

Report to	<b>Audit Committee</b>
Date	<b>16 December 2024</b>
Lead Officer	<b>Helen MacArthur, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Finance and Resources</b>
Contact Officer	<b>Angharad Ellis, MIAA</b>
Subject	<b>Progress Report from Internal Audit</b>



## PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) with an update of the work undertaken by the Authority's internal audit providers, MIAA, for the 2024/25 financial year to date.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Authority is required to put arrangements in place for the audit of systems of control. MIAA was appointed in June 2023 to provide internal audit services to the Authority.
- 3 The appended report provides an update of the work undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year to 30 November 2024 against the agreed internal audit plan.
- 4 The report confirms that during the period detailed reviews of the controls covering key financial transactions and implementation of the training strategy have been undertaken. Both reviews received substantial assurance with recommendations for improvement agreed with management.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5 It is recommended that Members:
  - i) Note the work undertaken by MIAA during 2024/25.

## BACKGROUND

- 6 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (the Regulations) require the Authority to make proper and effective arrangements for systems of internal control. This includes the arrangements for the management of risk and adequate and effective financial management.

- 7 The Regulations also require an adequate and effective internal audit of the systems of internal control, the findings of which must be reported to Statement of Internal Control annually.
- 8 The Authority appointed MIAA as its internal auditor at the Audit Committee meeting of the 18 June 2023. The Audit Plan was approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 18 March 2024.

## INFORMATION

- 9 The report contained within Appendix 1 provides an overview of the work undertaken during 2024/25 financial year to 30 November 2024. This confirms that all work is progressing in accordance with the plan.
- 10 The review of the controls in place for the key financial transactions provided substantial assurance that controls were in place and operating as intended. The scope and findings of the review are outlined within Appendix C of the report and five recommendations to address medium/low risks have been agreed.
- 11 The work undertaken by the Internal audit team also included a review of the implementation of the training strategy. This work provided a substantial level of assurance and Appendix C confirms four recommendations to address medium risks have been agreed.

Wellbeing Objectives	The operation of financial systems that are properly controlled supports the delivery of the well-being objectives and longer-term sustainability of services.
Budget	Assurance on the existence and operation of internal controls supports the effective budget setting process.
Legal	An effective internal audit arrangement is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) 2014 Regulations
Staffing	The review of key financial systems including payroll provide assurance that controls are present an that payments are in accordance with agreed policies and procedures.
Equalities/ Human Rights/ Welsh Language	The engagement lead with MIAA is bi-lingual and reports will be subject to normal translation processes.
Risks	The internal audit of core financial processes supports the effective identification and management of risks.