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Our ref **HRCHTAAL 2013/14**

22 July 2014

To the Directors of Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust

Annual Audit Letter 2013/14

We are pleased to submit our annual audit letter which summarises our 2013/14 audit for Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust (“the Trust”). It summarises the key issues arising from our 2013/14 audit at the Trust. Although this letter is addressed to the Directors of the Trust it is also intended to communicate the issues arising from the audit of the Trust to external stakeholders, such as members of the public. It is the responsibility of the Trust to publish this letter on the Trust’s website at www.hrch.nhs.uk.

Scope of our audit

The statutory responsibilities and powers of appointed auditors are set out in the Audit Commission Act 1998. Our main responsibility is to carry out an audit that meets the requirements of the Audit Commission’s Code of Audit Practice (“the Code”). On the 2 June 2014 we presented our ISA 260 report to those charged with governance to the Audit Committee which summarised our conclusions from the 2013/14 audit and outlined our auditor responsibilities under statute and the Code. Following the presentation of our ISA 260 report to the Audit Committee we have:

- issued an unqualified opinion on the Trust’s 2013/14 financial statements on 5 June 2014 meeting the Department of Health’s deadline of 9 June 2014;
- concluded that there were no matters arising from our use of resources work that we need to report for the year ended 31 March 2014; and
- issued an unqualified Group Audit Assurance Certificate to the National Audit Office regarding the Whole of Government accounts submission with no exceptions.

Public Interest Reporting

We have a responsibility to consider whether there is a need to issue a public interest report or whether there are any issues which require referral to the Secretary of State. There were no matters in the public interest that we needed to report or refer to the Secretary of State in 2013/14.

Key findings

The Trust has generally sound processes in place for the production of the accounts and in relation to use of resources. We raised one high priority recommendation and one medium priority recommendation. These are detailed within our ISA260 report to those charged with governance. The high priority recommendation raised related to ensuring that all severance costs and exit packages are approved by the NHS Trust Development Authority and Treasury in line with NHS guidance prior to payment.

Fees

Our fee for the 2013/14 external audit was £50,214 excluding VAT. This was in line with the fee in our audit plan that was agreed with the Trust's Audit Committee.

Our fee for non audit services for 2013/14 was £10,000 excluding VAT. This related to a review of the Trust's quality accounts in June 2013.

losing remarks

I have discussed and agreed this letter with the Director of Finance of the Trust and confirmed that all Directors of the Trust have received a copy. I would like to thank the finance team, the Directors and the Audit Committee for their support and co-operation throughout the 2013/14 audit.

Yours sincerely



Tamas Wood
Director