

The Annual Audit Letter for Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

Year ended 31 March 2015

26 October 2015

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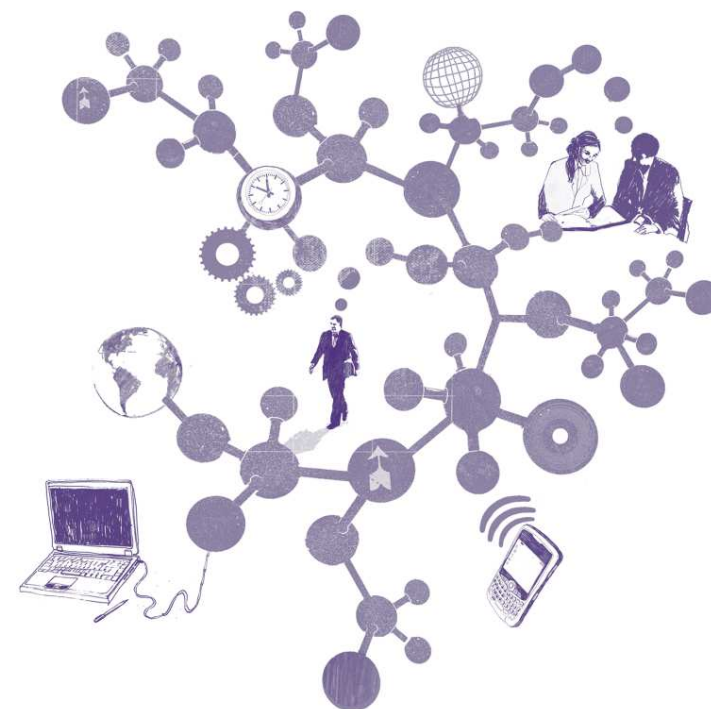
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Key messages

Our Annual Audit Letter summarises the key findings arising from the work that we have carried out at Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority ('the Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2015.

The Letter is intended to communicate key messages to the Authority and external stakeholders, including members of the public. Our annual work programme, which includes nationally prescribed and locally determined work, has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan that we issued on 30 March 2015 and was conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and other guidance issued by the Audit Commission and Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

Financial statements audit (including audit opinion)

We reported our findings arising from the audit of the financial statements in our Audit Findings Report on 25 September 2015 to the full Authority meeting. The key messages reported were:

- we received draft financial statements for audit in advance of the statutory deadline of 30 June and in accordance with our agreed timetable
- the standard of the financial statements and supporting working papers was good, despite the challenging timetable, primarily due to the Authority's increased focus and external support received on the closedown and accounts production process
- the audit resulted in one significant adjustment to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, improving the Authority's outturn position by £943,000 with a corresponding impact on useable reserves. The adjustment related to an invoice that had been expensed twice.

We issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2014/15 financial statements on 29 September 2015, meeting the deadline set by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Our opinion confirms that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position and of the income and expenditure recorded by the Authority.

Looking ahead, the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2015 require authorities to approve and publish their accounts by 31 May and 31 July respectively (currently 30 June and 30 September). We will be discussing with officers the arrangements for bringing forward the accounts and audit completion period, including an earlier Authority meeting date, ahead of the changes to the national deadlines in 2017/18.

Key messages continued

Value for Money (VfM) conclusion	<p>Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority is a "small entity" for the purposes of the Value for Money assessment. Accordingly, we are not required to issue an opinion on whether the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Instead, we are required to report by exception if there are any matters which indicate that the Authority does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.</p> <p>We are pleased to report that our review of the Authority's value for money arrangements did not identify any matters which indicate proper arrangements are not in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We issued our VfM conclusion for 2014/15 on 29 September 2015.</p>
Whole of Government Accounts	<p>We considered the consolidation pack which the Authority prepared to support the production of Whole of Government Accounts (WGA). Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority is below the reporting threshold, accordingly, a detailed review of the WGA Data Collection Tool (DCT) was not required.</p>
Audit fee	<p>Our fee for 2014/15 was £39,150, excluding VAT which was in line with our planned fee for the year. Further detail is included at Appendix A.</p>

Appendix A: Reports issued and fees

We confirm below the fees charged for the audit and non-audit services.

Fees for audit services

	Per Audit plan £	Actual fees £
Authority audit	39,150	39,150
Additional audit fees	0	0
Total audit fees	39,150	39,150

Fees for other services

Service	Fees £
None	Nil

Reports issued

Report	Date issued
Audit Plan	March 2015
Audit Findings Report	September 2015
Annual Audit Letter	October 2015



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