

Question 7 – Cllr Gary Hopkins

Internal Audit - Bristol docks

You raised concerns regarding temporary staff only managing operations. Has this improved?

The actual losses were reduced by a clear out of staff.

Were the temporary staff properly costed against the docks

Were the staff removed in accordance with proper procedures?

Where have the costs of legal settlements/tribunals been accounted for?

Answer: For clarity, this audit was limited to the activities of the Harbour Office only. This internal audit was previously discussed by the last Committee is not part of the Agenda for the meeting on 26 July. This report was presented to the Chairman and Vice Chair only in fulfilling the request for a briefing on the matter by the Chairman. This audit will be subject to a follow up audit and the outcomes from that audit will be presented to the Audit Committee in January 2022. This is already on the work programme. Our responses are limited to what was covered during this audit.

Response to specific questions

You raised concerns regarding temporary staff only managing operations. Has this improved?

There had been historical challenges but at the time of the audit that had improved. It is anticipated that the positive impact of the changes would be reflected in the follow up audit in this financial year.

The actual losses were reduced by a clear out of staff.

This was not covered by the audit, so we do not know.

Were the temporary staff properly costed against the docks

Not part of the audit scope so we do not know.

Were the staff removed in accordance with proper procedures?

This was not covered by the audit, so we do not know.

Where have the costs of legal settlements/tribunals been accounted for?

Not part of the audit scope so we do not know.