

Summary progress against 2024-25 audits as at 29 January 2025

Audits 'completed' to at least draft issued stage and/or on-going advisory work/Prior year jobs

<u>Ref¹</u>	<u>Type²</u>	<u>Audit title</u>	<u>Assurance objective</u>	<u>Position @ 29 January 2025</u>
24/25 - A	Various	Continuation of work commenced in 2023-24	To complete any outstanding audits that overlap the financial year	<p><u>5 x Advice concluded</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warehouse Project Board (23/24 – F) • Emerging Risks (23/24 – J) • Rebates Income (23/24 – N) • Procurement (23/24 – O) • Contingency (23/24 – R) <p><u>3 x Final Report – Substantial Assurance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Developments (23/24 – H) • General Financial Systems (23/24 – L) • IT General Controls (23/24 – M)
24/25 - B	Governance	Annual Governance - Areas for further development	Areas of the Annual Governance Statement highlighted for further development have been addressed (covering supplier code of	Final report issued – Substantial Assurance

			conduct/ethical standards, legislative compliance, carbon strategy/targets, cyber security	
24/25 - C	Governance	Cyber Security	Adequate Cyber Security arrangements are in place in accordance with nationally issued good practice guidance and associated self-assessment - focus will be on the 18 actions that remained either outstanding or WiP during our 23/24 coverage	<p>Final Report Issued – Advisory (Follow Up of Recommendations)</p> <p>Of the remaining 18 recommendations in the original report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 had been fully implemented • 11 are in the process of being actioned (none of which are deemed high risk) • No recommendations remain outstanding/ yet to be progressed (the last audit highlighted 3 such instances).
24/25 - D	Risk Management	Warehouse Expansion Project Board	Robust Governance and Management of Risk in the delivery in respect of the additional warehouse capacity at Grove Park (Critical friend project board role)	On-going advisory work as part of Project Board now complete post go live
24/25 - F	Risk Management	IT Developments	Work to be conducted in accordance with ESPO IT Key Deliverables 23/24	Final report issued – Substantial Assurance
24/25 - G	Risk Management	Warehouse Expansion - Risk Mitigation Temporary Revised	Assessment of Temporary Health & Safety, Business Continuity & Security Risk Mitigation Procedures in place	Final Report Issued – Substantial Assurance

		Ways of Working		
24/25 - J	Internal control	IT general controls ⁽³⁾	The range of Information Technology General Controls (ITGC) expected by the External Auditor are well designed and consistently applied.	Draft Report Issued.
24/25 - N	Internal control	Temporary staff - pre-employment & onboarding processes	All necessary pre-employment and onboarding requirements have been undertaken	Final Report Issued – Substantial Assurance
24/25 - P	Internal control	Cashflow	Provide assurance that cashflow calculations are timely and accurately inform business decision making.	Final Report Issued – Substantial Assurance
24/25 - Q	Governance	Dividend Calculation	The dividend calculation is robust and accurate and has appropriate oversight and approval	Final Report Issued – Substantial Assurance
24/25 - R	Internal control	Counter Fraud - Fuel Cards	Fuel card spend is for authorised business purposes and aligns to policy	Final Report Issued – Substantial Assurance
24/25 - S	Internal control	Counter Fraud - Purchase Cards	Purchase card spend is appropriate and aligns to corporate policy	Final Report Issued – Substantial Assurance

Audits in progress

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Type²</u>	<u>Audit title</u>	<u>Assurance objective</u>	<u>Position @ 29 January 2025</u>
24/25 - E	Risk Management	Counter Fraud - NFI specific	Ensure relevant data is extracted at 30 September 2024, uploaded in October 2024 and assessment of output reports commenced in Feb 2025 with the overall objective of results being correctly interpreted and investigated on	On going advisory work until the end of the financial year Note: The nature of this work means it will conclude in 2025/26.

			a risk-assessed basis and have due regard for a segregation of duties (report of resultant findings in Q1/2 of 25/26)	
24/25 - H	Risk Management	Emerging risks	ESPO identification and preparedness for any emerging risks e.g. Legislative changes, continued adjustments because of legislative requirements, material changes to the 5-Year business strategy and other 'in year' matters requiring urgent attention	On-going advisory work until end of Quarter 4
24/25 - I	Internal control	General Financial Systems ⁽³⁾	To discuss with the External Auditor and the ESPO Financial Controller/Consortium Treasurer, but typical coverage includes reconciliations; receivables; payables; payroll and stock	Testing currently being undertaken. Due for completion in Quarter 4
24/25 - K	Internal control	Rebates income	Annual audit to evaluate whether rebates received conform to estimates of supplier business generated - focus will be on site visits	Testing Stage Will straddle two financial years
24/25 - L	Governance	Procurement	Policies and procedures in place have due regard for legislative requirements and timeliness and appropriateness of decision making (Key focus being Transforming Public Procurement requirements and associated governance and training)	Draft report currently being reviewed Originally due for completion in Quarter 3 now Quarter 4 due to Procurement Act delay until February 2025.
24/25 -M	Risk Management	Enterprise Resource Planning Migration	Migration of ESPO's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System to externally hosted software as a service offering	Testing Stage Due for completion in Quarter 4.

24/25 - O	Risk Management	Safe Systems of Working - Warehouse Expansion	Revised safe systems of working are in place and staff are adequately trained prior to go live with revised warehouse layout	Remains work in progress - Testing Complete – Awaiting additional information requirements identified to sign off.
24/25 - T	Governance	Value for Money Product Benchmarking	Policies and procedures to ensure ESPO continuously benchmark key product ranges against competitors and make timely adjustments where appropriate/economical to do so	Work commenced – but will continue in 2025/26.
24/25 - U	Internal control	Contingency	Unforeseen events brought to the attention of the Head of Internal Audit Service by either ESPO Leadership Team or the Consortium Officers - examples may include loss of customers/business, MTFs targets not being met, Failure to retain staff, staff sickness, energy related risks, major health & safety/legislative issue, warehouse issues, supply chain issues, adverse reputational issue, climate change, risks associated with ways of working	On-going ad-hoc advisory

Audits not started

None

Deferred/cancelled audits

None

¹unique reference numbers based on the financial year in question (i.e. '25/26-A' relates to the first entry on the approved 2025/26 audit plan)

²the three elements of the control environment (governance, risk management and internal control)

³traditionally audits where the external auditor has utilised the work of internal audit to inform its risk assessment