



MEDIA RELEASE

NI Audit Office Publishes 2018-19 Annual Report and Accounts

The Northern Ireland Audit Office has published its latest Annual Report and Accounts, summarising the Office's performance during the year 2018-19.

Commenting on the publication, Kieran Donnelly, the Comptroller and Auditor General, said:

"2018-19 has been a challenging, and yet a rewarding year for my Office. We have published reports which are topical, timely and provide added value to the wider public sector. This has been delivered against a backdrop of an NI Assembly which has not sat since early 2017, a Parliament which has been dominated by Brexit, the ongoing public inquiry into the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and an accountancy and audit world in state of flux.

"Our achievements in-year have been wide-ranging. We have delivered the audit of 151 accounts from across the central and local government sectors and produced 27 public reports covering the findings of our financial audit work, value for money examinations in areas such as health, education, agriculture, social welfare and justice, a good practice guide on Performance Management for Outcomes, and Local Government Annual Improvement Reports for councils.

"In 2018-19 savings to the public purse resulting from our work achieved over £65 million against a backdrop of real cost reductions of 25 per cent over the past 5 years, and considerable change in our internal operations. Within my office, we have changed our governance arrangements to better meet the needs of the Office, with a new Board and non-Executive team each of whom bring considerable experience to the table.

"I want to place on record my thanks to all my staff for their contribution to the successful outcomes in 2018-19. I am committed to ensuring that they remain highly skilled, motivated and flexible to be well placed to handle the challenges ahead and ensure the NIAO remains a professional, effective public audit institution, standing ready to fully deliver in a functioning political environment".

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. The head of the NIAO, the Comptroller and Auditor General ("the C&AG"), is an Officer of the Northern Ireland Assembly ("the Assembly") and a Crown appointment made on the nomination of the Assembly. Under the Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, the holder of the office is a corporation sole, and responsible for the appointment of NIAO staff who assist him in the delivery of his statutory functions. The C&AG and the NIAO are totally independent of government.

2. The Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2019 has been laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly Northern Ireland Assembly by the Department of Finance under paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 2 to the Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987
3. The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 have been properly prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General as the Accounting Officer for the Audit Office in accordance with the Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and the relevant Department of Finance guidance.
4. More information can be obtained from the Audit Office by contacting Joe Campbell (028 9025 1097) or Rodney Allen (028 9025 1122).