testing.

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

No unadjusted misstatements have been identified at the date of issuing our report. We will provide an update to Management and the those charged with governance should any issues be identified from the remaining testing.

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Audit adjustments – Chief Constable

Misclassification and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Disclosure	Misclassification or change identified	Adjusted?
Note 37 - Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes	As per paragraph 6.4.3.42 of the CIPFA Code, the Authority is required to disclose the following: - information regarding the maturity profile of the defined benefit obligation, including the weighted average duration of the obligation or equivalent information. - the expected employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme and Police Pension Scheme for the next annual reporting period These disclosures are missing from the Chief Constable draft financial statements for both the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Police Pension Scheme. In addition the date of last triennial valuation for the Local Government Pension Scheme was reported as 31 March 2023, instead of the latest date of 31 March 2025.	✓
Throughout	A number of typographical errors have been identified throughout the financial statements.	✓

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Audit adjustments – PFCC

We are required to report all non-trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted misstatements

All adjusted misstatements are set out in detail below, along with the impact on the key statements.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Balance Sheet £'000	Impact on general fund £'000
Right of Use Assets – Campbell Square Our testing of the revaluations of right of use assets identified that for the revaluation of Campbell Square (£8.252m) included parts of the building that were not in use by the Authority. We have received a revised valuation for the report from the Valuer. The revised value is £5.633m	Dr Surplus / Deficit on Revaluation of Non-Current Assets £2,619 (reversed out through the MIRS to unusable reserves)	Cr Right of Use Assets £2,619	
Historical Depreciation Adjustment Paragraph 4.1.3.2 of CIPFA Code requires, for revalued assets, a transfer between the revaluation reserve and capital adjustment account for the difference between the depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset and the depreciation based on the asset's historic cost. Our regaining assurance work identified that this transfer has not been occurring for a number of years. In addition, there were issues noted with the posting of revaluation adjustments in previous years which have led to further misstatements of these reserves. Elements of this correction will require processing as a prior period adjustment. This is a technical accounting adjustment and there is no impact on the PFCC's general fund balance.		Dr Revaluation Reserve £9,989 Cr Capital Adjustment Account £9,989 (Includes 9,256 recognised as a PPA in the comparatives)	
Overall impact - PFCC	£2,619	(£2,619)	0
Overall impact - Group	£2,619	(£2,619)	0

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Audit adjustments – PFCC

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. Those charged with governance are required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Balance Sheet £'000	Impact on general fund £'000	Reason for not adjusting
Prior Period Adjustment We have identified the following issues from our review of the proposed prior period adjustment: • Incorrect historic cost information remains in the FAR re Darby House. We have reviewed the FAR and have not identified any other assets where there is any indicator of a similar issue. • Errors have been identified within management's workings, where incorrect values were used in places. This results in an error in the PPA processed, and the RR/CAA balances at each year-end. The RR is understated, and the CAA overstated by £1,201k, £3,842k and £1,258k at the years ended 31 March 2024, 2025 and 2026 respectively.		Dr Capital Adjustment Account £1,258 Cr Revaluation Reserve (£1,258)		Not material

Continued on next page

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Audit adjustments – PFCC

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Balance Sheet £'000	Impact on general fund £'000	Reason for not adjusting
PPE valuations In our testing of the accounting treatment of PPE revaluations, we identified that capital additions of £1.009m have been accounted for post revaluation. As the relevant assets have been valued at current value at 31 March 2026, the assets are overstated by this amount, and the relevant assets should be recorded at current value in the financial statements.	Dr Surplus / Deficit on Revaluation of Non-Current Assets £1,009 (reversed out through the MIRS to unusable reserves)	Cr Property Plant & Equipment £1,009		Not material
Right of Use valuations Our testing of right of use asset valuations identified a difference between our recalculation of the valuation of Campbell Square and valuers valuation.		Dr Revaluation Reserve £254 Cr Property, Plant and Equipment (£254)		Estimated difference which is not material
Short-Term Creditors Our testing identified that an underclaim of Police Pension top up grant in prior years from the home office recognised as a debtor should have been netted off against the creditor balance held for this grant due to an overpayment received in 2025/26. The correct accounting treatment would have been to net off these two balances. Therefore both the debtors and creditors balances are overstated by £1.647m		Dr Creditors £1,647 Cr Debtors £1,647		Not material
Overall impact of current year unadjusted misstatements – PFCC	£1,009	(£1,009)	0	
Overall impact of current year unadjusted misstatements – Group	£1,009	(£1,009)	0	

