

15 December 2014

Mr Tom Riordan
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Dear Mr Riordan

Leeds City Council – confirmation of auditor appointment from 2015/16

I wrote in June to consult you on the proposed re-appointment of KPMG LLP as the external auditor for Leeds City Council from 2015/16.

Auditor appointment

This letter confirms the appointment of KPMG LLP to audit the accounts of Leeds City Council for two years from 2015/16. The appointment is made under section 3 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and was approved by the Audit Commission Board at its meeting on 4 December 2014.

The Commission's contracts with audit firms are extendable by three years. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has indicated it will make a decision in summer 2015 about whether to extend the contracts from 2017 to 2020.

Audit quality and regulation

Under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Commission will close at the end of March 2015. From 1 April 2015, a transitional body, Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA), set up by the Local Government Association as an independent company, will oversee the Commission's audit contracts until they end in 2017, or 2020 if extended by DCLG. Arrangements for audited bodies to appoint their own auditor will be announced by DCLG and will apply once the audit contracts have ended.

PSAA will exercise the Commission's statutory functions relating to auditor appointments and fees. It will continue to monitor the performance of the firms providing audit services, ensuring

that local public bodies receive high quality and effective audit services which provide value for money to the local taxpayer.

Next steps

KPMG LLP will contact you in due course about the arrangements for the audit from 2015/16.

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at auditor-appointments@audit-commission.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Hayes', is positioned above the printed name.

Jon Hayes
Associate Controller of Audit (Compliance)

cc Mr Alan Gay, Director of Corporate Services & Deputy Chief Executive, Leeds City Council
KPMG LLP