



Northern Ireland Social Care Council
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Extraordinary Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Confirmed Minutes

1.30p.m on Wednesday 19th June 2024

Hybrid - Council Suites 1 & 2 and MS Teams

Present

Gerry Guckian, Chair, Northern Ireland Social Care Council Board Member
Jacqui McGarvey, Northern Ireland Social Care Council Board Member
Lesley Mitchell, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Member- via MS Teams

In Attendance

Declan McAllister, Director of Registration and Corporate Services
Kate McStravick, Head of Client Accounting, Finance Directorate, BSO- via Teams
Kathy Doey, Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) – via Teams
Zyrus Johan Bati, Deloitte- via Teams
Maureen Martin, Secretariat

Observer

None

Apologies

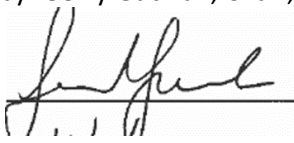
Lorraine Conlon, Government Liaison Officer

Item	Agenda
Formalities	
1.	Welcome and Apologies
1.1	The Chair welcomed members to the Extraordinary Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) meeting and thanked everyone for their contribution in finalising the Report to Those Charged with Governance (RTTCWG) to enable ARAC and Board approval today. Apologies had been received from Lorraine Conlon, Government Liaison Officer.

2.	Conflicts of Interest
2.1	No conflicts of interest were declared.
Governance	
3.0	External Audit
3.1	<i>Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance</i>
3.1.1	<p>Kathy Doey, NIAO confirmed that as there were no audit findings identified in the Report to Those Charged with Governance, an unqualified audit opinion would be recommended to the Comptroller and Auditor General.</p> <p>External Auditor, Zyrus Bati advised that the uncorrected misstatement below would be removed from the report following clarification on the reclassification by the Head of Client Accounting.</p> <p><i>HMRC Debit amount of £5911.00 should be reclassified from Other Payables to Other Receivables</i></p> <p>The following queries posed by Lesley Mitchell were clarified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Page 14 (Letter of Representation) – it was confirmed that the reference to the James House License is correct and the paragraph content was endorsed as correct; 2. Page 15 (Letter of Representation) - Provisions and Holiday Pay. The Acting Chair advised that the Director of Registration & Corporate Services had provided an update on the Sommerville v NMC judgement and Implications for Fitness to Practise Panel Committee Members at the last Remuneration Committee. It was confirmed that the Social Care Council has been accruing calculated liability based on the HSC holiday entitlement calculation although the calculation for 2024/25 will be revisited once a regional approach is agreed. Holiday payment procedures will not be instigated until two similar cases being dealt with by the Department of Health are resolved in Northern Ireland as any action at this point may set a precedent. <p>Lesley Mitchell commended colleagues on an unqualified opinion on the accounts of the Social Care Council and highlighted that it was uncommon to have a Report to Those Charges with Governance with no findings identified and no overhang of previous years recommendations.</p> <p>The Chair also commended colleagues and the organisation on the exceptional level of financial oversight and handling which has contributed to achieving a year end break-even position.</p>

	<p>Decision: Subject to the minor amendment outlined above, the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee endorsed the Report to Those Charged with Governance and commended to the Board for approval.</p> <p>Subject to Board endorsement today, a signed copy of the Annual Report and Accounts will be returned to NIAO. Kathy Doey noted that it is expected that the Northern Ireland Comptroller and Auditor General will sign off the Annual Report and Accounts in the first week of July and the certified Accounts will then be returned.</p>
Closing Formalities	
4.0	Any Other Business
4.1	There was no additional business.
5.0	Date of next meeting
5.1	The next Audit and Risk Assurance Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:30a.m on Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Approved by: Gerry Guckian, Chair, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Signature: 

Date: 2nd October 2024