

Halifax Regional Police is not effectively managing its information technology security risks, Auditor General, Evangeline Colman-Sadd, said in her report released today, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The audit found HRP has made limited progress on the results of a 2016-17 IT security consultant's risk assessment. This risk assessment has not been revisited and key risk management processes are not fully developed. Existing HRP IT security policies are inadequate. New policies meant to support critical IT security objectives have been draft since 2019, and detailed procedures are needed to put finalized policies into practice. "The IT security environment at HRP needs significant improvement, from how risks are identified to how they are ultimately managed," the auditor general said.

The audit also found HRP provided inaccurate reporting to the Board of Police Commissioners on the status of the 2016-17 consultant report. In 2019, HRP IT management said 13 of the report's 67 recommendations were complete. The audit determined only five were complete. "We are concerned the Board was given incorrect information regarding the state of IT security at HRP. The Board should expect to receive accurate information in carrying out its important oversight responsibilities," Colman-Sadd said.

The auditor general's report includes 12 recommendations which HRP management agreed to implement. The report is available on the auditor general's website at <https://hrmauditorgeneral.ca/published-reports>.

Given the sensitive nature of IT security, there is also a confidential report with additional information and recommendations. This report was shared with HRP management, and in-camera with the Board of Police Commissioners and the HRM Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

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