



Audit Completion Report - DRAFT

London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund
Year ending 31 March 2019

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Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies' and the 'Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to the Pension Fund are prepared for the sole use of the Pension Fund and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Mazars, an international advisory and accountancy group. Mazars LLP is registered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Audit Committee
London Borough of Hackney
Hackney Town Hall
Mare Street
London
E8 1EA

24 July 2019

Dear Members

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2019

We are pleased to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2019. The purpose of this document is to summarise our audit conclusions.

The scope of our work, including identified significant audit risks, key audit matters and other areas of management judgement, was outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum which we presented on 24 January 2019. We have reviewed our Audit Strategy Memorandum and concluded that the original significant audit risks, key audit matters and other areas of management judgement remain appropriate.

We would like to express our thanks for the assistance of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and his team during our audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 7063 4634.

Yours faithfully

Lucy Nutley
Mazars LLP

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of this report and principal conclusions

The Audit Completion Report sets out the findings from our audit of the London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund 'the Fund' for the year ended 31 March 2019, and forms the basis for discussion at the Audit Committee meeting on 24 July 2019.

The detailed scope of our work as your appointed auditor for 2018/19 is set out in the National Audit Office's (NAO) Code of Audit Practice. Our responsibilities and powers are derived from the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Section 2 of this report outlines the detailed findings from our work on the financial statements. As we outline on the following page, our work is substantially complete and, subject to the satisfactory completion of the outstanding work, at the time of issuing this report we have the following conclusions:

Opinion on the financial statements

We anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. Our proposed audit opinion is included in the draft auditor's report in Appendix B.

Consistency Report

We anticipate concluding that the Pension Fund financial statements within the Pension Fund's Annual Report are consistent with the Pension Fund financial statements within the Statement of Accounts of the Council. Our draft consistency report is provided in Appendix C.

Wider powers

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Pension Fund and to consider any objection made to the accounts.

Misstatements and internal control recommendations

We have not raised any internal control recommendations and nor are there any recommendations that required an update from the prior year.

Section 3 outlines that no misstatements were noted as part of our audit as at the time of issuing this report. If any misstatements are noted on completion of the outstanding work, these will be reported to Audit Committee in a follow-up letter.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Status of our audit work

We have substantially completed our work on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019. At the time of preparing this report the following matters remain outstanding:

Audit area	Description of outstanding matters
Investments	Obtaining written confirmations from a fund manager of the investment held by the Fund at year end.
Audit testing	Completion of final procedures within the audit file following resolution of minor outstanding queries.
Closure procedures and review	Our final reviews and completion work needs to be performed, including consideration of post balance sheet events until the date of sign-off.
Review of Annual Report	Our review of the content of the detailed Pension Annual report to confirm consistency with the financial statements has yet to be completed.

We will provide Audit Committee with an update in relation to these outstanding matters in a follow-up letter, prior to signing the auditor's report.

Our audit approach

We provided details of our intended audit approach in our Audit Strategy Memorandum in December 2018. We have not made any changes to our audit approach since we presented our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Materiality

We set overall materiality at the planning stage of the audit at £14.8m using a benchmark of 1% of net assets available to pay benefits. Our final assessment of overall materiality, based on the final financial statements is £15.5m, using the same benchmark. We set our trivial threshold (the level under which individual errors are not communicated to Audit Committee) at £443k based on 3% of overall materiality.

2. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT

Set out below are the significant findings from our audit. These findings include:

- our audit conclusions regarding significant risks and key areas of management judgement outlined in the Audit Strategy Memorandum;
- our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. On page 7 we have concluded whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework; and
- any significant difficulties we experienced during the audit.

