

Report from the Risk and Audit Committee

Issue

1. The board is kept informed of the work of its Risk and Audit Committee by receiving a report on the outcomes of each meeting. The attached report summarises the outcomes of the Risk and Audit Committee meeting held on 8 September 2022.

Recommendations

2. The board is invited to receive the report of the Risk and Audit Committee.

Further information

3. Available from Kate Lander. Full minutes of the meeting are available to members on request.

Risk and Audit Committee report, September 2022

OfS risk management

1. The committee considered the updated register of OfS's current strategic and principal risks and the changes to this since the last meeting.
2. Exempt from publication.
3. Exempt from publication.
4. We also had the opportunity to discuss the OfS's approach to risk management which sets out the processes in place to support delivery of the OfS's regulatory obligations and strategic objectives. We were assured by the thoroughness of these processes and the level of awareness amongst staff to engage in identifying and reporting risks.
5. In addition, we received a presentation on the actions taken by the OfS to consider its future risks and what has arisen from this work. We welcomed the work that has already been carried out and provided some suggestions on how to develop this activity further.

Data Futures

6. The committee received an update from the Director of Resources and Finance on the risks associated with the Data Futures programme and we were assured that there were no significant updates to report.
7. We welcomed the recent changes that have been made to the oversight arrangements for the programme, including the upcoming 'health check' review by KPMG. We noted that this will provide an independent view of the current state of the programme and provide assurance over its plans for the remainder of the programme.
8. We will continue to receive an update at future meetings and advise the board accordingly.

Internal Audit update

9. The Head of Internal Audit provided the committee with an update on progress against the internal audit plan for 2022-23. The paper also included details of KPMG's follow up on previous internal audit actions. We noted that a revised deadline has been agreed against the one low priority action that has become overdue.
10. We also received two other completed internal audit reviews. We noted that no significant issues had arisen from the review of the OfS's response to reportable events and that the outcomes were consistent with management expectations. We were assured that effective controls are in place in the areas considered by the audit.
11. Exempt from publication.

OfS annual report and accounts 2021-22

12. The committee received an updated audit completion report relating to the OfS's annual report and accounts for 2021-22. This reflected some post-audit work carried out by the NAO, the outcomes of which did not impact on the clean audit opinion previously given for last year's accounts.

Deep dive: cyber security

13. We received a presentation from the Chief Technology Officer on IT risks at the OfS, focussing specifically on cyber security. The thoroughness of the presentation provided us with assurance that the organisation is effectively identifying and managing cyber security risks as far as is possible in an environment where threats are constantly changing.

Kate Lander

September 2022