

To: Council

On: 18 November 2021

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: Audit Scotland Report - 2020/21 Common Good Funds and Coats
Observatory Trust Annual Accounts

1. Summary

- 1.1 Each year the Council's appointed external auditors carry out an audit of the financial statements of the Common Good Funds and Coats Observatory Trust controlled by Renfrewshire Council and provide an opinion as to whether those statements provide a fair and true view of the financial position of the charities and their income and expenditure for the year; and also whether they have been prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations.
- 1.2 In accordance with International Auditing Standards, Audit Scotland is obliged to report to those charged with the governance of the organisations matters which have arisen in the course of the audit.
- 1.3 The attached reports from Audit Scotland outline their findings from the audit of the 2020/21 Common Good and Trust accounts.
- 1.4 Under the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, the Council must meet to consider the Annual Accounts and aim to approve those accounts for signature no later than 30 September. For 2020/21, the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 provided flexibility to this deadline, extending it to 30 November.
- 1.5 Audit Scotland officers will attend the meeting to present their reports.

2. **Recommendations**
 - 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the attached reports from Audit Scotland.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The Annual Accounts demonstrate that the Council continues to operate the charities it controls within the resources available, and in line with the relevant legislation.
 2. **HR & Organisational Development – none**
 3. **Community/Council Planning – none**
 4. **Legal** – An audit opinion free from qualification demonstrates compliance with the relevant legislation and statutory accounting requirements.
 5. **Property/Assets – none**
 6. **Information Technology – none**
 7. **Equality & Human Rights** – The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
 8. **Health & Safety – none**
 9. **Procurement – none**
 10. **Risk – none**
 11. **Privacy Impact – none**
 12. **Cosla Policy Position – none**
 13. **Climate Risk – none**
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Author: Alastair MacArthur, Ext 7363

Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

15 November 2021

Common Good Funds administered by Renfrewshire Council Audit of 2020/21 annual accounts

Independent auditor's report

1. Our audit work on the 2020/21 annual accounts is now substantially complete. Subject to receipt of a revised set of annual accounts for final review, we anticipate being able to issue unqualified audit opinions in the independent auditor's report by 19 November 2021 (the proposed report is attached at [Appendix A](#)).

Annual audit report

2. Under International Standards on Auditing in the UK, we report specific matters arising from the audit of the financial statements to those charged with governance of a body in sufficient time to enable appropriate action. We present for the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board's consideration our draft Annual Audit Report for Renfrewshire Council on the 2020/21 audit which incorporates our findings from the audit of the Common Good Funds administered by the Council. The section headed "Significant findings from the audit in accordance with ISA 260" sets out the issues identified in respect of the annual accounts.
3. The report also sets out conclusions from our consideration of the four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope of public audit as set out in the Code of Audit Practice.
4. This report will be issued in final form after the annual accounts have been certified.

Unadjusted misstatements

5. We also report to those charged with governance all unadjusted misstatements which we have identified during our audit, other than those of a trivial nature and request that these misstatements be corrected.
6. We have no unadjusted misstatements to be corrected.

Fraud, subsequent events and compliance with laws and regulations

7. In presenting this report to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board we seek confirmation from those charged with governance of any instances of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; any subsequent events that have occurred since the date of the financial

statements; or material non-compliance with laws and regulations affecting the entity that should be brought to our attention.

Representations from Section 95 Officer

8. As part of the completion of our audit, we are seeking written representations from the Director of Finance and Resources, as the Section 95 Officer on aspects of the annual accounts, including the judgements and estimates made.
9. A draft letter of representation is attached at [Appendix B](#). This should be signed and returned to us by the Director of Finance and Resources with the signed annual accounts prior to the independent auditor's report being certified.

APPENDIX A: Proposed Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds and the Accounts Commission

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds for the year ended 31 March 2021 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charities as at 31 March 2021 and of their incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 8 of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charities in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charities' ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charities' ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- obtaining an understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory framework and how the charities are complying with that framework;
- identifying which laws and regulations are significant in the context of the charities;
- assessing the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the charities' controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Reporting on other requirements

Statutory other information

The trustees are responsible for the statutory other information in the statement of accounts. The statutory other information comprises the Trustees' Annual Report.

