

## Escalation and Assurance Report (AAA+D)

**Report from the:** Audit Committee  
**Date of meeting:** 19 Jan 2023  
**Report to the:** Board of Directors

**Agenda  
Item  
17.0**

Key escalation and discussion points from the meeting			
Alert	Action (to be taken)	By Whom	Target Date
The internal audit plan whilst now on track, cannot afford any slippages	Ongoing monitoring of progress of the audit plan	Director of Finance, Contracting and Estates	31.03.2023
<b>Advise:</b>			
<p>Reviewed the proposal to change the Trust’s Standing Financial Instructions (SFI’s) and the Scheme of Delegation (SoD) around the opening of tenders, the change being to allow paper-based tenders to be opened with senior managers also present via Microsoft Teams. This change is recommended to the Board.</p> <p>There are 14 further internal audits to be completed, these are all planned in and progress is being closely monitored.</p>			
<b>Assure:</b>			
<p>Annual Accounts timetable in place to deliver the Trusts annual accounts to meet the nationally mandated timescales.</p> <p>Received an update on the BAF and noted the increasing divergence between from the target scoring to the current risk assessment and the additional of six new high risks to the Organisational High-Risk Report and that these are regularly reviewed.</p> <p>The committee noted the waivers of Standing Orders for the period June to December 2022 and they were satisfied with the reasoning behind them.</p> <p>Trust’s financial sustainability self-assessment has been completed and been subject to an independent review by Trusts Internal Auditors, scoring well across all 12 lines of enquiry.</p> <p>There were nine Internal audit reports presented, of those with opinions six provided significant assurance and one with high assurance.</p> <p>Internal audit report recommendation follow up report was received with 56% of recommendations being implemented, noting the bulk of recommendations are being implemented on a timely basis.</p>			

**Decisions / Recommendations:**

Recommendation that the Board approve the amendments proposed to the Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs), to reflect changes on the opening of Tenders.

**Risks discussed:**

- The overarching BAF and increasing risk scores versus the Trust's targets, specifically SO5 5.1 and SO1 1.1

**New risks identified:**

- N/A

**Report completed by:**

Christopher Malish  
Committee Chair and Non-Executive Director

02/03/23