Significant risks and key areas of management judgement

As part of our planning procedures we considered the risks of material misstatement in the Fund's financial statements that required special audit consideration. At the initial planning stage we reported significant risks in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, although our risk assessment is a continuous process and we regularly consider whether new significant risks have arisen and how we intend to respond to these risks. No new risks have been identified since we issued our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Significant risk

Management override of controls

Description of the risk

In all entities, management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Because of the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, we consider there to be a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and thus a significant risk on all audits.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk by performing audit work in the following areas:

- any accounting estimates made by management impacting on amounts included in the financial statements;
- consideration of significant transactions identified from review of minutes, reports and supporting documentation outside the normal course of business; and
- journals recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparation of the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

There were no significant findings arising from our review of areas of potential management override of controls.

2. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT (CONTINUED)

Significant risk

Valuation of unquoted investments for which a market price is not readily available

Description of the risk

In our audit plan we assessed that the Pension Fund held investments which were not quoted on an active market.

Inherently such assets are harder to value, as they do not have publicly available quoted prices from a traded market, and as such they require professional judgement or assumptions to be made when valuing them at year end. As the pricing of these investment assets is subject to judgements, they may be susceptible to pricing variances due to the assumptions underlying the valuation. We therefore consider that there is an increased risk of material misstatement.

At 31 March 2019 the Fund held investments which were not quoted on an active market with a fair value of £8.5m, a significant increase on the £138k held in the prior year.

How we addressed this risk

In addition to our standard programme of work assessing the valuation, existence, ownership and completion of assets, in this area we have:

- agreed the valuation to supporting documentation including investment manager valuation statements and cash flows for any adjustments made to the investment manager valuation;
- agreed the investment manager valuation to relevant audited accounts (where available) or, where not available, we agreed the investment manager valuation to other independent supporting documentation;
- where audited accounts were available, we assessed whether they were supported by a clean opinion; and
- where available, we reviewed any independent control assurance reports and confirm that they do not highlight any risks of material misstatement

Audit conclusion

There were no significant findings arising from our review of the valuation of unquoted investments.

Key areas of management judgement

Key areas of management judgement include accounting estimates which are material but are not considered to give rise to a significant risk of material misstatement. We have not identified any such judgements.

2. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT (CONTINUED)

Qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices

We have reviewed the Pension Fund's accounting policies and disclosures and concluded they comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code), appropriately tailored to the Pension Fund's circumstances.

Draft accounts were received from the Pension Fund on 31 May 2019 and were of a good quality. Supporting working papers were made available to us on the first day of the audit and were of a good quality.

Significant difficulties during the audit

During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.

Wider responsibilities

Our powers and responsibilities under the 2014 Act are broad and include the ability to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law; and
- issue an advisory notice under schedule 8 of the 2014 Act.

We have not exercised any of these powers as part of our 2018/19 audit.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account. We have received no questions or objections.

4. SUMMARY OF MISSTATEMENTS

During the audit we have not identified any unadjusted or adjusted misstatements above the trivial threshold of £443k.

Disclosure amendments

The following disclosure amendments were made:

Financial instruments: Improved disclosures in respect of the assessment of financial instruments to ensure that the disclosures are consistent and in line with the requirements of the Code.

Investments: Additional analysis of some of the disclosures within the statements to provide additional information for the reader on the type of investments held.

General: A number of minor presentational and typographical changes made to the financial statements that do not require individual analysis.

APPENDIX A

DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER

[To be provided to us on client headed note paper]

Mazars LLP
Tower Bridge House
St Katharine's Way
London
E1W 1DD

[Date]

Dear Lucy

London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund - audit for year ended 31 March 2019

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund ("the Pension Fund") for the year ended 31 March 2019 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 (the Code) and applicable law.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code and applicable law.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Pension Fund you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information.

As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Pension Fund committee meetings, have been made available to you.

