

**AUDIT & RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE
Summary Report of 10 June 2020 meeting**

The Committee considered the following:

Review of the annual report and accounts

The Committee was presented with the annual reports and accounts for Westminster, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Consolidated FSA, for final review.

ARAC Members approved, on behalf of the FSA Board, for digital sign off by the Accounting Officer of the FSA Wales and FSA Northern Ireland annual reports and accounts. The NAO will perform their final review and submit for digital certification by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG). Publication and laying in Northern Ireland and Wales Assemblies, subsequent to C&AG's certification, is expected in the week commencing 22 June.

ARAC Members also approved, on behalf of the FSA Board, for digital sign off by the Accounting Officer, the Westminster and Consolidated annual report and accounts. These, however, are subject to receipt and approval of third-party assurance on the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) audit. Once received, digital sign off by the FSA Accounting Officer will be requested, ahead of the NAO's final review and submission for digital certification by the C&AG. Publication and laying of the Westminster and Consolidated accounts, being dependent on a third-party audit, is likely to be delayed until early September.

Members praised the staff involved in the preparation of the Annual Report and Accounts, commented that all the reports and sets of accounts were well prepared and completed despite the challenges relating to Covid-19, and that for a third consecutive year there were no audit recommendations. Members also complimented the collaboration between FSA and external audit staff having to work remotely, unexpectedly, to deliver the audit.

Risk Management Update

The Committee was updated on the changes to the risk management process in the FSA's response to managing Covid-19. New risks that were created and managed in the Covid-19 response have been incorporated into the existing risk management framework. Further work on the risk register is ongoing and learnings from the arrangements created during the Covid-19 response have been incorporated into guidance.

Information Papers

The Committee received the following papers for information:

- Annual Report to the FSA Board from the Chair of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee
- ARAC Chair Statement of Assurance - Governance Declaration
- Audit Assurance Team Annual Report and Opinion 2019/20
- Update on LGPS pension fund asset valuation and impact on Statement of Financial Position and related disclosure note.

Key Action

The Annual Report and Accounts were recommended for approval by the FSA Board.

Dates of next meeting: September 2020.