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27th February 2025

Ernst & Young LLP
Citygate, St James' Boulevard,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4JD,

Dear Ernst & Young LLP,

**Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

This letter of representations is provided in connection with your audit of the consolidated and Commissioner financial statements of Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria ("PCC") and Chief Constable for Northumbria ("CC") ("the Group, PCC and CC") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We recognise that obtaining representations from us concerning the information contained in this letter is a significant procedure in enabling you to form an opinion as to whether the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements give a true and fair view of (or 'present fairly, in all material respects,') the Group, PCC and CC financial position of Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Chief Constable for Northumbria as of 31 March 2024 and of its financial performance (or operations) and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with, for the Group and the Authority, CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of our consolidated and PCC and CC Authority financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), which involves an examination of the accounting system, internal control and related data to the extent you considered necessary in the circumstances, and is not designed to identify - nor necessarily be expected to disclose - all fraud, shortages, errors and other irregularities, should any exist.

Accordingly, we make the following representations, which are true to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

A. Financial Statements and Financial Records

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, under the relevant statutory authorities, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with, for the Group, PCC and CC, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24
2. We acknowledge, as members of management of the Group, PCC and CC, our responsibility for the fair presentation of the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements. We believe the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements referred to above give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance (or results of operations) and cash flows of the Group and PCC and CC Authority in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local

Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, and are free of material misstatements, including omissions. We have approved the financial statements.

3. The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the Group, PCC and CC financial statements are appropriately described in the Group, PCC and CC financial statements.
4. As members of management of the Group, PCC and CC, we believe that the Group and Authority have a system of internal controls adequate to enable the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with on CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, for the Group, PCC and CC that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
5. We believe that the effects of any unadjusted audit differences, summarised in the accompanying schedule, accumulated by you during the current audit and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements taken as a whole. We have not corrected these differences because the values are not material to the financial statements and there is no impact on the General Fund for the group as a result of these audit differences.
6. We confirm the Group, PCC and CC do not have securities (debt or equity) listed on a recognized exchange.

B. Non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

1. We acknowledge that we are responsible to determine that the Group, PCC and CC's business activities are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations and that we are responsible to identify and address any non-compliance with applicable laws or regulations, including fraud.
2. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of a system of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and that we believe we have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.
3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
4. We have no knowledge of any identified or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations, including fraud, that may have affected the Group, PCC or CC (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers"), including non-compliance matters:
 - Involving financial improprieties
 - Related to laws or regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements
 - Related to laws or regulations that have an indirect effect on amounts and disclosures in the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements, but compliance with which may be fundamental to the operations of the Group, PCC and CC's business, its ability to continue in business, or to avoid material penalties
 - Involving management, or employees who have significant roles in internal control, or others
 - In relation to any allegations of fraud, suspected fraud or other non-compliance with laws and regulations communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

C. Information Provided and Completeness of Information and Transactions

1. We have provided you with:
 - Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements.
3. We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of shareholders, directors and committees of directors (or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared) held through the period to the most recent meeting on 02 December 2024.
4. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Group, PCC and CC's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers of assets, liabilities and services, leasing arrangements, guarantees, non-monetary transactions and transactions for no consideration for the period ended, as well as related balances due to or from such parties at the end of 31 March 2024. These transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements
5. We believe that the methods, significant assumptions and the data we used in making accounting estimates and related disclosures are appropriate and consistently applied to achieve recognition, measurement and disclosure that is in accordance with CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.
6. We have disclosed to you, and the Group, PCC and CC has complied with, all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements in the event of non-compliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.
7. From 1 April 2023 through the date of this letter we have disclosed to you, to the extent that we are aware, any (1) unauthorized access to our information technology systems that either occurred or is reasonably likely to have occurred, including of reports submitted to us by third parties (including regulatory agencies, law enforcement agencies and security consultants), to the extent that such unauthorized access to our information technology systems is reasonably likely to have a material effect on the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements, in each case or in the aggregate, and (2) ransomware attacks when we paid or are contemplating paying a ransom, regardless of the amount.

D. Liabilities and Contingencies

1. All liabilities and contingencies, including those associated with guarantees, whether written or oral, have been disclosed to you and are appropriately reflected in the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements.
2. We have informed you of all outstanding and possible litigation and claims, whether or not they have been discussed with legal counsel.
3. We have recorded and/or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities related to litigation and claims, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed in the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.
4. The claim in respect to Municipal Mutual Insurance was settled for the total sum of £0.620m for the which has been properly accrued in the consolidated and PCC financial statements. No other claims in connection with litigation have been or are expected to be received.

