

## **Transcript to accompany Amyas Morse video on the NAO's 2012-2013 Annual Report**

My name is Amyas Morse. I am the Comptroller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office (NAO). This video is to encourage you to look at our 2012-13 Annual Report.

The NAO is an organisation which is directly funded and reports directly to Parliament. We are not part of the Government.

The NAO exists to help Parliament hold the Executive to account for Value for Money (VFM), efficiency and effectiveness.

This is done by both financially auditing central government, and by preparing reports on the value for money of many of the activities and projects that are carried out.

2012-2013 has been very successful year for the NAO in a number of ways:

- First and most important, there was great success in helping Parliament hold the Executive to account. For example, our assurance report on High Speed 2 raised many issues about that project which is central to the future of transport in the UK. And then at the same time we did our last report on the Olympics. We tracked the Olympics all the way through, following the value for money questions there. In both cases we did a great job of protecting value for money.
- In terms of our other impacts, we had a very high number of recommendations made to and accepted by government for change in the way public activities are conducted.
- At the same time, we had acknowledged savings that we achieved worth £1.2 billion in the public sector.
- Finally, turning to our own internal efficiencies; we had another successful year of materially reducing our costs whilst maintaining and improving our performance.

We have exciting plans for 2014 and beyond:

- First of all, we have a new mandate in working on local government. That means on the one hand we can examine the locally delivered services more closely using our new investigative capacity. And we can look at how national policies are delivered end-to-end, from national government right down into how they affect local government. So I think that is a big change.
- Secondly, we are going to look at how departments compare with each other in some of their key activities such as planning and project delivery.
- Finally, there are very big changes happening in central government and we intend to look at the quality of medium and longer term planning that government departments bring to bear.

Thank you for watching. If you want to know more about the NAO look at our website or above all, read our annual report. Thank you.