St George's University Hospitals NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

Meeting Title:	Council of Governors		
Date:	15 December 2016	**Agenda No**	**4**
Report Title:	Annual Audit Letter for St George's University Hospitals NHS Trust for Year ended 31.03.16		
Lead:	Paul Dossett, Partner - Grant Thornton		
Report Author:	Richard Coxon, Membership & Engagement Manager		
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Status:	Unrestricted		
Presented for:	Assurance		
Executive Summary:	This paper summarises the Trust's financial performance for 2015/16.		
Recommendation:	The Council of Governors is invited to receive the Annual Audit Letter for assurance.		
Supports			
Trust Strategic Objective:	Ensure the Trust has an unwavering focus on all measures of quality and safety, and patient experience.		
CQC Theme:	Addresses all five key themes: Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well-led		
Single Oversight Framework Theme:	Well-led		
Implications			
Risk:	N/A		
Legal/Regulatory:	The audit work was undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan, the Code of Audit Practice and International Standards on Auditing		
Resources:	There are no resource implications.		
Previously Considered by:	N/A	**Date**	
Equality Impact Assessment:	N/A		
Appendices:	Appendix A – Annual Audit Letter		

Annual Audit Letter 2015-16
Council of Governors, 15 December 2016

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the Audit Letter to the Governors and set out its key findings.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Governors appointed Grant Thornton UK LLP as the external auditors for the Trust. In this role, it is the auditor's responsibility to form opinions on the Trust's financial statements and quality report, and also report on the Trust's arrangements for its use of resources.

2.2 Grant Thornton reported the detailed findings of its audit work for 2015-16 to the Trust's Audit Committee and Board in its Audit Findings Report and the final version of the Audit Findings Report was communicated to the Board on 02.06.16.

3.0 KEY FINDINGS

3.1 The work carried out at the Trust for the year ended 31.03.16 included:

i. Auditing the consolidated financial statements for 2015-16
ii. Assessing the Trust's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the Trust's use of resources
iii. Reviewing the Trust's quality report
iv. Other issues identified during 2015-16.

3.2 As a result of its work, Grant Thornton issued the audit conclusions in relation to 2015-16:
i. An unqualified opinion on the accounts which in Grant Thornton's opinion give a fair and true view of the Trust's financial position as at 31 March 2016 and the Trust's income and expenditure for the year. The opinion includes an emphasis of matter in relation to the material uncertainty of the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern;
ii. A qualified conclusion in respect of the Trust's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and
iii. A qualified limited assurance report on the Trust's Quality Report.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Council of Governors is invited to receive the Annual Audit Letter for assurance.

Author: **Richard Coxon**
Date: **09.12.16**