



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Scottish Commission for Public Audit

Stephen Boyle
Auditor General for Scotland
Audit Scotland

5 August 2025

Dear Stephen

Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25

Many thanks to you and your colleagues for giving evidence to the Scottish Commission for Public Audit (SCPA) in relation to Audit Scotland's Annual Report and Accounts for 2024/25 at its meeting on 23 June 2025. The SCPA has considered the evidence received and agreed to seek a response to the points set out below.

The SCPA is aware that Audit Scotland adjusted its 2024/25 approved budget to reflect the known impact of IFRS 16 – Leases. However, comparing actual expenditure against the adjusted budget, significant variances have been highlighted as follows:

- **Rent and rates** in 2024/25 were £110K (or 24%) underspent against the adjusted budget for 2024/25. Can Audit Scotland explain this underspend given the budget was adjusted to reflect IFRS 16?
- **Travel and subsistence** costs are £52k (or 30%) underspent against the adjusted budget for 2024/25. Can Audit Scotland confirm that the now recurring trends of budget underspends in this area will be reflected in its 2026/27 budget proposal?
- **Other accommodation costs** are £237K (or 49%) overspent against the adjusted budget for 2024/25. Can Audit Scotland explain the overspend given the impact of IFRS 16 has been provided for in the adjusted budget?
- **Legal and Professional Fees** are £269k (or 37%) overspent against the adjusted budget for 2024/25. Can Audit Scotland explain what additional costs have been incurred against this budget heading?
- **Information technology** costs are £91K (or 13%) overspent against the adjusted budget for 2024/25. Can Audit Scotland explain the significant increase in information technology costs against the adjusted budget?

Contact: Scottish Commission for Public Audit, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

Email scpa@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

The SCPA asks that a response is provided by **5 September 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Beattie', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Colin Beattie MSP
Chair