

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Issue of audit opinion on the financial statements

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2024 issued on 24 February 2025 we reported that we could not express an opinion on the financial statements.

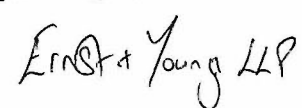
Certificate

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

In our report dated 24 February 2025, we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until the NAO as group auditor has confirmed that no further assurances will be required from us as component auditors of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority. This confirmation has now been received.

No matters have come to our attention since that date that would have resulted in additional exception reporting on significant weaknesses in the Authority's value for money arrangements.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Kevin Suter
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Southampton
19 August 2025