



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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30 April 2021

Dear Daniel

**Audit Committee Review of the Governance and Accountability Arrangements
of NIAO**

Further to your letter of 12 March to request feedback on the quality of service and performance of the Northern Ireland Audit Office, PAC discussed this request on 15 April and agreed that it would be useful to review NIAO performance against the service provided to PACs in other Audit Institutions.

At its meeting of 29 April 2021, some comparative information was made available to the Committee. However, on reflection, the Committee did not feel it was currently in a position to comment comprehensively on the service provided by NIAO. The Committee expressed that it was satisfied with the service provided by the Audit Office, which it regarded as positive and very productive. However, Members agreed that it was premature to provide a full assessment of the service and performance of NIAO due to the relatively short timeframe in which this working relationship has operated.

The Committee agreed that it would be willing to provide a fuller assessment towards the end of the mandate and should the Audit Committee wish to seek further feedback at a later date, the Committee would be content to provide this feedback.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William J. Humphrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".

William Humphrey MLA MBE
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee



**Northern Ireland
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Audit Committee

William Humphrey MLA
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee
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(Via email: committee.publicaccounts@niassembly.gov.uk)

12 March 2021

Dear William

Review of the governance and accountability arrangements for the Northern Ireland Audit Office and the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman

At its meeting on 10 March 2021, the Audit Committee received oral evidence from a number of experts as part of its [Review of the governance and accountability arrangements for the Northern Ireland Audit Office \(NIAO\) and the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman \(NIPSO\)](#).

The purpose of the review is to establish the scope for improving the governance and accountability arrangements for the NIAO and the NIPSO and the appropriate avenues for implementing any future improvements in the context of the Committee's defined statutory functions in relation to both bodies.

Following the evidence sessions, the Committee agreed to write to the Public Accounts Committee to seek its view on the quality of service and performance of the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

DANIEL MCCROSSAN MLA
Chairperson, Audit Committee

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