

Victory House
Balliol Business Park
Benton Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 8EW

E: enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

T: 0191 221 9800

25th January 2024

Grant Thornton UK LLP
17th Floor
103 Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 3AG

Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP,

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023**

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and its subsidiary undertaking, the Chief Constable for Northumbria for the year ended 31 March 2023 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the group and PCC financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the group and PCC's financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the group and PCC and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The PCC has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the group and PCC financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include land and buildings valuations and pension scheme assets and liabilities. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately

disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

- vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
- vii. Except as disclosed in the group and PCC financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
 - b. none of the assets of the group and PCC has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- viii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
- ix. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- x. We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The group and PCC financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xi. We have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report and reproduced in the appendix to this letter. We have not adjusted the financial statements for these misstatements brought to our attention as they are immaterial to the results of the group and its financial position at the year-end. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xii. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- xiii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xiv. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the group and PCC's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that:
 - a. the nature of the group and PCC means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease the group and PCC operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements
 - b. the financial reporting framework permits the entry to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
 - c. the group and PCC's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

We believe that no further disclosures relating to the group and PCC's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements

- xv. The group and PCC has complied with all aspects of ring-fenced grants that could have a material effect on the group and PCC's financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

Information Provided

- xvi. We have provided you with:
 - a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the group and PCC's financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
 - c. access to persons within the PCC via remote arrangements, from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xvii. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xviii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xix. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the group and PCC, and involves:
 - a. management;
 - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xxi. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the group and PCC's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xxiv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Annual Governance Statement

- xxv. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the PCC's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

- xxvi. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the group and PCC's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'K. Laing', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Name: Kevin Laing MSc (fin) CPFA

Position: Treasurer

Date: 25/01/2024

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Appendix: Extract from the 2022/23 Audit Findings Report

Detail	Identified by	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £'000
Pension Assets	Audit team		
As part of our work on testing the share of pension fund assets relating to the Chief Constable, we noted that the Pension Fund auditor has identified an unadjusted error in the value of pension fund assets. This corresponds to an understatement in the value of pension assets attributable to the Chief Constable of £1.23m.		Cr Other comprehensive income (1,276)	Dr net pension asset 1,276
This understatement has no impact on the general fund.			
Overall impact (Chief Constable accounts)		(1,276)	1,276
Supplier accruals	Audit team		
Our sample testing of creditor and accrual balances identified accruals for £881k relating to a supplier that would no longer be providing the invoiced services. We determined this to be an isolated instance of an overstatement of accruals.		Cr service expenditure (881)	Dr creditors 881
Overall impact (PCC accounts)		(881)	881
Overall impact (group accounts)		(2,157)	2,157