

AUDITOR GENERAL

Halifax Regional Municipality

July 6, 2018

Councillor Steve Craig
Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners
City Hall
1841 Argyle St., 4th Floor
Halifax, NS

Dear Councillor Craig,

As you may know, my Office's 2017-18 plan included an audit of Halifax Regional Police's Information Technology (IT). As we carried out planning work, we were made aware of a consultant report HRP received in December 2016 assessing the current state of its IT security. The report covered many of the areas we planned to examine in our audit and identified serious security deficiencies. HRP management was not able to confirm whether it provided a copy of the report to the Board of Police Commissioners.

The consultant report considered various IT security matters by looking at the likelihood of something going wrong and the impact if it does. It identified 67 concerns: 35 high-impact, high-likelihood issues, and an additional 18 ranked as high-medium impact and likelihood. Since these matters deal with IT security, I have not provided details here. I can give the Board additional information, in-camera, at its July meeting.

From discussions with HRP management, we understand a number of the issues identified by the consultant have yet to be addressed in the 18 months since HRP received the report. Management told us it has taken some time to hire a Chief Information Security Officer. While we acknowledge recruitment can sometimes be a challenge, a delay of 18 months addressing a large number of significant IT security matters is concerning. Issues which have a high likelihood of occurring and a high impact if they do, need immediate attention.

Since our audit would likely restate the same concerns as noted in the consultant report, we have decided to put our work on hold until Spring 2019. At that time, we will restart our audit and examine the significant items from the report, as well as anything else we consider necessary.

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In the interim, I encourage Halifax Regional Police management to develop and implement a plan to address identified security risks. I suggest the Board request regular updates to ensure timely action is taken.

Regards,

Original signed by

Evangeline Colman-Sadd, CPA, CA
Auditor General
Halifax Regional Municipality

cc: Chief Jean-Michel Blais
Jacques Dubé, CAO