## **CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY**

## <u>DELAY IN PUBLISHING AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS:</u> YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Publication of Cleveland Fire Authority's Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion.

The external audit of the draft statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024, due to be completed by our external auditors Forvis Mazars, has not yet commenced. Therefore, the Authority is unable to publish the audited financial statements in accordance with the statutory timetable of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The Authority expects an unqualified opinion on its statement of accounts.

The reason for the delay is that Forvis Mazars have a backlog of audit work from previous years, which is impacting on the timely delivery of the 2023/24 audit.

This situation is allowed for by regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the <u>Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015</u>. Therefore this notification explains, as per paragraph (2a), that we are not yet able to publish our audited 2023/24 final statement of accounts in line with deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, as per paragraph (1).

The final audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 will be published as soon as the issues above are resolved. The draft Statement of Accounts 2023/24 is available following this link: <u>Financial – Cleveland Fire Brigade</u>

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