



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Internal Audit Progress Report

4 March 2024

This report is solely for the use of the persons to whom it is addressed.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP will accept no responsibility or liability in respect of this report to any other party.

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING



Progress against the internal audit plan

The Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 was approved by the Audit & Standards Committee March 2023. Two audits have been finalised since the last meeting, highlighted in bold below. One review is at the fieldwork stage.

Assignment and Executive Lead	Status / Opinion issued	Actions agreed			Planned Timing (as per ANA)
		L	M	H	
2023/24					
Governance of the Project Management Office	Final – Substantial Assurance	2	0	0	Q2
Strategic approach to partnerships and collaborations	Final – Partial Assurance	1	7	0	Q2
Contaminants and staff health and safety	Final – Partial Assurance	1	2	1	Q1
Stock control in stores and technical bay	Fieldwork in Progress				Q4
Follow Up	To commence 4 March 2024				Q4
Key Financial controls	To commence 18 March 2024				Q3



Appendix A – Other matters

Head of Internal Audit Opinion

The Audit and Standards Committee should note that the assurances given in our audit assignments are included within our Annual Assurance report. The Committee should note that any negative assurance opinions will need to be noted in the annual report and may result in a qualified or negative annual opinion.

Changes to the audit plan

Change reported previously - The completion of the contaminants and staff health and safety review has been delayed due to staff sickness and is now in draft.

Information and briefings

Since the last Audit and Standards Committee, we have issued our:

- Emergency Services News Briefing – November 2023.
- RSM Emerging Risk Radar 3rd Edition January 2024.

Quality assurance and continual improvement

To ensure that RSM remains compliant with the IIA standards and the financial services recommendations for Internal Audit we have a dedicated internal Quality Assurance Team who undertake a programme of reviews to ensure the quality of our audit assignments. This is applicable to all Heads of Internal Audit, where a sample of their clients will be reviewed. Any findings from these reviews being used to inform the training needs of our audit teams.

The Quality Assurance Team is made up of; the Head of the Quality Assurance Department (FCA qualified) and an Associate Director (FCCA qualified), with support from other team members across the department.

This is in addition to any feedback we receive from our post assignment surveys, client feedback, appraisal processes and training needs assessments.



For more information contact

Suzanne Rowlett

Suzanne.Rowlett@rsmuk.com

07720 508148

rsmuk.com

The matters raised in this report are only those which came to our attention during the course of our review and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or all improvements that might be made. Actions for improvements should be assessed by you for their full impact. This report, or our work, should not be taken as a substitute for management's responsibilities for the application of sound commercial practices. We emphasise that the responsibility for a sound system of internal controls rests with management and our work should not be relied upon to identify all strengths and weaknesses that may exist. Neither should our work be relied upon to identify all circumstances of fraud and irregularity should there be any.

Our report is prepared solely for the confidential use of Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and solely for the purposes set out herein. This report should not therefore be regarded as suitable to be used or relied on by any other party wishing to acquire any rights from RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP for any purpose or in any context. Any third party which obtains access to this report or a copy and chooses to rely on it (or any part of it) will do so at its own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP will accept no responsibility or liability in respect of this report to any other party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by any person's reliance on representations in this report.

This report is released to you on the basis that it shall not be copied, referred to or disclosed, in whole or in part (save as otherwise permitted by agreed written terms), without our prior written consent.

We have no responsibility to update this report for events and circumstances occurring after the date of this report.

RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales no. OC389499 at 6th floor, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4AB.