

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 15 December 2021

### PUBLIC QUESTION

Mr John Dix may ask one supplementary question at the meeting which will be answered without discussion. The supplementary question must be relevant to the original question put to the Chairman.

Agenda Item	Raised by	Question Raised	Answer
8	John Dix	<p>I've raised concerns about the lack of spending control on agency staff for the last 8 years during which time Barnet has spent £153.6m on agency staff. It's therefore disappointing to see that it's still a problem, that the RACI matrix had not been updated or widely shared since it was introduced and directly contradicts responsibilities detailed on the Agency Workers Guidance document and 130 agency staff placements exceed 1 year.</p> <p>Please tell me who is to blame for this, Barnet HR or CSG procurement, are there any IR35 implications and has the risk of fraud been investigated by CAFT?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- As a result of the audit work, some internal controls that had been put in place previously were no longer found to be the most appropriate or effective, and so have been refreshed and new ones implemented. These have now been reviewed and communicated to relevant staff</li><li>- The vast majority of agency workers engaged by the council are within the scope of IR35. Where a worker is considered to potentially fall outside the scope of IR35, the HRMC's assessment tool is used to ascertain this. IR35 compliance is audited separately, and is also subject to scrutiny from HMRC, which has found that the council is compliant with the relevant regulations</li><li>- The audit did not find any evidence that fraud had taken place. It did, however, make recommendations as to how the potential for fraud (which the audit rated as "low") should be further reduced. These recommendations have been implemented.</li></ul>