

Health and Care Professions Council

Update on the 2024-25 financial statements audit

Planning and risk assessment

There have been no changes to the significant risks identified in our Audit Planning Report, which was presented to ARAC in March.

As part of our response to the 'Valuation of Land and Buildings' significant risk, after consulting with our internal specialists, we are now in the process of engaging an external expert to assist us with our review of the valuer's work, a change from the approach previously communicated to you.

As part of our interim audit work, we have carried out testing in the following areas:

- Sample of scrutiny fee income for the period April 2024 to December 2024
- Sample of 10 starters, 10 leavers and 10 amendments for the period April 2024 to December 2024 in preparation for our procedures over staff costs

Interim testing

Sample of 'other expenditure' items for the period April 2024 to December 2024

For the staff costs sample, it was agreed to carry out some minor elements of this work during our final audit stage. Otherwise, we are not awaiting any additional information for this interim work. No errors were identified from this interim work. Top-up samples will be selected as necessary during final audit to cover the period of January 2025 to March 2025, in addition to our other final audit procedures on yearend balances and disclosures.

To respond to the Major IT Change significant risk over the implementation of Business Central, we have liaised with our IT Audit specialists to carry out work on assessing the design and implementation of controls relating to the implementation of the new system.

Work on **Significant Risks**

In April, we received evidence for this work, covering areas such as project governance, user acceptance testing and postimplementation review. In addition, we substantively tested the completeness and accuracy of migrated data, through reconciliation of the closing and opening balances from the respective systems. This work is currently complete subject to any final review points from our IT Audit specialists.

Preparations for final audit

Resources are in place for us to commence our final audit work on 28 July 2025. A deliverables list has been shared with the HCPC finance team to outline various documents that we need to be able to complete this final work as efficiently as possible. This list includes indicative expected dates for receipt of each item.

Page 2 of 3

The detailed timeline for the final audit process is included on the following slide.

Final audit timetable

Financial Audit Planning

C&AG signs audit opinion – 15th October. Accounts laid 22nd October

Council approval of accounts – 25th September, followed by AO signing

Audit Completion Report (ACR) presented to ARAC – 18th September

Receipt of first draft of the accounts – 27th June

> July **2025**

Selection of samples in

advance of final

fieldwork where

possible

August **2025**

Sep **2025**

Oct **2025**

June **2025**

Preparation for final fieldwork

HCPC to provide items from deliverables list. NAO to carry out any possible preparatory work such as accounts reviews, sample selections – subject to resource capacity.

Final fieldwork

Test expenditure and income and significant balances and disclosures

Completion

ACR: present our findings and recommendations.

Seek management representations.

C&AG issues opinion.

Management Letter: provide final recommendations on control matters identified.

Debrief

Meeting to discuss lessons learned and improvements for the following year.

