

Audit Committee 9 December 2009

National Audit Office

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Under the Health Professions Order 2001, HPC is required to appoint an independent external auditor and in addition the Comptroller and Auditor General (the head of the National Audit Office) is required to examine and certify the HPC's accounts and report on them to Parliament.

On 29 September 2009, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that the National Audit Office (NAO) should be appointed as the independent external auditor. This recommendation was approved by the Council on 7 October 2009.

Mr Martin Burgess is replacing Mr Steve Ecroyd as HPC's contact at the NAO. Mr Burgess will give a presentation to the Committee to introduce himself and give a preliminary version of the NAO's audit strategy for the 2009-10 accounts. The Committee will receive a paper at its meeting on 24 February 2010 asking it to review and approve the strategy.

Decision

The Committee is requested to note the document. No decision is required.

Background information

The Committee received a paper to note on the role of the Comptroller and Auditor General at its meeting on 29 September 2009 (paper AUD 46/09). The paper is available from the HPC website at:

http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/committees/audit_archive/index.asp?id=468

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

None directly from this paper. There will be an audit fee payable to the NAO for its external audit work, which will be included in the paper to be considered on 24 February 2010.

Appendices

None.

Date of paper

30 November 2009.