My responsibility is to read all the statutory other information and, in doing so, consider whether the statutory other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this statutory other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the statutory other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Mark Ferris FCCA

Audit Scotland
4th Floor
8 Nelson Mandela Place
Glasgow
G2 1BT

Mark Ferris is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

My Ref: AR/CB
Contact: Alan Russell
Telephone Number: 0141-618-7364
E Mail: alan.russell@renfrewshire.gov.uk
Date: 15 November 2021



Mark Ferris, Senior Audit Manager
Audit Scotland
4th Floor
8 Nelson Mandela Place
Glasgow
G2 1BT

Dear Mark

**Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds administered by Renfrewshire Council
Annual Accounts 2020/21**

- Paisley Common Good Fund: SC019478
 - Renfrewshire Common Good Fund: SC019479
 - Johnstone Common Good Fund: SC019480
1. This representation letter is provided about your audit of the annual accounts of Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds for the year ended 31 March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for expressing other opinions on the other information within the annual report and financial statements.
 2. I confirm to the best of my knowledge and belief and having made appropriate enquiries of the trustees of the registered charities where Renfrewshire Council is the sole trustee, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds' annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

General

3. Renfrewshire Council (as administering authority of the Common Good Funds) and I have fulfilled our statutory responsibilities for the preparation of the 2020/21 annual accounts. All the accounting records, documentation and other matters which I am aware are relevant to the preparation of the annual accounts have been made available to you for the purposes of your audit. All transactions undertaken by Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds have been recorded in the accounting records and are properly reflected in the financial statements.
4. I am not aware of any uncorrected misstatements.



Finance & Resources
Director: Alan Russell CPFA
Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1TT
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Financial Reporting Framework

5. The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers, including all relevant presentation and disclosure requirements.
6. In accordance with the regulations, I have ensured that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds at 31 March 2021 and the transactions for 2020/21.

Accounting Policies & Estimates

7. All significant accounting policies applied are as shown in the notes to the financial statements. The accounting policies are determined by the charities regulations where applicable. Where these regulations do not specifically apply, I have used judgement in developing and applying an accounting policy that results in information that is relevant and reliable. All accounting policies applied are appropriate to Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds circumstances and have been consistently applied.
8. The significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates are reasonable and properly reflected in the financial statements. Judgements used in making estimates have been based on the latest available, reliable information. Estimates have been revised where there are changes in the circumstances on which the original estimate was based or as a result of new information or experience.

Going Concern Basis of Accounting

9. I have assessed Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds' ability to continue to use the going concern basis of accounting and have concluded that it is appropriate. I am not aware of any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds' ability to continue as a going concern.

Assets

10. Where a rolling programme of asset valuations has been used, I have satisfied myself that the carrying amount of assets at 31 March 2021 does not differ materially from that which would be determined if a revaluation had been carried out at that date.
11. I carried out an assessment at 31 March 2021 as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired and have recognised any impairment losses identified.
12. I have provided you with all information of which I am aware regarding any valuation exercises carried out after 31 March 2021.
13. There are no plans or intentions that are likely to affect the carrying value or classification of the assets recognised within the financial statements.



14. Owned assets are free from any lien, encumbrance or charge except as disclosed in the financial statements.

Liabilities

15. All liabilities at 31 March 2021 of which I am aware have been recognised in the annual accounts.
16. There are no plans or intentions that are likely to affect the carrying value or classification of the liabilities recognised in the financial statements.

Fraud

17. I have provided you with all information in relation to:
- my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated because of fraud
 - any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements
 - fraud or suspected fraud that I am aware of involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control, or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Laws and Regulations

18. I have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

Related Party Transactions

19. All material transactions with related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting framework. I have made available to you the identity of all the Renfrewshire Council Common Good Funds' related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Events Subsequent to the Date of the Balance Sheet

20. All events subsequent to 31 March 2021 for which the 2020/21 accounting code requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

This Letter was considered at the meeting of the Council held on 18 November 2021.

Yours sincerely

Alan Russell
Section 95 Officer



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Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1TT
www.renfrewshire.gov.uk



Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

15 November 2021

Coats Observatory Trust Fund Audit of 2020/21 annual accounts

Independent auditor's report

1. Our audit work on the 2020/21 annual accounts is now substantially complete. Subject to receipt of a revised set of annual accounts for final review, we anticipate being able to issue unqualified audit opinions in the independent auditor's report by 19 November 2021 (the proposed report is attached at [Appendix A](#)).

Annual audit report

2. Under International Standards on Auditing in the UK, we report specific matters arising from the audit of the financial statements to those charged with governance of a body in sufficient time to enable appropriate action. We present for the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board's consideration our draft Annual Audit Report for Renfrewshire Council on the 2019/20 audit which incorporates our findings from the audit of Coats Observatory Trust Fund. The section headed "Significant findings from the audit in accordance with ISA 260" sets out the issues identified in respect of the annual accounts.
3. The report also sets out conclusions from our consideration of the four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope of public audit as set out in the Code of Audit Practice.
4. This report will be issued in final form after the annual accounts have been certified.

Unadjusted misstatements

5. We also report to those charged with governance all unadjusted misstatements which we have identified during our audit, other than those of a trivial nature and request that these misstatements be corrected.
6. We have no unadjusted misstatements to be corrected.

Fraud, subsequent events and compliance with laws and regulations

7. In presenting this report to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board, we seek confirmation from those charged with governance of any instances of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; any subsequent events that have occurred since the date of the financial statements; or material non-compliance with laws and regulations affecting the entity that should be brought to our attention.

