



Devon & Cornwall Police and The Office of the Police & Crime
Commissioner (OPCC)

Dorset Police and The Office of the Police & Crime
Commissioner (OPCC)

Report of Internal Audit Activity – March 2020

Internal Audit ■ Risk ■ Special Investigations ■ Consultancy

Handling instructions: for Audit Committee and senior management consideration only, to be stored securely, and not to be republished or shared without the consent of the Alliance Head of Audit, Insurance and Risk

Executive Summary

The Assistant Director is required to provide an annual opinion to support the Annual Governance Statement.

As part of our plan progress reports, we will provide an ongoing opinion to support the end of year annual opinion.

We will also provide details of any significant risks that we have identified in our work, along with a progress update in relation to outstanding Priority 1 & 2 recommendations.

We have sought to make our Committee Papers more concise and as such, we will formally report on our performance once a year.

The Chief Executive Officer for SWAP reports company performance on a regular basis to the SWAP Directors and Owners Boards.

Audit Opinion and Summary of Significant Risks

Audit Opinion:

The work completed to date presents a mixed picture in terms of assurance levels. In half of the audits completed at the time of writing (18), we have only been able to provide Partial assurance, suggesting that some key risks are not well managed and systems require the introduction or improvement of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives. However, this has been offset by a number of Substantial (four) as well as Reasonable (five) assurance opinions. Therefore, on the balance of audit work completed to date, we would expect to provide an overall **Reasonable** opinion but this will be reviewed upon completion of the remaining assurance engagements.

Progress of 2019/20 Internal Audit Plan

At the time of reporting, good progress was being made with the 2019/20 audit plan as outlined in Appendix A and in the table below:

Performance Measure	Performance
<u>Delivery of Annual Audit Plan</u>	
Completed	56%
Work at Report Stage	14%
Fieldwork	25%
Scoping	5%
Not Yet Started	0%

These figures reflect the amendments to scheduling as outlined later within this report.

Significant Risks:

Since our last report to the Committee, we have not assessed any audit risks as 'High' in our reports.

Where audit reviews have resulted in a 'Partial' assurance rating, a summary of the key findings from these reviews have been summarised at **Appendix B**. This includes key issues identified within the following reviews:

- Recovery of Special Policing Services and
- Accounts Payable (Part of Key Controls review).

Executive Summary

Outstanding Recommendations:

Appendix C details all of the Priority 1 and 2 recommendations that remain at agreed and outstanding status following quarterly follow up. This includes the most recent update from the Responsible Officer(s).

The Alliance Audit, Insurance and Strategic Risk Management Department have greatly assisted us this Quarter in seeking updates from the relevant business leads on the implementation of recommendations. We received updates on all of the recommendations at Agreed/Outstanding status and where there were recommendations which had not been fully implemented, revised target implementation dates have been provided. As such, whilst the figure below appears high, we are satisfied that actions are ongoing to implement the recommendations raised from our reports.

Performance Measure	Performance
Outcomes from Audit Work Percentage of Agreed/Outstanding Priority 1 & 2 recommendations identified by SWAP, that remain outstanding past their <i>original</i> implementation date	71% (17 out of 24) – see Appendix C

Internal Audit Plan Progress 2019/20

We keep our audit plans under regular review to ensure that we are auditing the right things at the right time.

Approved Changes to the Audit Plan

The Strategic Alliance Audit Plan for 2019/20 is reported under **Appendix A** and is subject to change to meet the requirements and emerging risks of the Strategic Alliance. Since our last update to the Committee, there have been a number of changes to the 2019/20 Audit Plan. Several audits, as outlined below, have been either deferred into next year's Plan or removed.

Audits deferred into next year's Plan:

- DP&DCP: Fire Safety Management; and
- DP&DCP Contracting with Training Providers.

Audits removed from the Audit Plan:

- DP&DCP Compliance with Specified Order. This is covered by other assurance providers to the OPCCs.

The focus of the Review of the New Fleet System audit has been changed, as the new system was now not due to be implemented until April 2020. Instead, we were asked to conduct a deeper review into the Accounts Payable Processes for the Estates and Fleet Functions at the Alliance.

A review of POCA Processes was requested to be completed by the Chief Finance Officer for D&C and the D&C OPCC Treasurer. We have approached the leads to discuss the scoping of this work.

The focus of the Alliance ICT Convergence Strategy was changed due to the recent appointment of the Chief Technology Officer and was agreed with them and the D&C Chief Finance Officer. The focus will now be on completing a high-level review of ICT Risks to assist in the strategy and service development of ICT at the Alliance and drive subsequent audit work as a result of any findings identified.

We experienced a number of delays with scoping our audits during Quarter 4. This includes the Expenses of Specials and Volunteers, Management of Policies, ANPR and Data Protection-Discs, with some of the scoping meetings not being completed until the last week of February.

The regional Police Audit work is progressing well and is detailed below:

- Review and recommend a standard approach to obtaining assurance for the AGS – this has been completed;
- Regional benchmarking on Fleet is currently in Draft Report stage, pending some further data requested; and
- Forensics Performance and Tasking – this review is in the fieldwork stage.