



POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

AND

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF ESSEX

Audit of Accounts: Year Ended 31st March 2021

Public Inspection of Accounts and Right of Challenge

Notice of the Commencement of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights

**The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015
The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021**

2020/21 Statement of Accounts Deferral

In response to the ongoing impact across the UK of COVID19 and the need to reduce the pressure on police forces to comply with legal deadlines, the Government have introduced The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021. These regulations provide police forces with additional time to complete the audit of their accounts for 2020/21, given the impact of the COVID19 virus on the availability of staff and auditors to complete the audit process within current deadlines. These regulations apply to annual accounts relating to both the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years, and follows on from the previous flexibility offered following the introduction of similar legislation for the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

The period for the exercise of public rights under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 is normally required to include the first 10 working days of June. However, because of the potential impact of the COVID19 virus on police forces' ability to have prepared their draft Statement of Accounts by the end of May, the requirement has again been suspended for 2021. This means that the deadline to publish the unaudited accounts has now moved from 31st May 2021 to 31st July 2021, with the deadline for

publishing audited statements being moved from 31st July 2021 to 30th September 2021 for all local authority bodies, including police forces.

The accounts for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex and the Chief Constable of Essex are subject to external audit by Mr Paul Grady, Director, Grant Thornton, 30 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1AG (Telephone 020 7383 5100). As the Statement of Accounts are subject to audit, changes may occur during the public inspection period. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. From Monday 5th July to Friday 13th August (inclusive) between 10am and 4pm (Monday to Friday) any person interested may inspect and make copies of the draft accounts of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex and the Chief Constable of Essex for the year ended 31st March 2021 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts). The accounts and other documents will be available for inspection at the offices at which they are normally kept. Any alternative arrangement would need to be agreed in advance. Application should be made initially to Mrs Annette Chan, Chief Accountant, Essex Police, Essex Police Headquarters, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6DA, Tel: 101, extension 166318.
2. From 10am on Monday 5th July until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of Essex, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor, Mr Paul Grady, at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
3. Questions may be received by Mrs Julia Berry, Head of Finance to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Kelvedon Park, London Road, Rivenhall, Witham, CM8 3HB, (Telephone 01245 291607) or Mrs Debbie Martin, Chief Finance Officer of the Chief Constable of Essex, Essex Police, Essex Police Headquarters, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6DA (Telephone 01245 452615) by prior arrangement with the auditor, Mr Paul Grady, at the address given above to whom requests for this purpose should be addressed.

4. From 10am on Monday 5th July until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of Essex Police or his/her representative, may make an objection to the local auditor, Mr Paul Grady, which concerns a matter in respect of which he could make a public interest report (under section 27 of the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 28 of the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014). Written notice of the proposed objection and the grounds on which it will be made must be sent to the auditor, Mr Paul Grady, at the address given above and also copied to Mrs Julia Berry and Mrs Debbie Martin at the addresses given above.

5. No objection may be made unless the auditor, Mr Paul Grady, at the address given above has previously received notice in writing of the proposed objection and its grounds. Copies of this notice must be sent to the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, care of Mrs Julia Berry and Chief Constable of Essex care of Mrs Debbie Martin at the addresses given below.

Dated: 1st July 2021

Julia Berry
Head of Finance
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Telephone 01245 291607

Office of the Police, Fire and Crime
Commissioner for Essex

Kelvedon Park
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Deborah Martin
Chief Finance Officer of the
Chief Constable of Essex
Telephone 01245 452615

Essex Police

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