

Edinburgh
c. £80,000

New arrangements for public audit are being created under the Scottish Parliament. The first Auditor General for Scotland has recently been appointed to secure the audit of most public bodies, including the Scottish Executive. The Accounts Commission will continue to secure the audit of Scottish local authorities. On 1 April 2000 a new body, Audit Scotland will be established to provide audit services and support to both the Auditor General and the Accounts Commission.

Applications are invited for the two top posts in Audit Scotland, who will work with the Auditor General and the Accounts Commission in developing a modern culture and approach to public audit in Scotland. The successful candidates will be appointed to the board of Audit Scotland.

Controller of Audit and Deputy Auditor General

The person will carry overall responsibility for the procurement and resources strategy of Audit Scotland, including arrangements for appointing auditors, quality control and technical support for the audit process. A very important part of the job will be fulfilling the statutory duties of Controller of Audit in relation to local authorities in Scotland. These duties are set out in legislation and involve investigations and reports to the Accounts Commission on matters arising from local authority audits. The person will also be responsible for reporting to the Auditor General on the audit of all bodies for which the Auditor General has audit responsibilities.

The successful candidate will have experience of operating at a very senior management level, possibly as a chief executive, director of finance, or partner in a private firm, with a track record of achievement at this level. Some experience in a public sector environment is required and experience of working with local authorities would be highly desirable. A CCAB financial qualification would be a significant advantage but is not essential.

Both these senior posts will involve working at the highest levels of government in Scotland. The candidates will require to report to, and have a dialogue with, the Auditor General, the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Executive, the Accounts Commission and senior figures in local government and the rest of the public sector. Both candidates must have excellent leadership and communication skills, allied to an ability to build constructive relationships with the wide range of Audit Scotland stakeholders. They should be personally committed to developing a modern public audit regime which will serve the needs of the Parliament and people of Scotland.

These will be permanent posts on the establishment of Audit Scotland. The salary will be circa £80,000 for each post.

Deputy Auditor General (Performance Audit)

The person will carry overall responsibility for the performance audit strategy which will include performance audit reports, value for money studies, performance indicators and the audit of management arrangements. The person will report to the Accounts Commission in relation to local authority matters and to the Auditor General in relation to all other reports. The person will also co-ordinate the strategic plan, corporate plan and annual report and be responsible for the business strategy, systems and corporate support services of Audit Scotland.

The successful candidate will have experience of operating at a senior management level with a track record of achievement. Some experience in a public sector environment is highly desirable. The candidate must have a good academic record and a post-graduate qualification, such as an MBA, would be an advantage. Experience of public sector policy analysis, audit or research is highly desirable.