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Audit adjustments – PFCC

Misclassification and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Disclosure	Misclassification or change identified	Adjusted?
Cashflow Statement and Note 35 Cash Flow from Financing and Investment Activities	As per paragraph 4.2.2.68 of the CIPFA Code, the Authority is required to classify the cash payments relating to the principal portion of the lease liability within the financing activities line in the Cash Flow Statement. Following our review of Note 35 and the relevant supporting WP, we noted that only repayments of short and long term borrowings had been included, whilst the principal repayments of short and long term lease liabilities (£658k) had not been included. As a result the Adjustment to net surplus/deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements and the Financing Activities lines in the Cash Flow Statement have been updated.	✓
Note 4 – Officers' Remuneration	The table for the number of employees whose remuneration was paid in year, only included CC staff under the 'Group Staff' column, instead of both CC and PFCC staff.	✓
Note 36 – Termination Benefits	The note has been updated to state that all exit packages relate to the CC and not the PFCC	✓
Note 37 - Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes	As per paragraph 6.4.3.42 of the CIPFA Code, the Authority is required to disclose the following: - information regarding the maturity profile of the defined benefit obligation, including the weighted average duration of the obligation or equivalent information. - the expected employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme and Police Pension Scheme for the next annual reporting period. These disclosures are missing from the PFCC draft financial statements for both the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Police Pension Scheme. The date of last triennial valuation for the Local Government Pension Scheme was also incorrect and should updated to 31 March 2025. In addition our review of the disclosures identified that the estimated 2025/26 pension scheme contributions for both the Local Government Pension Scheme and Police Pension Scheme were incorrect and required updating to match the actuarial reports.	✓

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Audit adjustments – PFCC

Misclassification and disclosure changes (cont)

Disclosure	Misclassification or change identified	Adjusted?
Note 38 – Financial Instruments	We identified that the fair value of borrowings has not been updated appropriately within the Fair Value Hierarchy disclosure within the note. A value of £17.601m should be included instead of £18.171m.	✓
Note 38 – Financial Instruments	We noted that the 25/26 fair value of borrowings has been incorrectly disclosed as nil within the Borrowings breakdown table within Note 38. The updated version of the accounts provided by management still shows the carrying and fair values of the loans as £22.540m and £18.171m respectively, rather than £22.200m and £17.601m.	✓
Note 39 – Joint Operations & Associate Entities	The cash balance of £555k agreed to the external bank confirmations that is included in the Joint Operations Balance Sheet, has been incorrectly presented as short term Creditors, rather than Cash and Cash Equivalents. We also noted several other minor variances upon reconciling the disclosures within the note against supporting workings and trial balances extracts.	✓
Throughout	A number of typographical errors have been identified throughout the financial statements.	✓
Annual Governance Statement	The annual governance statement has been updated for the following issues. 1. The findings/recommendations from the ongoing reviews after court of appeal ruling has been omitted. 2. The date of the signature on the AGS (Collaboration) has been updated to include the correct date of signing.	✓

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Impact of unadjusted misstatements in the prior year - PFCC

The table below provides details of misstatements identified during the prior year audit which were not adjusted for within the final set of financial statements for 2024/25, and the resulting impact upon the 2025/26 financial statements. We also present the cumulative impact of both prior year and current year unadjusted misstatements on the 2025/26 financial statements. . Those charged with governance are required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Balance Sheet £'000	Impact on general fund £'000	Reason for not adjusting
PPE valuations In our testing of the accounting treatment of PPE revaluations, we identified that capital additions of £0.71m have been accounted for post revaluation. As the relevant assets have been valued at current value 31 March 2025, the assets are overstated by this amount, and the relevant assets should be recorded at current value in the financial statements.		There is no impact on 2025/26 as all assets have been revalued during the year		Not material and no impact on the general fund
Impact of prior year unadjusted misstatements on the current year's financial statements	0	0	0	
Cumulative impact of prior year and current year unadjusted misstatements on 2025/26 PFCC financial statements	£1,009	(£1,009)	0	
Overall impact on group financial statements	£1,009	(£1,009)	0	

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Action plan – Chief Constable

