

Independent auditor's report to the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire

In our auditor's report issued on 27 February 2025 we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire ('Chief Constable') for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice, until we had completed the work necessary in relation to consolidation returns, including Whole of Government Accounts (WGA), and the National Audit Office (NAO) had concluded their work in respect of WGA for the year ended 31 March 2024. The NAO has now concluded their work in respect of WGA for the year ended 31 March 2024 and confirmed that audit certificates that are open in relation to this can be issued. We are therefore satisfied all audit work necessary has been completed.

Disclaimer of opinion

In our auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2024 issued on 27 February 2025 we reported that, we did not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Chief Constable. Because of the significance of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our auditor's report, we were unable to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

In our auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2024 issued on 27 February 2025 we reported that we had nothing to report in respect of whether the Chief Constable had made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024 except on 28 January 2025, we identified a significant weakness in the Chief Constable's governance arrangements and arrangements for improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This was in relation to the ongoing work needed to place the Force in a position where it consistently provides a good standard of service to fully exit His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) Engage monitoring status and remove HMICFRS' causes of concern.

We recommended that the Chief Constable should continue to facilitate exit from HMICFRS' enhanced scrutiny arrangements. It should continue to focus on delivering and sustaining the improvements required to address HMICFRS' five causes of concern and appropriately resourcing the oversight and monitoring of the ongoing suite of actions.

No matters have come to our attention since that date that would have resulted in any additional exception reporting on the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities of the Chief Constable

The Chief Constable is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether

all aspects of the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Chief Constable plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Chief Constable ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Chief Constable uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Chief Constable has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor's Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Audit certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Chief Constable, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Chief Constable those matters we are required to state to the Chief Constable in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Chief Constable as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Richard J J Anderson

Richard Anderson, Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Birmingham

15 August 2025