



DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

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**SERVICE HEADQUARTERS
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Your ref :
Our ref : DSFRA/SJS/SB
Website : www.dsfire.gov.uk

Date : 20 January 2025
Please ask for : Sam Sharman
Email : ssharman@dsfire.gov.uk

Telephone : 01392 872200
Fax : 01392 872300

Dear Sirs and Madams

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience such as we consider necessary in connection with your audit of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority (the Authority) financial statements (and its subsidiary undertaking) for the year ended 31 March 2024. These enquiries have included inspection of supporting documentation where appropriate, and are sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can make each of the following representations. All representations are made to the best of our knowledge and belief.

1. General

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the group and Authority'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) and applicable law and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you.

All the transactions undertaken by the group and the Authority have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records.

All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit of the group and the Authority. We have provided you with unrestricted access to all appropriate persons within the Authority, and with all other records and related information requested, including minutes of all Authority and Committee meetings.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

The effects of uncorrected misstatements (as set out in the appendix to this letter) are immaterial both individually and in total [Appendix 1 enclosed].

2. Internal control and fraud

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error, and we believe that we have appropriately fulfilled these responsibilities. We have disclosed to you the results of our risk assessment that the financial statements may be misstated as a result of fraud.

We have disclosed to you all instances of known or suspected fraud affecting the group and the Authority involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control or others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

We have also disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the group and the Authority's financial statements communicated by current or former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

3. Assets and liabilities

The group and the Authority has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the group and the Authority's assets, except for those that are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include PPE valuations & pension liability valuations.

All actual liabilities, contingent liabilities and guarantees given to third parties have been recorded or disclosed as appropriate.

We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and, where relevant, the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

4. Accounting estimates

The methods, data and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement and disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

5. Legal claims

We have disclosed to you all claims in connection with litigation that have been, or are expected to be, received and such matters, as appropriate, have been properly accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.

6. Laws and regulations

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 the financial statements.

We confirm that all correspondence with our Regulators has been made available to you.

7. Related parties

Related party relationships and transactions comply with the Authority's financial regulations, relevant requirements of the Code and have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements. We have disclosed to you all relevant information concerning such relationships and transactions and are not aware of any other matters which require disclosure in order to comply with regulatory, legislative and accounting standards requirements.

8. Subsequent events

All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements which require adjustment or disclosure have been properly accounted for and disclosed.

9. Going concern

We believe that the group and the Authority's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that the financial reporting framework applicable to local government bodies means that the anticipated continued provision of entity's services in the public sector is normally sufficient evidence of going concern. We have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern.

10. Annual Governance Statement

We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Authority'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.

11. Narrative Report

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

We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by you in connection with preparing your audit report of which you are unaware.

We have taken all the appropriate steps in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit/ other information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Yours faithfully

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Signed on behalf of the Audit & Governance Committee of Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority

20 JANUARY 2025

APPENDIX 1- Uncorrected misstatements
Misclassifications and adjustments to disclosures

The table below provides details of any misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit.

Misclassification/ Disclosure change	Audit comment	Adjusted?
Misclassification of cash equivalents as short-term investments	Cash equivalents of £150k were recognised under short term investments. This is not material and management have not adjusted for it.	x

Unadjusted items

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the 2023/24 audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit & Governance Committee is required to approve management’s proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below. (These are also set out in the Letter of Representation.)

	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Balance sheet	
	Dr	Cr	Dr	Cr
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Authority’s share of unadjusted errors identified by the auditor of the Devon County Pension Fund	-	(227)	227	-
Total	-	(227)	227	-