

## **COVID-19: Joint statement from the members of the Public Audit Forum in response to the coronavirus pandemic**

Members recognise the devastating impact the Coronavirus pandemic is having on families and livelihoods, and the unprecedented efforts our governments and public authorities are making in response. Billions of pounds are being made available – at speed – to support healthcare and other vital public services, and to compensate individuals and organisations for lost income during lockdowns. Our unique, cross-government public finance perspectives enable us to identify and platform best practice, promoting performance improvement in our public services. However, strong financial management and effective governance are never more important than in a crisis, and the primary role of our institutions remains providing independent assurance, facilitating transparency and promoting accountability. Each member is therefore developing a phased response appropriate to their respective remit and territory (more information available on our websites: [Audit Scotland](#), [Audit Wales](#), [National Audit Office](#) and [Northern Ireland Audit Office](#)). We appreciate, however, that we are facing a challenge that transcends geographic boundaries and political jurisdictions. Members are therefore also exploring how we could effectively cooperate on common issues important to all of us, to add most value at this time to our parliaments or assemblies, public organisations, and the public.