

Chapter 20

Summary of Implemented Recommendations

1.0 MAIN POINTS

This chapter provides an update on recommendations related to our annual integrated audits or IT audits that were implemented and are not discussed elsewhere in the Integrated Audits Section of this Report.

2.0 SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

Figure 1 sets out, by agency, the recommendation and highlights key actions taken by each agency to implement its recommendation.

Figure 1 – Implemented Recommendations

Past Recommendation (Initial PAS Report, Date of Agreement of PAC or CCAC) ^A	Key Actions Taken During 2017-18 to Implement Recommendation
Ministry of Government Relations	
We recommended that the Ministry of Government Relations document and implement procedures to ensure unneeded user access to its information technology systems and data is removed promptly. (2012 Report – Volume 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement January 13, 2014)	<p>In December 2017, the Ministry improved its processes to monitor timely removal of user access.</p> <p>It required its Corporate Services Division to follow up with individual branches when it did not receive notification of upcoming staff departures in accordance with its policy.^B We found that it did so with responsible branches.</p> <p>This process, combined with its continued emphasis on removing users timely, resulted in significant improvement from previous years in the timely removal of unneeded user access. From January to June 2018 we found no instances of untimely removal of access to significant IT systems and data (prior year: 23 employees whose access was not removed until 1 to 336 days after departure).</p>
Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport	
We recommended that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport follow its established procedures and promptly remove unneeded user access to its computer systems and data. (2014 Report – Volume 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement September 17, 2015)	During 2017-18, the Ministry consistently used its review of weekly reports to identify staff that had left the Ministry, and confirm their user access was removed. Our testing of user access found access of users (that had left the Ministry who had access to significant IT systems and data) was removed timely.
Public Service Commission – Administering the Government’s Key Human Resources/Payroll Information Technology System	
We recommended that the Public Service Commission follow its established procedures for reviewing payroll reports prior to making payroll payments. (2017 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement October 3, 2018)	During 2017, Commission staff regularly reviewed payroll reports prior to paying employees, as its procedures require. In addition, it monitored the timeliness of its reviews and took corrective action when needed.



Past Recommendation (Initial PAS Report, Date of Agreement of PAC or CCAC) ^A	Key Actions Taken During 2017-18 to Implement Recommendation
Saskatchewan Water Corporation	
We recommended that Saskatchewan Water Corporation implement and test a business continuity plan. (2012 Report – Volume 1; Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies agreement March 12, 2014)	During 2017-18, SaskWater sufficiently completed its business continuity plan. It successfully tested its plan in March 2018. Maintaining and periodically testing a sufficient business continuity plan helps to ensure its IT systems and data are available to deliver business-critical services when needed.

^A PAS = Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan

PAC = Standing Committee on Public Accounts

CCAC = Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

^B The Ministry policy requires branches to send notification of upcoming staff departures to its Corporate Services branch at least five working days prior to the employee's departure date.