



# Internal Audit Assurance Reports

## Agenda Item 7

### National Park Authority Audit & Risk Committee Meeting

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Paper for information

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1. Purpose.....	1
2. Recommendation(s).....	1
3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and/or Our 5-year Plan.....	1
4. Background.....	1
5. Audit Opinion .....	2
6. Appendices .....	2

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to advise the Committee of the outcome from the Internal Audit review of the Management of the Peatland Grant Scheme within the National Park Authority, together with a summary of the action taken.

#### 2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report and request that the Chief Internal Auditor provides follow up reports showing progress towards achievement of the actions arising from the review.

#### 3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and/or Our 5-year Plan

- 3.1 A sound system of internal control and governance arrangements assists the Park Authority in achieving its strategic objectives and 5-year Plan.

#### 4. Background

- 4.1 As part of the agreed Internal Audit Plan, we have undertaken a review of the Management of the Peatland Grant Scheme.

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### 5. Audit Opinion

5.1 In most cases one of four opinions is expressed by Internal Audit based upon the work carried out. The four opinions used are:

1. The control environment is satisfactory i.e. audit testing found no concerns with the control environment.
2. A reasonable level of assurance can be placed upon the control environment i.e. audit testing found no major weaknesses in the control environment but some improvements could be made.
3. A limited level of assurance can be placed upon the control environment i.e. improvements are necessary to ensure the control environment is fit for purpose.
4. The control environment is unsatisfactory i.e. significant improvements are required before any reliance can be placed upon the control environment.

5.2 The Audit Opinion expressed for the Management of the Peatland Grant Scheme review was “a reasonable level of assurance can be placed upon the control environment”.

### 6. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Management of the Peatland Grant Scheme

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