

## Audit Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 29 May 2018
Paper Title	Audit Scotland Review of Scotland's Colleges
Agenda Item	14
Paper Number	AC4-J
Responsible Officer	Robin Ashton, GCRB Executive Director
Recommended Status	Disclosable
Action	For noting

### 1. Report Purpose

- 1.1. To report on the Audit Scotland review of Scotland's Colleges, including the regional strategic bodies.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is invited to **note** this update report and **request** that the published report is considered at the next meeting.

### 3. Audit Scotland Review of GCRB

- 3.1. Members will be aware that Audit Scotland undertakes an annual overview of Scotland's Colleges. The fieldwork takes place during February and March each year with the report being published in June. A copy of the 2017 report is available via the following link (<http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/report/scotlands-colleges-2017>) and was considered by the GCRB Audit Committee in October 2017.
- 3.2. For the 2018 Audit Scotland report, the remit was extended to include an assessment of the difference made by the regional bodies in the three multi-college regions.
- 3.3. Audit Scotland indicated that an opportunity to discuss initial outputs of the audit work will be provided in April with the final report due to be published in June 2018. GCRB has received informal feedback on the draft report.
- 3.4. In addition, GCRB has also received a statement of facts to be verified. A formal response was submitted by the GCRB Chair and Executive Director on 16 May 2018. The table below summarises the statements made and the feedback provided:

<b>Draft audit comment</b>	<b>GCRB response to factual inaccuracy</b>
GCRB experienced difficulties during the first three years of its existence.	GCRB experienced significant challenges in the year 2014/15. For the years 2015/16 and 2016/17, GCRB operated effectively without governance issues.
The report refers to GCRB having 5 chairs in 4 years.	GCRB has had 3 permanent chairs in four years. 2 interim chairs have been appointed due to the fact that the public sector appointments process typically takes over 6 months to complete.
There are regional initiatives that are not overseen by GCRB.	There are no activities at a regional level that are not overseen by GCRB.
The Glasgow Colleges Group oversees the Regional Outcome Agreement.	The GCRB Executive Director develops and monitors the Regional Outcome Agreement.
GCRB should work with others to address concerns about its role.	GCRB was created by statute and it is not for GCRB to justify its existence.

**3.5.** It is hoped that the facts within the report will be amended to reflect the actual situation.

**4. Risk Analysis, legal implications, financial implications and Strategic Plan implications**

**4.1.** As the report findings are not yet known, it is not possible to assess implications of the review. However, the review has provided an opportunity to demonstrate the positive impact of a strategic approach and greater collaboration across the Glasgow College Region.