

Government publishes response to audit review

- Government publishes response to independent review by Sir Tony Redmond on council financial reporting
- Government commits to measures that will help councils improve transparency and accountability
- An additional £15 million for councils to help them deliver the recommendations

The government has published its [response](#) to the independent review into the effectiveness of local audit which was carried out by Sir Tony Redmond earlier this year.

The review, launched in July 2019, examined whether the reporting regimes are robust enough to spot early warning signs, such as risks from commercial investments, to protect public funds and better serve taxpayers.

The response sets out how we will implement many of the recommendations made by Sir Tony Redmond, including swift action to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the local audit system and improvements to make financial information more transparent.

In particular, councils will be required to produce an easily accessible statement of their accounts which will make it easier for taxpayers and service users to hold them to account.

An additional £15 million will be provided in 2021-22 to support councils fund the likely increase in audit fees and to produce these annual statements.

Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick said:

It is vital that there is a robust audit system in place across local government to deliver value for money, accountability and transparency for the taxpayer. We've seen in Croydon and Nottingham the consequences when that isn't the case.

I would like to thank Sir Tony Redmond for his thorough review. It is an important step towards strengthening the local audit regime, and I have announced additional funding today to ensure we can now begin implementing his recommendations.

The government response sets out a number of measures. These include:

- Temporarily extending the deadline to 30 September for the publication of local authorities' audited accounts to give them more time to address any issues

- Making it easier for PSAA, councils and audit firms to agree appropriate fee scales to meet the cost of additional audit work, and
- Working with partner organisations such as CIPFA, the ICAEW and the FRC to improve the long-term supply of well-trained local auditors
- Requiring councils to produce an easily accessible annual statement of their service costs.
- Requiring auditors to present their findings to a Full Council meeting every year, helping councillors and residents better hold councils to account.

A call for evidence was opened last year seeking views from practitioners who work in the local government sector, the audit community, representative bodies and other relevant or interested parties.

Councils in England are responsible for 22% of total UK public sector expenditure.

The responsibilities for local authority audits and how they are conducted is set out within the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

The 2014 Act gave effect to government manifesto commitments to abolish the Audit Commission and its centralised performance and inspection regimes and put in place a new localised audit regime, refocussing local accountability on improved transparency.

The abolition of the Commission centralised audit regime and its top down inspection was estimated to save taxpayers £1.2 billion over 10 years.

[First ballot of the 2021 Youth Mobility Scheme for Taiwanese youth](#)

There are a total of 1,000 places available to Taiwanese youth for 2021. 800 applicants will be selected in the first ballot in January, while the remainder of the places will be made available in a second ballot in July 2021. If your application is successful you will be able to live, work and study in the UK for up to 2 years.

How to apply

If you would like to apply for the scheme you should send one email per applicant to: Taiwan.YMS2021@FCDO.gov.uk between midday (12pm) on Monday 25 January 2021 to midday on Wednesday 27 January 2021 (Taiwan time).

The header or subject line of your email must contain your name, date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY) and passport number as shown in your passport.

This must be written in English only.

For example: WU Janice – 31/03/2000 – Passport123456789

The main body of your email should include the following information, written in English:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Passport number
- Mobile phone number

The email account will only be open for 48 hours and all emails received within this timeframe will be sent an automated reply confirming receipt.

Once the ballot closes 800 applicants will be chosen at random by UKVI. If you have been successful a second email will be sent to you from week commencing 8 February to confirm acceptance and provide further instructions on how to make an appointment, along with documentary evidence required to apply for your entry clearance.

Please note successful applicants must prepare online applications and online credit card payments no later than 8 March 2021. Failure to submit your payment online by this date will automatically remove your name from the list and your allocation will be retracted. After you have paid online you have 90 days to submit your paperwork for consideration.

If you are a Taiwanese youth living overseas you can also apply following the instructions above, and if you are chosen to apply you will be able to do so in your country/territory of residence. Applications cannot be submitted for the Youth Mobility Scheme in the UK.

If you're unsuccessful you will receive an email by 12 February and no further action is required. Further information about the scheme [can be found on GOV.UK](#) and any enquiries relating to the application process, online application forms and questions in general should be directed to the [UKVI International Enquiry Line](#).

[Thematic update on progress against the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations](#)

These documents provide updates on the progress that has been made to implement the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report. They include updates from the relevant government departments and assurances

received from relevant public authorities – including the London Fire Brigade (LFB), National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and other emergency services – on their progress to address and implement the Phase 1 recommendations directed to them.

These updates, and the government’s commitment to update regularly, will bring considerable transparency to what is a vitally important area of work.

These documents do not reflect finalised government policy.

[The Prime Minister has reappointed Dame Jayne-Anne Gadhia as Trustee of the Tate.](#)

News story

Dame Jayne-Anne Gadhia has been reappointed by the Prime Minister as Trustee of the Tate for a four year period from 14 November 2020 to 13 November 2024.



Jayne-Anne is the Founder and Executive Chair of Snoop, and an Adviser to Salesforce UKI. From 2007 to 2018 she was the CEO of Virgin Money.

A Chartered Accountant, she spent six years at Norwich Union (now Aviva) before becoming one of the founders of Virgin Direct in 1995. Three years later, she set up the Virgin One account, which was acquired by the Royal Bank of Scotland in 2001. She subsequently spent five years at RBS before returning to Virgin as CEO of Virgin Money.

In November 2016 she was appointed as the UK Government’s Women in Finance Champion, and in July 2017 she became a founder member of its Business Diversity and Inclusion Group. In 2018 she was named Leader of the Year at the Lloyds Bank National Business Awards.

She is Chair of the Prince's Foundation and Trustee of the Tate. She sits on the UK Government's Industrial Strategy Council, Mayor of London's Business Advisory Board, CRUK Corporate Board, Financial Inclusion Policy Forum and Lloyds Culture Advisory Group.

She was made a Dame in the 2019 New Year's Honours list.

This role is not remunerated. This reappointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#), the process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Dame Gadhia has declared a donation to a political party.

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[The Secretary of State has appointed Sir Mark Walport as the Royal Society's Trustee for the British Museum.](#)

News story

Sir Mark Walport has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as the Royal Society's Trustee for the British Museum for four years from 01 December 2020 to 30 November 2024.



Sir Mark Walport is the Chairman of the Kennedy Memorial Trust and the recently retired founding Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), which is responsible for the public funding of research and

innovation.

He was Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA) and Head of the Government Office for Science from April 2013 to September 2017.

His previous career highlights include:

Director of the Wellcome Trust

Professor of Medicine and Head of the Division of Medicine at Imperial College London

Founder Fellow and first Registrar of the Academy of Medical Sciences

member of the advisory board of Infrastructure UK

member of the India-UK CEO Forum and UK-India Round Table

non-executive member of the Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research

Mark received a knighthood in the 2009 New Year Honours List for services to medical research and was elected a Fellow of The Royal Society in 2011 and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2017.

This role is not remunerated. This appointment process was not regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and therefore is not subject to the Government's Governance Code for Public Appointments. However, in line with the Governance Code, Sir Walport was asked to declare any significant political activity undertaken in the last five years. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Sir Walport has not declared any activity.

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