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Grant Thornton UK
LLP 17th Floor
103 Colmore Row
Birmingham
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Date: 25th February 2025

Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP

Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of The Chief Constable of Lincolnshire (the Chief Constable) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the Chief Constable's financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting

in the United Kingdom 2023/24 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.

- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Chief Constable and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The Chief Constable has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include the valuation of the net defined pension liability and accruals. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
- vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.

For the 2023/24 financial year, separate actuarial reports were commissioned for the PCC and CC to improve the accuracy of the estimations disclosed within the individual entities of the group, based on actual individuals in the pension scheme, compared with the previous estimation method using an apportionment basis.

This represents a change in the methodology used to estimate the staff pension revenue movements, asset/liability and related reserve figures in each of the PCC and CC accounts. The group accounting policy states that changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior year period adjustment.

This change in estimation methodology used by the Group to calculate the IAS19 pension estimates in the accounts, required an in-year reclassification from the PCC to the CC of

£4.404m, after applying the current year movements calculated on the new basis of pension fund membership data. This was necessary to achieve a correct closing balance for each organisation within the group whereby the full pension assets/liabilities and pension reserves were correctly allocated.

- vii. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent;
 - b. none of the assets of the Chief Constable have been assigned, pledged or mortgaged; and
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- viii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
- ix. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- x. We have considered the adjusted misstatements and misclassifications and disclosures change schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The Chief Constable's financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xi. There were no misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report to bring to our attention in respect of the results of the Chief Constable and its financial position at the year-end. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xii. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.

- xiii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xiv. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Chief Constable's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that:
 - a. the nature of the Chief Constable's operations means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease its operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements;
 - b. the financial reporting framework permits the entity to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
 - c. the Chief Constable's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.
- xv. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Chief Constable's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.
- xvi. The Chief Constable has complied with all aspects of ring-fenced grants that could have a material effect on the Chief Constable's financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

Information Provided

- xvii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xviii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Chief Constable's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xix. On 30 September 2024 parliament approved the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024. These Regulations set a publication date for financial statements in respect of 2023/24 of 28 February 2025. The new National Audit Office Code which was approved on 14 November 2024 also requires that where auditors are unable to conclude their work, they should issue either a qualified audit opinion or a disclaimer of opinion by this date, known as the 'statutory backstop date'. This includes providing you with access to all

information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the Chief Constable's financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters and additional information that you might have requested from us for the purpose of your audit. It has not been possible to provide you with all the required information for you to complete your audit for year ending 31 March 2024 by the statutory backstop date.

- xx. We have provided you with access to persons within the Chief Constable via remote arrangements, from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xxi. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Chief Constable, and involves:
 - a. management;
 - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xxiv. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xxv. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xxvi. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Annual Governance Statement

- xxvii. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Chief Constable's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

xxviii. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the Chief Constable's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the Chief Constable's financial statements.

Yours faithfully

Paul Gibson

The Chief Constable of Lincolnshire

Date: 25th February 2025

Sharon Clark

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

(S151) On behalf of The Chief Constable of

Lincolnshire Date: 25th February 2025