

Better Accounts, Better Budgets, Better Spending
Implications for the SAI

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National Audit Office Strategic plan 2014-15 to 2016-17



National Audit Office Strategic plan 2014-15 to 2016-17

- stay ahead of changes in our environment by taking a strategic view of the challenges facing the public sector and investing in the expertise we will need in areas such as digital transformation, commercial contracting, finance and asset sales, process efficiency, and programme and portfolio management;
- bring the best of the NAO to Parliament and those we audit in every piece of work we do. This means accessing the best professional skills and knowledge of the entire NAO, through joined-up working, to be a more efficient and streamlined organisation, and making better use of our cross-government perspective;
- reach out to Parliament and those we audit to increase our influence; spend time with them to understand their issues and perspectives, recognise that insights come from time spent on site with our stakeholders, and communicate our views in a responsive and persuasive way; and
- maximise our relevance by delivering timely work in the areas most likely to add value to Parliament and those we audit, based on the effective use of our access rights to uncover systemic issues and deliver insights from our cross-government perspective
- **The right information available at the right time is key to good decision making.**

Culture of the SAI

- collective decision making
- professional discipline
- high standards, high quality
- transparency and accountability
- intellectually robust
- consistency

Focus of the SAI's work programme

- Adoption of accounting policies; option choices
- quality of financial reporting
- expenditure statement or statement of financial position
- assets and liabilities
- financial management issues

Professionalisation of the SAI

- initial professional education - accounting and auditing standards
- continuous professional education
- management structure and internal support
- documentation and review
- transparency and accountability

Quality Issues and the SAI

- International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC 1)
- Whole of office procedures
- First and second stage review
- Risk assessment and hot review
- Cold review
- External peer review

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Discussion

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