

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR WILTSHIRE AND
CHIEF CONSTABLE OF WILTSHIRE POLICE
JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL STATEMENT 2016-17**

1. The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) was established by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable in 2012, implementing a recommendation in the Home Office's Financial Management Code of Practice for Police Forces. The JIAC is totally independent of both the PCC and the Chief Constable and its role is to provide independent assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance and control processes within their organisations.
2. Each year the JIAC produces an annual statement. The last was issued in June 2016, covering the work of the meetings held in the previous twelve months. The purpose of the annual statement is to summarise the work undertaken by the Committee and to identify any significant concerns or issues.

Membership and Meetings

3. Committee Membership since June 2016 has been as follows:

Mr Keith Bellamy (Chairman since November 2016)
Ms Caroline Baynes
Mr Alex Blair (appointed June 2017)
Mr Steven Booth (appointed March 2017)
Mr Philip Hall (to November 2016)
Mr David Line
Mr Rohan McMillan

4. The JIAC performs its work through quarterly meetings, all of which are open to members of the public. Agendas, reports and minutes are published on the PCC's website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk).
5. Attendance at the meetings covered by this annual statement was Keith Bellamy 100%, Caroline Baynes 100%, Steven Booth 100%, Philip Hall 67%, David Line 100%, and Rohan McMillan 100%.
6. Philip Hall continued in his role as JIAC Chairman until he left in November 2016 at which point, the Vice-Chairman, Keith Bellamy took on the role of Chairman.
7. Two rounds of recruitment were held during the reporting period of this report, resulting in the appointment of Steven Booth and Alex Blair.
8. The JIAC appreciate the attendance and contribution of both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable at its meetings. Feedback from audit committees elsewhere in the country indicates that the committee effectiveness is enhanced if both individuals play an active part in the work of the JIAC.

Workplan

9. The JIAC's provision of assurance on the adequacy of governance and control processes is undertaken through, but not limited by, a structured workplan, at the core of which is the review of the following:
 - Risk management arrangements, focusing on issues of most significant risk
 - Annual accounts, and their review by the external auditors
 - Internal audit plans and reviews
10. The JIAC reviews its Terms of Reference on an annual basis and reviews its own effectiveness by carrying out an annual self-assessment. The results of the 2016 self-assessment were reported to the November 2016 meeting of the Committee.

Key Findings, Developments and Issues from 2016-17

PCC and Force Risk Registers

11. Through the previous 12 months, JIAC have closely monitored the PCC Risk Register and the Force Risk Register. The two key risks that continually arose related to governance arrangements for regional collaborations (PCC Risk Register) and failure by the force to have operational policies and services in place that meet the duties and aims under the Equality Act 2010 (PCC and Force risk register).
12. Further detail on the risks associated with regional collaboration can be found below.
13. JIAC has continued to monitor the risk that the force does not have operational policies and services in place that meet the duties and aims of the Equality Act 2010 through progress recorded on the two risk registers. JIAC noted that an implementation plan had been produced and that the PCC was monitoring this through his fortnightly Commissioner's Monitoring Board meetings with the Chief Constable. An internal audit is due to be conducted in 2017-18 on this area which JIAC await the findings of.
14. Early in 2017, JIAC expressed a view that it felt there was sometimes a lack of commitment to meeting the deadlines set in the PCC Risk Register and would like these to be reinforced. As a result of these concerns and the publication of the Commissioner's new Police and Crime Plan the PCC Risk Register was reviewed and overhauled. First consideration of the new risk register was considered at the JIAC meeting held in June 2017 which is outside the reporting period of this report, however, first impressions of the revised approach were positive.

Statement of Accounts

15. Grant Thornton (external auditor) issued an unqualified opinion on the Commissioner's Group Statement of Accounts and the Chief Constable's Statement of Accounts for 2015-16. It also issued an unqualified opinion on value for money conclusions in respect of arrangements to secure economy efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.
16. The use of the word 'unqualified' is misleading as this is a "standard" terminology for a positive outcome and as such is a good result for the organisation overall and in particular for the Chief Finance Officer, Senior Accounting Technician, and their team.

17. New legislation on the approval of accounts is due to be introduced which will impact upon the existing timetable for the 2017-18 accounts. By 31st July 2018, the accounts need to be audited, signed, and published. Going forward, JIAC will amend its scheduled meeting dates for the approval of the 2016-17 accounts to enable the PCC and the Chief Constable a 'practice' run so they could identify any issues.

Internal Audit – CBSL and South West Audit Partnership (SWAP)

18. At the June 2016 meeting, the outgoing internal auditors (CBSL), stated that 'Wiltshire Police has adequate and effective management, control, and governance processes to manage the achievement of its objectives'.

19. This was the first year with the new internal auditors (SWAP). JIAC were given the opportunity to submit views on the proposed annual audit plan or items they would like to see included.

20. JIAC requested for internal audit reports to include information on where SWAP have added value to a service or a function that was under review, revised end dates to be included, and more detailed management responses to be provided. This was pursued by SWAP and by the Joint Chief Finance Officer.

21. Going forward, SWAP will be reviewing its target of issuing final reports within 10 working days as it was proving difficult to meet due to shifts and rest days. However, the JIAC has a strong preference for this deadline to be maintained.

Specific Areas of Note

22. *Regional Collaboration Risk*

Throughout the year, JIAC have challenged the risk associated with perceived weak governance and accountability in relation to collaboration arrangements already in place. The Committee received a presentation on the Tri-Force Collaboration at its meeting in September 2016. It also considered a report submitted to the South West Commissioning Board setting out governance arrangements that would ensure Wiltshire was fully represented.

23. *Funding Formula*

Through 2016-17 this continued to be one of the higher scored risks due to the government review of the funding formula. Recommendations were due to be made in February 2017 to the Policing Minister but the review was put on hold due to the general election and the purdah period. No further information has been forthcoming since the formation of the new government and this still continues to be a high scoring risk on the PCC's Risk Register.

24. *Community Policing Teams (CPT)*

The CPT model was rolled out across the whole of Wiltshire and Swindon through October and November 2016. This was a new way of working for Wiltshire Police and the associated risk was detailed on the PCC and the Force Risk Register. JIAC have closely monitored this risk and, going forward, have requested a report on the findings from the evaluation.

25. *HMIC PEEL Inspections (NB. now HMICFRS)*

In November 2016, JIAC noted the 'good' grading issued by HMIC for the efficiency part of the PEEL inspection. In 2017-18, JIAC will continue to monitor findings from HMIC inspections for Wiltshire and challenge where appropriate.

26. *PCC's Police and Crime Plan*

JIAC were given the opportunity to contribute and comment on the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan. The final version was published in February 2017.

Chairman Signature:
Keith Bellamy



Date:

