



Northern Ireland Audit Office

# ***MEDIA RELEASE***

## **Managing the Risk of Bribery and Corruption: A Good Practice Guide for the Northern Ireland Public Sector**

Mr Kieran Donnelly, the Comptroller and Auditor General, today published ***Managing the Risk of Bribery and Corruption: A Good Practice Guide for the Northern Ireland Public Sector***. The Guide aims to help Northern Ireland public sector organisations and individual public officials identify how bribery and corruption may occur, highlight the key risk areas and provide advice on how the risks can be countered, both at an organisational and personal level.

Mr Donnelly said:

*“While the risk of bribery and corruption in Northern Ireland may be considered low, it is still present and should not be under-estimated. Complacency carries its own dangers; raising awareness is key.*

*“The nature of much of public sector business carries inherent risks. Functions such as procurement, planning, grant administration and regulatory functions are widely recognised as being open to the risk of bribery and corruption. This Guide provides advice on identifying and mitigating those risks.”*

Mr Donnelly added:

*“It is essential that all public officials and elected representatives are aware of their responsibilities in countering the risk of bribery and corruption as they undertake their public duties and that all public sector employers embed the principles of this good practice within their organisations.”*

The Guide will be launched today at a meeting of the Chief Executives’ Forum. It will be widely publicised throughout the Northern Ireland public sector and can also be accessed via NIAO’s website.

### NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) is Head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO). He and the NIAO are totally independent of Government. He certifies the accounts of Government Departments and a range of other public sector bodies. He has statutory authority to report to the Assembly on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which departments and public bodies use their resources. His reports are published as Assembly papers.
2. The Chief Executives' Forum is the association of chief executive officers of civil and wider public service bodies in Northern Ireland.
3. The Guide is available on the Audit Office website at [www.niauditoffice.gov.uk](http://www.niauditoffice.gov.uk). The report is embargoed until 00.01 hrs on Tuesday 14th November 2017.
4. Background briefing can be obtained from the Audit Office by contacting Neil Gray (028 9025 4345) or Valerie Evans (028 9025 1062).