

Public Audit Committee

11th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Thursday, 31 March 2022

Major ICT projects: Accountability and governance arrangements

Introduction

1. At its meeting today, the Public Audit Committee will take evidence from Scottish Government officials on the management of public sector Information and Communication Technology (ICT) projects. The Committee seeks to explore the governance, assurance and oversight arrangements that are in place in respect of public sector ICT projects, and how lessons are learned and shared throughout the public sector.

Background

2. The Session 5 Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee considered a series of reports from the Auditor General concerning failings in public sector ICT projects which significantly impacted on public funds. The reasons for the failings were multiple, including an underestimate by the public body about the level of skills and experience required to manage a project, miscommunication between the public body and the contractor about what is required and a lack of oversight by the Scottish Government. The reports also highlighted poor planning and an inability to recruit and train appropriately skilled ICT staff as other contributing factors.
3. Following its scrutiny of Audit Scotland's report, [Principles for a Digital Future: Lessons learned from public sector IT projects](#) in November 2017, the Session 5 Committee agreed to request six-monthly updates from the Scottish Government on the progress of Major ICT projects.
4. In March 2021, the Session 5 Committee published a report entitled [Key audit themes: Managing public sector ICT projects](#). The [Scottish Government's response to the report](#) is available on the Committee's webpage.
5. The Public Audit Committee agreed that it wishes to continue to receive these six-monthly updates and [the latest update](#), from December 2021, is available on the Committee's webpage.

Next steps

6. The Public Audit Committee will decide any further action it wishes to take after it has taken evidence from Scottish Government officials.

Clerks to the Committee

28 March 2022