



Office of Inspector General

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

November 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Andrew Katsaros
Inspector General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Katsaros".

TO: Lina M. Khan, Chair

SUBJECT: Report on Audit of the FTC's Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Statements

I am pleased to provide you with the attached audit report required by the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002, which presents an unmodified opinion on the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC's) fiscal year 2023 financial statements. We commend the FTC for attaining an unmodified (clean) opinion for the 27th consecutive year.

We contracted with the independent public accounting firm of Allmond & Company, LLC, to audit the financial statements of the FTC as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023,¹ and to provide a report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with laws and other matters. The audit was performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, the Government Accountability Office's *Government Auditing Standards*, and Office of Management and Budget guidance.

In its audit of the agency, Allmond & Company reported

- that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
- no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting;² and
- no reportable noncompliance with provisions of laws tested or other matters.

Allmond & Company is responsible for the attached auditor's report dated November 15, 2023, and the conclusions expressed in the report. We do not express opinions on FTC's financial statements or internal control over financial reporting, or conclusions on compliance and other matters.

We appreciate the cooperation given by management to Allmond & Company and the Office of Inspector General during the audit. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the report, please contact me at (202) 326-3527.

¹ The financial statements of the FTC as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022, were audited by another auditor, who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on November 14, 2022.

² A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

**AUDIT REPORT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**



**ALLMOND & COMPANY, LLC
Certified Public Accountants
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Independent Auditor's Report

Chair, Federal Trade Commission
Inspector General, Federal Trade Commission

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

Pursuant to the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which comprise the balance sheet as of September 30, 2023; the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the fiscal year then ended; and the related notes to the financial statements (hereinafter referred to as the financial statements).

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Federal Trade Commission as of September 30, 2023 and its net costs, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 24-01, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*. Our responsibilities under those standards and OMB Bulletin No. 24-01 are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the FTC and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence that we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Other Matter

The financial statements of FTC as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022 were audited by another auditor, who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on November 14, 2022. These statements were not audited, reviewed, or compiled by us; accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any other form of assurance on them.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for (1) the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in

accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (2) the preparation, measurement, and presentation of Required Supplementary Information (RSI) in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (3) the preparation and presentation of other information included in FTC's Agency Financial Report and ensuring the consistency of that information with the audited financial statements and the RSI; and (4) the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to (1) obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and (2) issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit of the financial statements conducted in accordance with GAAS, generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS), and OMB Bulletin No. 24-01 will always detect a material misstatement or material weakness when it exists.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, GAGAS, and OMB Bulletin No. 24-01, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit; identify and assess risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; and design and perform audit procedures that are responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. In addition, in making those risk assessments, we obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to an audit of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of FTC's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements, and performing other procedures we consider necessary in the circumstances. We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the financial statement audit.

Required Supplementary Information (RSI)

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles issued by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) require that the information in the RSI be presented to supplement the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the financial statements, is required by FASAB, which considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in appropriate operational, economic, or historical context.

We have applied certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. These procedures consisted of (1) inquiring of management about the methods used to prepare the RSI and (2) comparing the RSI for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during the audit of FTC's financial statements, in order to report omissions or material departures from FASAB guidelines, if any, identified by these limited procedures. We did not audit and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures we applied do not provide sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

FTC's other information contains a wide range of information, some of which is not directly related to the financial statements. This information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements or the RSI. Management is responsible for the other information included in FTC's Agency Financial Report. The other information comprises the *Message from the Chair*, *Performance Highlights*, and *Other Information* sections, as listed in the Table of Contents of FTC's Agency Financial Report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In connection with our audit of FTC's financial statements, we considered FTC's internal control over financial reporting, consistent with our auditor's responsibilities discussed below.

Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described below, and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies¹ or to express an opinion on the effectiveness of FTC's internal control over financial reporting. Given these limitations, during our 2023 audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

¹ A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit the attention by those charged with governance.

During our audit, we identified deficiencies in FTC's internal control over financial reporting that we do not consider to be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies that, nonetheless, warrant management's attention. We have communicated these matters to FTC management and, where appropriate, will report on them separately.

Basis for Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We performed our procedures related to FTC's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards and OMB audit guidance.

Responsibilities of Management for Internal Control over Financial Reporting

FTC management is responsible for designing, implementing, and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of FTC's financial statements as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we considered FTC's internal control relevant to the financial statement audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of FTC's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on FTC's internal control over financial reporting. We are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not consider all internal controls relevant to operating objectives, such as those controls relevant to preparing performance information and ensuring efficient operations.

Definition and Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel. The objectives of internal control over financial reporting are to provide reasonable assurance that (1) transactions are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and (2) transactions are executed in accordance with provisions of applicable laws, including those governing the use of budget authority, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements due to fraud or error.

Intended Purpose of Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our consideration of FTC's internal control over financial reporting and the results of our procedures, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of FTC's internal control over financial reporting. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, this report on internal control over financial reporting is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

In connection with our audit of FTC's financial statements, we tested compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements consistent with our auditor's responsibilities discussed below.

Results of Our Tests for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

Our tests for compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements disclosed no instances of noncompliance for fiscal year 2023 that would be reportable under U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to FTC. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Basis for Results of Our Tests for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

We performed our tests of compliance in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

FTC management is responsible for complying with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to FTC.

Auditor's Responsibilities for Tests of Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

Our responsibility is to test compliance with selected provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to FTC that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in FTC's financial statements, and to perform certain other limited procedures. Accordingly, we did not test compliance with all provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to FTC. We caution that noncompliance may occur and not be detected by these tests.

Intended Purpose for Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance with selected provision of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering compliance. Accordingly, this report on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements is not suitable for any other purpose.

Allmond & Company, LLC

Lanham, Maryland
November 15, 2023