E. Ownership of Assets

1. Except for assets capitalised under finance leases, the Group, PCC and CC has satisfactory title to all assets appearing in the balance sheet(s), and there are no liens or encumbrances on the Group, PCC and CC's assets, nor has any asset been pledged as collateral, other than those that are disclosed in the financial statements. All assets to which the Group, PCC and CC has satisfactory title appear in the balance sheet(s).
2. All agreements and options to buy back assets previously sold have been properly recorded and adequately disclosed in the consolidated and PCC and CC financial statements.
3. There are no formal or informal compensating balance arrangements with any of our cash and investment accounts. We have no other line of credit arrangements.

F. Use of the Work of a Specialist

1. We agree with the findings of the specialists that we engaged to evaluate the valuation of the Gross Pension Liabilities, Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Property and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements and the underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

G. Estimates

1. We confirm that the significant judgments made in assessing the valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment (NPCC, Group), Investment Property (NPCC, Group) and gross pension liability (Group, PCC and CC) have taken into account all relevant information of which we are aware.
2. We believe that the selection or application of the methods, assumptions and data used by us have been consistently and appropriately applied or used assessing the valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment (NPCC, Group), Investment Property (NPCC, Group) and gross pension liability (Group, PCC and CC).
3. We confirm that the significant assumptions used in assessing the valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment (NPCC, Group), Investment Property (NPCC, Group) and gross pension liability (Group, PCC and CC) appropriately reflect our intent and ability to carry out the assessments and valuations, and any specific courses of action on behalf of the entity.
4. We confirm that the disclosures made in the financial statements with respect to the accounting estimates, including those describing estimation uncertainty, are complete and are reasonable in the context of CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.
5. We confirm that appropriate specialized skills or expertise has been applied in assessing the valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment (NPCC, Group), Investment Property (NPCC, Group) and gross pension liability (Group, PCC and CC).
6. We confirm that no further adjustments are required to the accounting estimates and disclosures in the financial statements.

H. Retirement benefits

1. On the basis of the process established by us and having made appropriate enquiries, we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the scheme liabilities are consistent with our knowledge of the business. All significant retirement benefits and all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for.

I. Reserves

We have properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements the useable and unusable reserves.

J. Contingent Liabilities

We are unaware of any violations or possible violations of laws or regulations the effects of which should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as the basis of recording a contingent loss (other than those disclosed or accrued in the financial statements).

We are unaware of any known or probable instances of non-compliance with the requirements of regulatory or governmental authorities, including their financial reporting requirements, and there have been no communications from regulatory agencies or government representatives concerning investigations or allegations of non-compliance, except as follows:

1. Matters of routine, normal, recurring nature, none of which involves any allegations of noncompliance with laws or regulations that should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency.

K. Going Concern

1. Note 3 to the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements discloses all the matters of which we are aware that are relevant to the Group, PCC and CC's ability to continue as a going concern, including significant conditions and events, our plans for future action, and the feasibility of those plans.

L. Subsequent Events

1. Other than described in Group - Note 15 , PCC-Note 25 Note and CC – Note 19 to the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements, there have been no events subsequent to period end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements or notes thereto.

M. Group audits

1. There are no significant restrictions on our ability to distribute the retained profits of the Group because of statutory, contractual, exchange control or other restrictions other than those indicated in the Group financial statements.
2. Necessary adjustments have been made to eliminate all material intra-group unrealised profits on transactions amongst the PCC and CC.

N. Other information

1. We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the other information. The other information comprises Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Statement.
2. We confirm that the content contained within the other information is consistent with the financial statements.

O. Climate-related matters

1. We confirm that to the best of our knowledge all information that is relevant to the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of climate-related matters has been considered and reflected in the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements.
2. The key assumptions used in preparing the consolidated, PCC and CC financial statements are, to the extent allowable under the requirements of CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Yours faithfully



Kevin Laing (Chief Financial Officer)



Susan Dungworth (Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria)



Venessa Jardine (Chief Constable of Northumbria)

Summary of Unadjusted Differences

	Effect on the current period:		Net assets (Decrease)/Increase				Equity Components Debit/(Credit)
	OCI Debit/(Credit)	Income statement Debit/(Credit)	Assets current Debit/(Credit)	Assets non-current Debit/(Credit)	Liabilities current Debit/(Credit)	Liabilities non-current Debit/(Credit)	
Uncorrected misstatements 31 March 2024 (£'000)							
Errors £'000							
Known differences:							
▶ Property Plant and Equipment (Existence of computer peripheral equipment) - PCC		723		(723)			
Judgemental differences:							
▶ Tyne and Wear Pension Fund - Understatement of Pension Asset-CC	(1,497)			1,497			
Cumulative effect of uncorrected misstatements	(1,497)	723		774			