Request:

>1.Please can you provide a date for the last time each LA maintained school in your area was last audited by the council. Failing this, please could you tell me how many schools have not been audited since November 2013 (five years ago).

The Council has changed the assurance and support provided to schools and no longer provides audits of individual schools. Instead, a range of support is provided to schools by Internal Audit:

• Thematic Reviews – the Council has introduced an approach to assess, on a thematic basis, the application of controls associated with the discharge of responsibilities relating to delegated school budgets, within a sample of the Authority's schools on a risk assessed basis.

• Schools' Financial Value Standard (SFVS) – the SFVS is required by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to help schools manage their finances and provide assurance to local authorities that they have secure financial management in place. Internal Audit liaises with all local authority schools every year to ensure that this mandatory return is completed for every school and the required assurance is provided to the Council's Chief Finance Officer relating to their annual report to the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

• School 'Health Checks' – Provision of a discretionary service, where schools may opt to purchase independent assurance to assist in preparation of their SFVS return and / or develop action plans for improvement.

• General advice and support to all schools on internal control and governance matters

• Support in the case of suspicion of any fraud / error / financial irregularity.

>2.Also, for each of the last three years, please can you tell me how many schools were audited, and roughly what percentage of the your schools this made up.

Not Applicable - see above.

>3.For each of these years, if possible, please provide the name of the school audited, and the number of recommendations made (please break this down into low/medium/high recs)

Not Applicable - see above.

>4.For each of these years, please also provide details of the recommendations. And please provide any details you have on action taken in relation to the recs.

Not Applicable – see above.

> 5.Please include a figure for the number of investigations that were opened as a result of an audit report, and the outcome of an investigation. Plus whether the investigation was published in the public domain.

This information is not held. This information would be held by individual schools.

> 6.Do you publish the findings of your school audits in the public domain? If so, please point me to where.

See answers already provided above. In addition, a report is presented to the Authority's Audit Committee twice each year, which provides a summary of the key outcomes from Internal Audit reports issued in a six month period. (Link to Audit Committee website page shown below).

https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/meetings/audit-committee