

Summary of our draft 2021/22 work programme

For more information on this proposed work, see [Part 4](#) of our *Draft annual plan 2021/22*.

To provide feedback on our draft annual plan, email enquiry@oag.parliament.nz. Feedback is requested by Friday 28 May 2021.

Providing assurance to Parliament and the public on the Covid-19 response and recovery

Priority areas	Work proposed for 2021/22	What we intend to look at
Providing assurance to Parliament and the public on the Covid-19 response and recovery	Understanding the central response to Covid-19*	We will continue our work to provide an independent picture of the central response during 2020 to Covid-19. Our work is focused on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and its role in co-ordinating the national response.
	Case studies on public sector business continuity planning in response to the Covid-19 experience**	We plan to carry out case studies on how agencies have learned from their experiences of Covid-19 and what changes they have made to be better prepared for future business disruption.
	Further work on the Government's roll-out of the national Covid-19 vaccination programme	We intend to carry out a second, and possibly third, phase of work looking at the national roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination. This will include documenting any changes to the strategy or programme, assessing how much progress has been made, and how well the programme is being managed.
	Examining other areas of the Covid-19 response	Topics include how well the Government worked with the most vulnerable during the response, another area of significant expenditure such as the business loans scheme, or the post Covid-19 response.

How well is the public sector improving the lives of New Zealanders?

Priority areas	Work proposed for 2021/22	What we intend to look at
Improving outcomes for Māori	Understanding how well the public sector is delivering the outcomes that matter for Māori	We will carry out work to identify areas of significant investment targeted toward improving outcomes for Māori and compare that with the results that have been achieved.
	Māori perspectives on accountability*	We plan to complete our research project exploring Māori perspectives on what effective public accountability looks like.
	Whānau Ora: What has been achieved?*	We will examine how effectively commissioning and delivery agencies use the Whānau Ora approach to help whānau achieve positive outcomes.
Reducing family violence	Family violence and sexual violence: how well are agencies working together and with the non-government sector to deliver family violence and sexual violence services?	We will continue our multi-year programme of work, with a view to examining how well the agencies involved in the joint venture are working together and with the non-government sector to deliver family violence and sexual violence services.
Improving housing outcomes	Effectiveness of Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's leadership of the urban and housing development system	We will examine how the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is exercising system leadership and enabling positive outcomes. We want to gain assurance that the oversight of the housing system is effective.
	Planning of significant housing and urban development projects	We will look at how Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities works with other organisations to plan and implement significant housing and urban development projects.
Improving education outcomes	Understanding how the Ministry of Education is using its information to address educational disparities	We intend to review how effectively the Ministry of Education is using its information to identify and address inequitable educational outcomes for learners.

* Work started in 2020/21, due for completion in 2021/22.

** Work planned to start in 2020/21, deferred to 2021/22.

How well is the public accountability system working as a whole?

Priority areas	Work proposed for 2021/22	What we intend to look at
Implementing the well-being agenda	Commentary on the Treasury's statement on the Government's long-term fiscal position and insights briefing*	We want to look at how well the Treasury's 2021 statement describes what the state of the government finances might look like, given the range of challenges and opportunities the Government and the country might experience in the future.
Resilience	Canterbury earthquakes: Lessons learned from the recovery	We will identify what local government lessons have been learned from the recovery from the earthquakes and compare those with the central government lessons already documented by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
Climate change	Climate change and local government†	We will look at how well councils are factoring climate change risks and vulnerabilities into their long-term planning, the climate-related actions they plan to take, and any funding pressures or information gaps they have identified.
Integrity in the public sector	Sharing what "good" looks like: Completion of integrity framework and guidance*	We will complete and publish an integrity framework and guidance. We might also publish other supporting integrity resources where we identify a need.
	Monitoring progress: Audit work on integrity – Central government	We propose to carry out audits of several central government agencies to examine how well they are performing in relation to specific integrity issues.
	Monitoring progress: Operation Respect	Operation Respect is aimed at eliminating inappropriate and harmful behaviours and sexual violence in the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). In 2020, an independent review into the programme recommended that the Minister of Defence request the Auditor-General to carry out an audit of the NZDF's progress in regard to Operation Respect's specific outcomes every two years for 20 years. We will carry out an audit that will focus on what NZDF has put in place to address the recommendations from the independent review to ensure that the objectives of Operation Respect can be achieved.
Procurement	Governance of the Auckland City Rail Link programme*	We are looking at how well the governance arrangements of the Auckland City Rail Link programme are supporting its effective and efficient delivery.
Processes underpinning significant government investments	Systems and processes underpinning government decisions on major infrastructure investment*	We intend to complete our performance audit to assess the effectiveness of the decision-making systems and processes that have underpinned investment decisions for the New Zealand Upgrade Programme and the shovel-ready fund.
	Provincial Growth Fund: Reset of the Provincial Growth Fund and reprioritisation of investments*	The Provincial Development Unit in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has reprioritised investments of the Provincial Growth Fund to focus on the recovery from Covid-19. We plan to report on the reset.
	Effectiveness of the investment management system in supporting significant infrastructure investments	We plan to examine how effective the Treasury's investment management system is in supporting effective design and delivery of large-scale public investment in infrastructure.

