



POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

AND

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF ESSEX

Audit of Accounts: Year Ended 31st March 2024

Public Inspection of Accounts and Right of Challenge

Notice of the Commencement of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights

**The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015
The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022**

2023/24 Statement of Accounts

The requirement in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) was for the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts public inspection period to be commenced by the 1st June 2024. This meant that the deadline to publish the unaudited accounts was the 31st May 2024, with a deadline to publish the audited statements by the 30th September 2024 for all local authority bodies, including police forces. However, as set out within the previous publication and opinion notice the public inspection period could not commence until the audit opinion for the 2022/23 financial statements had been signed off, whereby they could then resign as external auditors. This process has now been completed with Ernst & Young Ltd subsequently appointed as the new external auditors for Essex Police.

The accounts for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex and the Chief Constable of Essex are subject to external audit by Mr Mark Hodgson, Partner, Government & Public Sector, UK & I Assurance, Ernst & Young LLP, mhodgson@uk.ey.com (Telephone 07541 346507). As the Statement of Accounts are subject to audit, changes may occur during the public inspection period. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. From Thursday 19th September to Wednesday 30th October (inclusive) between 10am and 4pm (Monday to Friday) any person interested may inspect and make copies of the draft accounts of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex and the Chief Constable of Essex for the year ended 31st March 2024 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts). The accounts and other documents will be available for inspection at the offices at which they are normally kept. Any alternative arrangement would need to be agreed in advance. Application should be made initially to Mrs Annette Chan, Head of Finance, Essex Police, Essex Police Headquarters, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6DA, Tel: 07889 703174.
2. From 10am on Thursday 19th September until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of Essex, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor, Mr Mark Hodgson, at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
3. Questions may be received by Mrs Janet Perry, Chief Financial Officer to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Kelvedon Park, London Road, Rivenhall, Witham, CM8 3HB, (Telephone 01245 291607) or Mrs Debbie Martin, Chief Finance Officer of the Chief Constable of Essex, Essex Police, Essex Police Headquarters, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6DA (Telephone 01245 452615) by prior arrangement with the auditor, Mr Mark Hodgson, at the address given above to whom requests for this purpose should be addressed.
4. From 10am on Thursday 19th September until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of Essex Police or his/her representative, may make an objection to the local auditor, Mr Mark Hodgson, which concerns a matter in respect of which he

could make a public interest report (under section 27 of the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 28 of the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014). Written notice of the proposed objection and the grounds on which it will be made must be sent to the auditor, Mr Mark Hodgson, at the address given above and also copied to Mrs Janet Perry and Mrs Debbie Martin at the addresses given above.

5. No objection may be made unless the auditor, Mr Mark Hodgson, at the address given above has previously received notice in writing of the proposed objection and its grounds. Copies of this notice must be sent to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, care of Mrs Janet Perry and the Chief Constable of Essex care of Mrs Debbie Martin, at the addresses given below.

Dated: 18th September 2024

Janet Perry
Chief Financial Officer for the
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
07738 681621

Janet.perry@essex.police.uk

Deborah Martin
Chief Finance Officer of the
Chief Constable of Essex
07525 408815

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