APPENDIX A

DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (CONTINUED)

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with Code and International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Council's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that any significant assumptions used by the Pension Fund in making accounting estimates, including those measured at current or fair value, are reasonable.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Pension Fund have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Code and applicable law.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Pension Fund has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Pension Fund involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Pension Fund's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

APPENDIX A

DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (CONTINUED)

Assets

I confirm that all assets held are free from liens, charges or any other encumbrance.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Pension Fund's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Future commitments

I am not aware of any plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Specific representation on unquoted investments

Unquoted investments are included in the net assets statement at the value estimated by the general partner managing each fund in accordance with the guidelines used by the industry, and based on the latest information to hand at the time of the valuation. I am satisfied, based on the knowledge I have, with the valuations, and am not aware of any subsequent events that would have a material impact on the estimated value of the unquoted investments.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code and applicable law, require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Pension Fund will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Yours sincerely

Ian Williams
Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, Section 151 Officer

APPENDIX B

DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent auditor's report to the Members of London Borough of Hackney Report on the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements of London Borough of Hackney

We have audited the financial statements of London Borough of Hackney ('the Council') for the year ended 31 March 2019, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of London Borough of Hackney as at 31 March 2019 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

Opinion on the financial statements of London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund

We have audited the financial statements of London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund ('the Pension Fund') for the year ended 31 March 2019, which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2019, and the amount and disposition of the Pension Fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2019; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

Basis for opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Council and the Pension Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applicable to public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- The Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Council's and the Pension Fund's financial statements is not appropriate; or
- The Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Council's or the Pension Fund's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

APPENDIX B

DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Other information

The Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources's Responsibilities, the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the Council's and Pension Fund's financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources is also responsible for such internal control as the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless the Council is informed of the intention for dissolution without transfer of services or function to another entity. The Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Council and the Pension Fund to prepare the accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Council's and Pension Fund's financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

APPENDIX B

DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Conclusion on London Borough of Hackney's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2017, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, London Borough of Hackney has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Basis for conclusion

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued in November 2017, as to whether the Council had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider in satisfying ourselves whether the Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We are required under section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the members of London Borough of Hackney, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Council those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Certificate

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack. We are satisfied that these matters do not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Lucy Nutley
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP
Tower Bridge House
St Katharine's Way
London
E1W 1DD

[Date]

Executive summary

Significant findings

Summary of misstatements

Appendices

APPENDIX C

DRAFT CONSISTENCY REPORT

Independent Auditor's Statement to the Members of London Borough of Hackney on the Pension Fund Financial Statements included within London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund Annual Report

We have examined the Pension Fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 included within the London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund annual report, which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Pension Fund financial statements are consistent with the audited financial statements of London Borough of Hackney for the year ended 31 March 2019 and comply with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

Respective responsibilities of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and the auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Pension Fund's financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law.

Our responsibility is to report to the Members of London Borough of Hackney as a body, whether the Pension Fund financial statements within the Pension Fund annual report are consistent with the financial statements of London Borough of Hackney.

We conducted our work in accordance with Auditor Guidance Note 07 – Auditor Reporting, issued by the National Audit Office. Our report on the Pension Fund financial statements contained within the audited financial statements of London Borough of Hackney describes the basis of our opinions on the financial statements.

Use of this auditor's statement

This report is made solely to the Members of London Borough of Hackney, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 paragraph 20(5) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of London Borough of Hackney those matters we are required to state to them and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than London Borough of Hackney and London Borough of Hackney's members as a body, for our audit work, for this statement, or for the opinions we have formed.

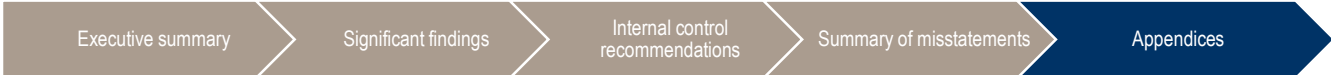
Lucy Nutley
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP
Tower Bridge House
St Katharine's Way
London
E1W 1DD

[Date]

APPENDIX D INDEPENDENCE

As part of our ongoing risk assessment we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We can confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing the Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.



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