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Date: 24 November 2021

Dear Sirs

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC) and its subsidiary undertaking, Chief Constable for Essex (CC) for the year ended 31 March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the group and the PFCC's financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 and applicable law.

I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as I considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing myself:

Financial Statements

- i. I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the preparation of the group and PFCC'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 2012/21 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. I have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the group and the PFCC and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The PFCC has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the group and PFCC's 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. I acknowledge my responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. I am 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. I understand my 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. I am satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used 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. I confirm that I am satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with my knowledge. I confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. I also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
- vii. Except as disclosed in the group and PFCC financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
 - b. none of the assets of the group and PFCC 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. I have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The group and PFCC financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xi. I have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report. I have not adjusted the financial statements for these misstatements brought to my attention as they are immaterial to the results of the group and the PFCC and their respective financial positions 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. I have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xiv. I have updated our going concern assessment and cashflow forecasts in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. I continue to believe that the group and PFCC'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 PFCC means that, notwithstanding any intention to liquidate the group and PFCC or cease its 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 PFCC'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 PFCC's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Information Provided

- xv. I have provided you with:
 - a. access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the group and PFCC'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 PFCC via remote arrangements, in compliance with the nationally specified social distancing requirements established by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xvi. I have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xvii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xviii. I have disclosed to you the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xix. I have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that I am aware of and that affects the group and PFCC, 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.
- xx. I 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.
- xxi. I 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.
- xxii. I have disclosed to you the identity of the group and PFCC's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.
- xxiii. I 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

- xxiv. I am satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the PFCC's risk assurance and governance framework and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

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

Approval

This letter of representation was approved by myself as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex in accordance with Section 19 of the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 on 24 November 2021 and signed by myself as the Chief Finance Officer.

Yours faithfully

Roger Hirst
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Date: 24 November 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julia Berry'.

Julia Berry
Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer for the PFCC for Essex

Date: 24 November 2021