

19 August 2010

Local authorities including fire and rescue authorities

Dear

- You will have seen the announcement last Friday by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government about the proposed abolition of the Audit Commission. The proposed abolition will be from 2012 and the Government has announced its intention to seek legislation in this session of Parliament.

I am writing to confirm that there is no immediate change to the audit arrangements for your authority. As you are aware, your auditor is currently completing the audit of your 2009/10 accounts and preparing the accompanying annual audit letter.

I recently wrote to you outlining our proposed approach to the value for money element of the 2010/11 audit and this remains our planned approach. That letter also said that we will confirm the final position on 2010/11 audit fees following our September Board meeting.

For the limited number of planned Audit Commission inspections, we will be in touch with those authorities affected to agree the way forward.

We are in discussion with the Department about the proposed legislation and the details that will need to be worked through. I will write to you again in due course about the future audit programme and any changes to audit arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Davies
Managing Director Local Government & Community Safety