We set out here our recommendations for the Chief Constable which we have identified as a result of issues identified during our audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the course of our audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you in accordance with auditing standards.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
● Low	Supporting Evidence for Expense Claims Our sample of operating expenditure included a number of items relating to expense claims. We identified that 8 of the 32 individual expense claims selected were not supported by VAT receipts. These unsupported claims totalled £285.52. From a review of the Authority's expense policy these claims do not require supervisor approval and were auto approved by the Authority's expense system prior to payment. There is no requirement within the system for receipts to be uploaded prior to submission / approval.	The Authority should ensure that all expense claim are supported by an appropriate receipt prior to approval for payment. **Management response** Unfortunately, we are not able to turn on mandatory receipting within the system & as such, we cannot assure that every expense at the time of input has a receipt, therefore, there is also the possibility that some receipts may be lost between inputting and review. We will continue to review and audit on a statistical basis and to address any non compliance through the audit process & push for the system to be able to mandate receipts for every claim.

Key

- High – Significant impact on control system and/or financial statements
- Medium – Limited impact on control system and/or financial statements
- Low – Best practice for control systems and financial statements

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Action plan – PFCC

We set out here our recommendations for the PFCC which we have identified as a result of issues identified during our audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the course of our audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you in accordance with auditing standards.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
● Medium	Property valuations The CIPFA Code has been updated for 2025/26 and requires land and buildings to be revalued at least every five years, supported by indexation in the intervening years. Our review of the PFCC approach identified that all land and buildings have been revaluation during the year, which is not in accordance with the requirements of the Code.	We recommend that the Authority follows the requirements of the CIPFA code and revalues its assets at least every five years and adopts an indexation approach in the intervening years. **Management response** We maintain that full annual valuations would be preferable given the size of the organisation but respect the need to be compliant with Code requirements and will move to the new approach forthwith.

Key

- ● High – Significant impact on control system and/or financial statements
- ● Medium – Limited impact on control system and/or financial statements
- ● Low – Best practice for control systems and financial statements

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Follow up of prior year recommendations – Group

We identified the following issues in the audit of the group's 2024/25 financial statements, which resulted in three recommendations being reported in our 2024/25 Audit Findings Report. Two of the three recommendations are still to be actioned.

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
✓	**Right of Use Assets – cost of restoration** We undertook testing on the accuracy of right of use asset calculations on transition to IFRS 16. We identified instances where the costs of restoration for an associated asset, was estimated. We challenged management to provide evidence to support the estimate and we identified a lack of documented evidence to corroborate the estimates of the costs.	Our review of right of use asset calculations in 2025/26 did not identify this issue.
X	**Approval process for journals not working correctly** Journals require two separate individuals to approve. However, we identified an instance of a journal not requiring a second approval. We also identified instances of a senior officer approving journals. As a second approval is required, this is not a deficiency, however it could become one if a journal can be posted without a second approval as in the instance identified. We recommended that the Group identify why the journal was able to avoid the usual approval processes and whether this has happened elsewhere.	We have identified journal postings which had been approved by a senior officer. We do not deem it appropriate for senior officers to approve journals given the increased risk of management override of control. We continue to recommend that journal controls are amended to avoid this occurrence.

Assessment

✓ Action completed

X Not yet addressed

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Follow up of prior year recommendations – Group

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
X	**Understatement of accrual** We identified a number of payments which were not accrued for correctly. We also identified that finance team members were not aware of there being a de minimis level policy. We recommended that the Group improve their closedown processes to ensure all expenditure items related to the financial statements year are identified and correctly accounted for. Finance officers responsible for accruals should be reminded of their responsibilities in this area. We also recommend that finance staff are reminded of the de minimis policy for accruals.	We have completed testing on payments made after year end, and invoices received after year end, to assess if the items selected for testing have been accrued for appropriately. We have identified further instances of expenditure not accrued for in 2025/26. These instances were trivial but above the Group's accruals threshold. We continue to recommend that the Group improve their closedown processes to ensure all expenditure items related to the financial statements year are identified and correctly accounted for. Finance officers responsible for accruals should be reminded of their responsibilities in this area.

Assessment

✓ Action completed

X Not yet addressed

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Value for Money arrangements

Approach to Value for Money work for the year ended 31 March 2026

The National Audit Office issued its latest Value for Money guidance to auditors in March 2026. The Code requires auditors to consider whether a body has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Additionally , the Code requires auditors to share a draft Auditor's Annual Report (AAR) with those charged with governance by 30 November each year from 2025-26. Our draft AAR accompanies this audit findings report.

In undertaking our work, we are required to have regard to three specified reporting criteria. These are as set out below.



