

11 January 2023

Mr Richard Leonard MSP
Convener
Public Audit Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Convener

On 15 December 2022 I provided evidence to the committee my Section 22 report on the 2021/22 audit of National Records of Scotland. As part of this, committee members requested further information on a number of points, which I have responded to below.

Local authority census return rates

NRS wrote to the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee on 22 June 2022 with an update at that time on progress with the census. The letter is available [here](#). Annex A gives a breakdown of local authority return rates between 20 March and 21 June 2022. The correspondence also provides other information the committee may find useful, including data on the number of household visits made by field staff, broken down by local authority.

Temporary staff costs

The committee expressed an interest in knowing the split of temporary staff costs between the census programme and specialist IT projects. Unfortunately, we do not have this information, but NRS should be able to provide a more detailed breakdown of staff costs.

I hope the committee finds this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Boyle
Auditor General for Scotland