Summary progress against 2025-26 audits at 26 January 2026

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

Ref	Type[2]	Audit title	Assurance objective	Position @ 26 January 2026
25/26 - A	Various	Continuation of work commenced in 2024-25	Any outstanding audits that overlap the financial year are promptly completed	Complete
25/26 - B	Governance	Annual Governance - Areas for further development	Areas of the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement highlighted for further development have been addressed.	Final report issued – Substantial Assurance
25/26 - 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 11 actions that remained WiP from our 24/25 coverage	Follow Up from 24-25 Final Report Issued for 25-26 four actions remain to be followed up as part of 26-27 coverage.
25/26 - D	Internal Control	Stock	Controls and procedures in place mitigate the risk of any discrepancies (including frequency of stock take) are operating correctly	Final Report issued – Substantial Assurance
25/26 - E	Risk Management	Counter Fraud - NFI specific	Results (output reports) are correctly interpreted and investigated on a risk-assessed basis and have due regard for a segregation of duties. Note: This is Part 2 of the audit. Part one was in the previous financial year and involved ensuring the requisite data was extracted at 30 September,	Advisory work complete. No instances of fraudulent activity were noted from the work undertaken

			subsequently uploaded in October and resultant output reports were distributed in Jan/Feb.	
25/26 - F	Risk Management	Fraud Risk Assessment (FRA)	There is a full assessment of fraud risks to the organisation in line with the principles set out within the CIPFA Code of Practice - Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption.	Advisory work complete. A completed FRA has been discussed with Leadership Team
25/26 - G	Internal Control	Counter Fraud Audit	Potential fraud vulnerabilities in a specific area are correctly identified and adequately mitigated against *(Note: Auditable area will be informed by the results of the Fraud Risk Assessment)*	Advisory Work Complete Time used to investigate an anonymous whistleblowing complaint (subsequently unfounded).
25/26 - H	Risk Management	Emerging risks	ESPO identification and preparedness for any emerging risks e.g. Legislative changes, material changes to the 5-Year business strategy and other 'in year' matters requiring urgent attention	Advisory Work complete
25/26 - K	Internal control	Rebates income	Annual audit coverage to evaluate whether rebates received conform to estimates of supplier business generated - focus will be on concluding site visit related work commenced in 24/25	Final Report Issued – Substantial Assurance
25/26 - N	Internal control	Energy - Customer Billing	Fully managed gas service is correctly invoiced to customers. Note: This audit was expanded slightly to	Final report issued – Substantial Assurance

			incorporate the following revised objective: To provide assurance to management that (i) the fully managed gas service is correctly invoiced to customers and (ii) there is prompt and accurate collection of rebate from suppliers on energy framework agreements (electricity, gas and liquid fuels).	
25/26 - O	Risk Management	Business Continuity	That the risk of business inoperability is minimised and appropriate risk mitigating actions are taken (incorporating simulation exercises completed)	Final report issued – Substantial Assurance
25/26 - P	Governance	Health & Safety Reporting	Incidents and Near Misses are promptly and accurately recorded and communicated to enable prompt and appropriate mitigating actions to be put in place	Final report issued – Substantial Assurance
25/26 - S	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: Risk of business failure by debtors, legislative issues, staff retention and absence, failure of banking and/or investment partner, health & safety issue, stores/trading & brand issue, product Safety Issue, supply chain issue etc	Complete: On-going ad-hoc advisory. Time used partially related to the initial high-level investigation of an unfounded anonymous whistleblowing complaint.

Audits in progress

Ref	Type[2]	Audit title	Assurance objective	Position @ 26 January 2026
25/26 - I	Internal control	General Financial Systems (*)	To discuss with the External Auditor and the ESPO Financial Controller/Consortium Treasurer, but typical coverage includes reconciliations; receivables; payables; payroll and stock	Testing nearing completion Was not due for completion until Quarter 4
25/26 - J	Internal control	IT general controls (*)	The range of Information Technology General Controls (ITGC) expected by the External Auditor are well designed and consistently applied.	Testing currently being undertaken Was not due for completion until Quarter 4
25/26 - L	Governance	Procurement	Regulations and the associated policies and procedures have been correctly applied in accordance with the tender date (focus to be on notice requirement & the assessment summary)	Draft report being reviewed.
25/26 - Q	Risk Management	Loss of/Reduction in Business	Specific Mitigating Controls within the Risk Register are accurate, operating as intended and reduce the risk accordingly	Draft report being reviewed.
25/26 - R	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	Draft report being reviewed.

Audits not started

None

Deferred/cancelled audits

Ref	Type[2]	Audit title	Assurance objective	Position @ 26 January 2026
25/26 -M	Risk Management	Framework Agreements	Up to date Framework agreements are in place for all suppliers.	The original plan entry was in respect of an External Audit finding; however, the Commercial Financial Controller & Head of Commercial both confirmed this finding was due to a misunderstanding in respect of procedures involving "exchange of letters" and also the optional use of 'Confirmation of Award' forms.

None to date

[1]unique 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)
[2] the three elements of the control environment (governance, risk management and internal control)
[3] traditionally audits where the external auditor has placed reliance on the work of internal audit

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