Financial sustainability

How the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.



Governance

How the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services.



Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

How the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks.

In undertaking this work we have identified a significant weaknesses in arrangements. Our Joint Auditor's Annual Report accompanies this audit findings report.

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Independence considerations

Ethical Standards and ISA (UK) 260 require us to give you timely disclosure of all significant matters that may bear upon the integrity, objectivity and independence of the firm or covered persons (including its partners, senior managers, managers). In this context, there are no independence matters that we would like to report to you.

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirement of the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard

Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in February 2025 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies and the Terms of Appointment and further guidance issued by the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)

As part of our assessment of our independence we note the following matters:

Matter	Conclusions
Relationships with Grant Thornton	We are not aware of any relationships between Grant Thornton and the Chief Constable, PFCC and Group that may reasonably be thought to bear on our integrity, independence and objectivity.
Relationships and investments held by individuals	We have not identified any potential issues in respect of personal relationships with the Chief Constable, PFCC and Group.
Employment of Grant Thornton staff	We are not aware of any former Grant Thornton partners or staff being employed, or holding discussions in respect of employment, by the Group as a director or in a senior management role covering financial, accounting or control related areas.
Business relationships	We have not identified any business relationships between Grant Thornton and the Group.
Contingent fees in relation to non-audit services	No contingent fee arrangements are in place for non-audit services provided.
Gifts and hospitality	We have not identified any gifts or hospitality provided to, or received from, a member of the Chief Constable, PFCC and Group's senior officers or staff (that would exceed the threshold set in the Ethical Standard).

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention and consider that an objective reasonable and informed third party would take the same view. The firm and each covered person have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Following this consideration we can confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements. In making the above judgement, we have also been mindful of the quantum of non-audit fees compared to audit fees disclosed in the financial statements and estimated for the current year.

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Fees and non-audit services

The table below sets out the total fees for audit. No non-audit or audited related services have been undertaken for the group.

Audit fees	PFCC	Chief Constable
Scale fee	£100,663	£55,541
Jointly Controlled Operations – Fee Variation	£8,279	-
Rebuilding Assurance – Fee Variation	£10,080	£4,302
IFRIC 14 – Fee Variation	£1,500	£1,500
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	**£120,522**	**£61,343**

The above fees are exclusive of VAT.
The fees in the financial statements are the scale fees and do not include the proposed fee variations detailed above.

This covers all services provided by us and our network to the group/PFCC/Chief Constable, senior officers , senior management and its affiliates, that may reasonably be thought to bear on our integrity, objectivity or independence.

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Appendices

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A. Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance

Our communication plan	Joint Audit Plan	Joint Audit Findings
Respective responsibilities of auditor and management/those charged with governance	●	
Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, form, timing and expected general content of communications including significant risks	●	
Confirmation of independence and objectivity	●	●
A statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence. Relationships and other matters which might be thought to bear on independence. Details of non-audit work performed by Grant Thornton UK LLP and network firms, together with fees charged. Details of safeguards applied to threats to independence	●	●
Significant matters in relation to going concern	●	●
Matters in relation to the group audit, including: Scope of work on components, limitations of scope on the group audit, fraud or suspected fraud	●	●
Views about the qualitative aspects of the Group's accounting and financial reporting practices including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures		●
Significant findings from the audit		●
Significant matters and issue arising during the audit and written representations that have been sought		●
Significant difficulties encountered during the audit		●
Significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit		●
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		●

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A. Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance

Our communication plan	Joint Audit Plan	Joint Audit Findings
Identification or suspicion of fraud involving management and/or which results in material misstatement of the financial statements		●
Non-compliance with laws and regulations		●
Unadjusted misstatements and material disclosure omissions		●
Expected modifications to the auditor's report, or emphasis of matter		●

ISA (UK) 260, as well as other ISAs (UK), prescribe matters which we are required to communicate with those charged with governance, and which we set out in the table here.

This document, the Audit Findings, outlines those key issues, findings and other matters arising from the audit, which we consider should be communicated in writing rather than orally, together with an explanation as to how these have been resolved.

Respective responsibilities

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance.

The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

Distribution of this Audit Findings report

Whilst we seek to ensure our audit findings are distributed to those individuals charged with governance, as a minimum a requirement exists for our findings to be distributed to all the senior officers and those members of senior management with significant operational and strategic responsibilities. We are grateful for your specific consideration and onward distribution of our report, to those charged with governance.

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