

Joint Audit Committee Chair

Role Profile

Background

An independent Joint Audit Committee for the WMPCC and the Chief Constable for the West Midlands is to be established. It will be a combined body that will advise the WMPCC and the Chief Constable according to good governance principles.

The Joint Audit Committee will comprise between three and five members who are independent of the WMPCC and the WMPS. It will meet four times a year in public. The executive of the WMPCC and the Command Team of the WMP, will be represented at each meeting of the Committee, as required.

The Joint Audit Committee Chair must be independent from the WMPCC and WMPS.

Joint Audit Committee Chair Role

The Joint Audit Committee Chair plays a key role in enhancing public trust and confidence in the governance of the WMPCC and the WMPS, and assisting the WMPCC discharge his statutory responsibilities in holding the Chief Constable to account.

Key Responsibilities

1. To maintain an up to date knowledge and awareness of national and local policing and crime issues
2. Advise the WMPCC and the Chief Constable and/or their nominated representatives of key risk, compliance and governance issues that arise in conducting Joint Audit Committee business.
3. Attend regular meetings with the WMPCC and the Chief Constable and/or their nominated representatives to gain a good understanding of the internal control and operating environment.
4. Establish formal terms of reference for the Joint Audit Committee in line with best practice and covering its core functions, and review on an annual basis.
5. Ensure the Joint Audit Committee effectively discharges its key responsibilities:

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- Provide independent assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment (including risk management) in operation within the WMPCC and the WMPS,
- Advising the WMPCC and the Chief Constable as appropriate.
- Oversee the effectiveness of the framework in place for ensuring compliance with statutory requirements,
- Independently scrutinise financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the WMPCC and WMPS exposure to risks and weakens the internal control environment.
- Oversee the financial reporting process.
- Advising the WMPCC and the Chief Constable on the appropriate arrangements for external and internal audit and ensuring an appropriate response to audit reports and findings.

6. Effectively chair meetings of the Joint Audit Committee ensuring all aspects of business are adequately covered in line with the agreed Terms of Reference.

7. Meet separately with the External Auditor and Head of Internal Audit, to discuss risk, compliance and governance issues arising as a result of external or internal audit activity

8. Provide assurance to the External Auditor on governance issues in their capacity as Joint Audit Committee Chair.

9. Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the Joint Audit Committee.

10. Promote equality of opportunity and work to eliminate unlawful discrimination.

11. Comply with all relevant codes of conduct and maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

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