



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Date 27 November 2025

OVERSIGHT AND AUDIT HISTORY OF THE HQIP

Thank you for your request of 30 October 2025 in relation to the 'Oversight and Audit History of the HQIP'. We have handled your request in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We have checked our records and can confirm that we do not hold the information you requested. I have provided our responses to your specific request below.

1. **Audit History and Oversight:** *Has HQIP ever been subject to a formal audit, review, or investigation by NHSE or the National Audit Office (NAO) since its formation in 2008? If so, please provide the date(s), scope, and any reports, and if these are publicly accessible, please provide the links available for the reports, findings, or recommendations.*

We have never been the auditor of HQIP or subjected it to a formal audit, review or investigation. According to HQIP's latest annual report and accounts (2024), the organisation is audited by a private firm (Buzzacott LLP).

2. **Financial Assurance and Budgetary Scrutiny:** *Does the NAO or NHSE hold any records or insight reports into HQIP's annual budget, financial assurance mechanisms, or value-for-money assessments linked to its delivery of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP), NCISH, NCEPOD or other commissioned programmes? If this information is in the public domain, please provide me with the links.*

We do not hold this information.

3. **Thematic Workstreams – Mental Health and Safeguarding:** *Has the NAO or NHSE ever examined HQIP's thematic workstreams in relation to mental health and safeguarding—specifically its commissioning of audits such as the National Clinical Audit of Psychosis, the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH), or safeguarding-linked outputs in maternity, child health, and learning disability audits? If so, please provide any relevant documentation, findings, or correspondence. If this information is in the public domain, please provide me with the links.*

We do not hold this information.

4. ***Contractual Relationship with NHS England*** Can the NAO and NHSE confirm whether HQIP's contractual arrangements with NHS England fall within the scope of the NAO audit remit? If so, has the NAO reviewed any aspects of HQIP's performance, governance, transparency, or impact evaluation in relation to these contracts from 2008 to date? If this information is in the public domain, please provide me with the links.

The NAO does not audit HQIP as it does not fall within our audit remit. The NAO does audit NHS England so it is possible that we would audit NHS England's expenditure or contracts with HQIP as part of our audit of NHS England. If relevant to a value for money study we could seek to interview HQIP as an external stakeholder, although we have not done so in our retained records and specifically, we did not do so for our 2023 study on Progress in improving mental health services in England.

Our policy is to respond to requests as helpfully and promptly as possible. Therefore, I hope this information is helpful and you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team