

MIAA - Internal Audit Service External Quality Assessment Approach

1 Introduction and Background

From April 2025 MIAA are required to comply with the Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector) (collectively referred to as GIAS throughout this document). These documents replace the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

As required by the GIAS external assessments to confirm our compliance with standards must be conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team from outside the organisation.

There are two approaches to EQAs allowed under GIAS:

- An external reviewer undertakes a full assessment; or
- An external reviewer validates the internal audit service's own self-assessment.

2 EQA Approach – Scope, Frequency and Rationale

MIAA undertake annual self-assessments against GIAS (and previous standards). The option that is both the most efficient and presents best value is to commission an external reviewer to validate our own self-assessment.

Our last EQA was completed in 20/21 financial year and therefore we are required to commission an EQA in 25/26 to meet the 5 year requirement outlined in GIAS.

This approach will provide assurance of the service MIAA provides and a final report will be produced for sharing with client Accounts & Audit committees.

3 The External Reviewer

MIAA has appointed the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to undertake our EQA. CIPFA is one of the professional bodies who sets the internal audit standards for public bodies and provides professional guidance on the standards as well as other aspects of internal audit, assurance, governance and risk management. The CIPFA team is experienced, competent and independent of MIAA and our clients and therefore fully meets the requirements of the GIAS.

4 Principal Authorities – EQA Requirements

CIPFA are the Relevant Internal Audit Standard Setter (RIASS) for UK local government (which includes police and fire services). They have recently issued a briefing on [External quality assessments of internal audit in UK local government](#). This briefing states that: 'Where internal audit providers have more than one local government client the governance

arrangements for internal audit should be separately considered so that there can be a conclusion for each client'.

MIAA's EQA will provide assurance on the service we provide to you and therefore will not provide a conclusion on your individual internal governance arrangements for internal audit. We would advise you to liaise directly with CIPFA on this matter.

5 Accounts & Audit Committee Approval

As set out under GIAS we are required to ask our **client Accounts & Audit committees to approve** our plan for EQA outlined in this briefing.

Appendix A – Global Internal Audit Standards (UK public sector)

Domain III: *Governing the Internal Audit Function* of the *Global Internal Audit Standards (UK public sector)* places a number of responsibilities on Boards and Senior Management regardless of the model of internal audit delivery (e.g. shared service, inhouse team etc...)

The Essential Conditions for Boards and Senior Management outlined in the standards are required to support internal audit in meeting its purpose and conforming with standards. The Relevant Internal Audit Standard Setters (RIASS) for UK local government, CIPFA have recognised that the governance structures, laws and regulations within UK local government impact how the Essential Conditions can be applied. CIPFA have produced a *Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government*¹ (the Code) which meets the objectives of the Essential Conditions as appropriate to UK Local Government. The Code is designed to work alongside *Global Internal Audit Standards (UK public sector)*.

Authorities should explain how they comply with the Code in their Annual Governance Statement and Accounts & Audit Committee members and Senior Management should familiarise themselves with the full content of the Code.

To support you in meeting the requirements of the Code we have listed the high-level Provisions of the Code in following table outlining how you ensure going compliance:

To support you in meeting the requirements of the Code we provided a briefing to you: *25/26 MIAA Local Government Accounts & Audit Committee Insight and Client Briefing – Global Internal Audit Standards (UK public sector), April 25* listing the high-level Provisions of the Code and outlining how you ensure going compliance:

We highlighted that the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) was producing further guidance on the external audit quality assessment process. The Relevant Internal Audit Standard Setters (RIASS) for the UK Public Sector who sit on UK Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards Advisory Board (IASAB) agreed to review both the External Quality Assessment guidance as it was issued to assess whether or to what extent they will be adopted by the UK public sector. The IASAB has decided to issue a statement on how EQAs can be approached in the UK public sector. This statement is yet to be finalised but we can confirm that the approach MIAA is proposing to assess our service to you aligns to the approaches outlined in the draft statement. As highlighted in section 4 of this briefing this will not provide a conclusion on your internal governance arrangements.

¹ [Governance of Internal Audit in Local Government | CIPFA](#)