

28 September 2012

Members
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority
Fire Service Headquarters
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Dear Councillor

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West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority - Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises my 2011/12 audit of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

Financial statements

On 10 September, I presented my Annual Governance Report (AGR) to the Audit Committee outlining the findings of my audit of the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements. I also presented it to the full Authority on 24 September, as you have deemed the full Authority to be 'those charged with governance'. I will not replicate those findings in this letter other than to say that the accounts were well prepared and the audit went smoothly with few changes required to the accounts.

Following the Authority meeting on 24 September, I:

- issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts; and
- concluded that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources;
- certified completion of the audit.

Duties under the Audit Commission Act 1998

No events have taken place that required me to undertake any action under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

Closing remarks

I have agreed this letter with the Chief Fire Officer and the Director of Resources. While this has been another challenging year for the Authority I wish to thank the finance staff for the positive and constructive approach they have taken to my audit. I also wish to thank senior management and the Audit Committee for their support and co-operation during the audit.

Yours sincerely

John Gregory, District Auditor

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