Representations from Section 95 Officer

8. As part of the completion of our audit, we are seeking written representations from the Director of Finance and Resources, as the Section 95 Officer on aspects of the annual accounts, including the judgements and estimates made.
9. A draft letter of representation is attached at [Appendix B](#). This should be signed and returned to us by the Director of Finance and Resources with the signed annual accounts prior to the independent auditor's report being certified.

APPENDIX A: Proposed Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Coats Observatory Trust Fund and the Accounts Commission

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of Coats Observatory Trust Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Receipts and Payments, the Statement of Balances and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and a receipts and payments basis.

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- properly present the receipts and payments of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 and its statement of balances at that date; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulations 9(1), (2) and (3) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which properly present the receipts and payments of the charity, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- obtaining an understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory framework and how the charity is complying with that framework;
- identifying which laws and regulations are significant in the context of the charity;

- assessing the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the charity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Reporting on other requirements

Statutory other information

The trustees are responsible for the statutory other information in the statement of accounts. The statutory other information comprises the Trustees' Annual Report.

My responsibility is to read all the statutory other information and, in doing so, consider whether the statutory other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this statutory other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the statutory other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinion on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Mark Ferris FCCA
Audit Scotland
4th Floor
The Athenaeum Building
8 Nelson Mandela Place
Glasgow
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Mark Ferris is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

My Ref: AR/CB
Contact: Alan Russell
Telephone Number: 0141-618-7364
E Mail: alan.russell@renfrewshire.gov.uk
Date: 15 November 2021



Mark Ferris, Senior Audit Manager
Audit Scotland
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8 Nelson Mandela Place
Glasgow
G2 1BT

Dear Mark

**Coats Observatory Trust Fund administered by Renfrewshire Council
Annual Accounts 2020/21**

1. This representation letter is provided about your audit of the annual accounts of Coats Observatory Trust Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for expressing other opinions on the other information in the Trustees' Report and financial statements.
2. I confirm to the best of my knowledge and belief and having made appropriate enquiries of the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of Coats Observatory Trust Fund's annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

General

3. Renfrewshire Council (as the administering authority of the of Coats Observatory Trust Fund) and I have fulfilled our statutory responsibilities for the preparation of the 2020/21 annual accounts. All the accounting records, documentation and other matters which I am aware are relevant to the preparation of the annual accounts have been made available to you for the purposes of your audit. All transactions undertaken by of Coats Observatory Trust Fund have been recorded in the accounting records and are properly reflected in the financial statements.
4. I am not aware of any uncorrected misstatements.

Financial Reporting Framework

5. The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts



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(Scotland) Regulations 2006 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers, including all relevant presentation and disclosure requirements.

6. In accordance with the regulations, I have ensured that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the of Coats Observatory Trust Fund at 31 March 2021 and the transactions for 2020/21.

Accounting Policies & Estimates

7. All significant accounting policies applied are as shown in the notes to the financial statements. The accounting policies are determined by the charities regulations where applicable. Where these do not specifically apply, I have used judgement in developing and applying an accounting policy that results in information that is relevant and reliable. All accounting policies applied are appropriate to of Coats Observatory Trust Fund circumstances and have been consistently applied.
8. The significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates are reasonable and properly reflected in the financial statements. Judgements used in making estimates have been based on the latest available, reliable information. Estimates have been revised where there are changes in the circumstances on which the original estimate was based or as a result of new information or experience.

Going Concern Basis of Accounting

9. The Trustees have assessed the ability of Coats Observatory Trust Fund to continue to use the going concern basis of accounting and have concluded that it is appropriate. I am not aware of any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on Coats Observatory Trust Fund's ability to continue as a going concern.

Assets

10. Where a rolling programme of asset valuations has been used, I have satisfied myself that the carrying amount of assets at 31 March 2021 does not differ materially from that which would be determined if a revaluation had been carried out at that date.
11. I carried out an assessment at 31 March 2021 as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired and have recognised any impairment losses identified.
12. I have provided you with all information of which I am aware regarding any valuation exercises carried out after 31 March 2021.
13. There are no plans or intentions that are likely to affect the carrying value or classification of the assets recognised within the financial statements.
14. Owned assets are free from any lien, encumbrance or charge except as disclosed in the financial statements.



Fraud

15. I have provided you with all information in relation to:
- my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated because of fraud
 - any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements
 - fraud or suspected fraud that I am aware of involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control, or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Laws and Regulations

16. I have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

Related Party Transactions

17. All material transactions with related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting framework. I have made available to you the identity of all the Coats Observatory Trust Fund's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Events Subsequent to the Date of the Balance Sheet

18. All events subsequent to 31 March 2021 for which the financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

This Letter was considered at the meeting of the Council held on 18 November 2021.

Yours sincerely

Alan Russell
Section 95 Officer

