

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 24 January 2024

Members of the Commission present:

In the absence of the Chair, Clive Efford was called to the Chair.

Clive Efford, in the Chair

Dame Meg Hillier

Mrs Sharon Hodgson

In private

1. Minutes of last meeting

The Commission agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 28 November 2023.

2. Appointment of non-executive candidate to NAO Board

The Commission considered correspondence from Dame Fiona Reynolds to the Chair on the appointment of Mr Hetan Shah to the NAO board, dated 8 December 2023.

It was noted that the pre-appointment checks had been now completed.

The Commission agreed to:

- appoint Hetan Shah, the candidate who had been presented by Dame Fiona, as a non-executive member of the NAO board for a three-year term.
- the proposed remuneration of a non-pensionable fee of £20,000 per annum.
- publish the correspondence with Dame Fiona relating to the appointment.

3. Consideration of HM Treasury advice on NAO Supplementary Estimate.

The Commission considered HM Treasury's advice on the NAO's Supplementary Estimate for 2023/24, dated 16 January 2024.

4. Discussion of lines of questioning for public session

The Commission was briefed by Alex Knight (Scrutiny Unit) on the areas of questioning for the public evidence session.

In public

5. Public evidence session: NAO Main Estimate 2023/24

The Commission took evidence in public from Gareth Davies, Comptroller and Auditor General, Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE, Chair, and Daniel Lambauer, Executive Director, National Audit Office on the NAO's Supplementary Estimate for 2023/24.

In private

6. Consideration of NAO Supplementary Estimate 2023/24

The Commission consider the NAO's draft supplementary estimate. It agreed to:

- approve the NAO's supplementary estimate for 2023/24.
- publish HM Treasury's advice on the NAO's Supplementary Estimate and the NAO's memorandum on the supplementary estimate 2023/24.

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 6 March 2024

Members of the Commission present:

Mr Richard Bacon, in the Chair

Jack Brereton
Clive Efford

Peter Grant
Dame Meg Hillier

In private

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 were agreed to.

2. Appointment of the NAO's auditors

The Commission considered a letter from Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE, Chair, NAO, on appointment of external auditors for the NAO, dated 21 February 2024.

The Commission agreed to the reappointment of Crowe as the NAO's auditor for a period of three years from 1 April 2024. It was noted that the terms of the contract allowed for a further two-year extension to 31 March 2029.

3. Publication of correspondence

The Commission agreed to publish the following correspondence:

- Letter from the Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts, to the Chair, regarding advice on the NAO's Estimate for 2024/25, dated 19 February 2024.
- Letter from the Treasury Officer of Accounts, regarding advice on the NAO Estimate for 2024/25, dated 26 February 2024.

4. Consideration of Public Accounts Committee and HM Treasury advice on NAO Estimate

The Commission considered the Public Accounts Committee's and HM Treasury's advice on the NAO's Main Estimate for 2024/25, and the progress update on its 2020-21 to 2024-2025 Strategy.

The Committee also considered a note from Lynn Pamment, the Commission's Independent Audit Adviser, providing initial observations on the Financial Reporting Council's 2022/23 Audit Quality Inspection Report, dated 28 February 2024.

5. Discussion of lines of questioning for public session

The Commission considered this matter.

In public

6. Public evidence session: NAO Main Estimate 2024/25

Peter Grant noted that he was a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Gareth Davies, Comptroller and Auditor General, Dame Fiona Reynolds, Chair, and Daniel Lambauer, Executive Director, National Audit Office gave evidence on the NAO's Main Estimate for 2024/25 and progress against the 2020-21 to 2024-25 Strategy.

In private

7. Consideration of NAO Main Estimate 2024/25

The Commission agreed to lay the NAO's Main Estimate for 2024/25 before the House of Commons.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

[The Commission adjourned]

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 1 May 2024

Members of the Commission present:

Mr Richard Bacon, in the Chair

Peter Grant
Dame Meg Hillier

Mrs Sharon Hodgson

In private

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2024 were agreed to.

2. Consideration of annual report

The Commission agreed its annual report for 2023, *Work of the Commission in 2023*.

3. Financial Reporting Council briefing on NAO Audit Quality 2022-23

The Commission was briefed by Anthony Barrett, Director, Audit Quality Review, and Ian Mansfield, Senior Quality Assurance Inspector, Financial Reporting Council, on the FRC's report on the NAO's audit quality for 2022-23.

4. Scrutiny Unit briefing on NAO Audit Quality 2022-23

The Commission was briefed on the NAO's Audit Quality for 2022-23 by Lynn Pamment (expert audit adviser) and Alex Knight (Scrutiny Unit), in preparation for the planned public evidence session on the NAO's audit quality.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

[The Commission adjourned]