* Work started in 2020/21, due for completion in 2021/22.

† To be reported in our report on Main matters arising from our audits of councils' 2021-31 long-term plans.

Keeping New Zealanders informed about public sector performance and accountability

Priority areas	Work proposed for 2021/22	What we intend to look at
Public sector accountability to local and regional communities	Public sector accountability to communities*	We plan to carry out a project that aims to discover the information that communities identify as relevant and important to their lives, the extent to which that information is readily available, and the ways in which people would like to receive information.
Our regular reporting	Central government: Results of the 2020/21 audits	
	Summary of results of the 2020/21 central government audits for chief executives	
	Results of the 2020 school audits	
	Results of the 2020 audits of tertiary education institutions	
	Results of the 2020/21 district health board audits	
	Local government: Results of the 2020/21 audits	
	Main matters arising from our audits of councils' 2021-31 long-term plan consultation documents	
	Main matters arising from our audits of councils' 2021-31 long-term plans	
	Half-year Controller update	We will report our findings for 2020/21 in our sector-based report <i>Central government: Results of the 2020/21 audits</i> . We will also continue our regular half-year Controller update.
	Auckland landscape scan	We intend to prepare an Auckland region landscape scan highlighting issues of interest.
Auckland Council Review of Service Performance (topic to be confirmed)	Section 104 of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 requires the Auditor-General to review the service performance of Auckland Council and each of its council-controlled organisations from time to time. We are currently assessing possible topics for this review.	

* Work started in 2020/21, due for completion in 2021/22.

Sharing insights about what “good” looks like

Priority areas	Work proposed for 2021/22	What we intend to look at
Sharing insights about what "good" looks like	Helping to support the effectiveness of audit and risk committees	We see independent audit and risk committees as a vital partner in supporting effective governance, accountability, and transparency of public organisations. We will continue to support and strengthen these relationships by focusing our engagement with audit and risk committees for targeted sectors.
	Support material for new audit and risk committee chairpersons	Where we identify need, new audit and risk committee chairpersons will receive information about working with our Office and copies of relevant good practice material.
	Review of good practice guidance: Audit and risk committees**	We will review and update our good practice guidance on audit and risk committees.
	Review of good practice guidance: <i>Public sector purchases, grants and gifts: managing funding arrangements with external parties</i> **	We will review and update our good practice guidance on Public sector purchases, grants, and gifts: Managing funding arrangements with external parties.
	Sharing good practice: Performance reporting	To help improve public sector performance reporting, we plan to issue further good practice guidance on performance reporting.
	Sharing good practice speaker series	Each quarter, we intend to host events where a wide range of speakers and panellists from the public and private sectors can share their good practice experience, practices, and processes.
	Understanding performance and supporting the role of monitoring agencies*	We will complete our work on examining the role and practices of monitoring agencies throughout central government. In our view, this is a topic that will be of interest and will have insights and lessons for all agencies that have monitoring responsibilities.

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