

1. Membership

- 1.1 The committee shall comprise at least two members. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the board, in consultation with the chairman of the audit and risk committee. Appointments shall be for a period of up to three years which may be extended for up to two additional three-year periods, provided members continue to be independent.
- 1.2 All members of the committee shall be independent non-executive directors at least one of whom shall have recent and relevant financial experience and the committee as a whole shall have competence relevant to the sector in which the company operates. The chairman of the board shall not normally be a member of the committee.
- 1.3 Only members of the committee have the right to attend committee meetings. However, the finance director, head of internal audit and external audit lead partner will be invited to attend meetings of the committee on a regular basis and other non-members may be invited to attend all or part or any meeting as and when appropriate and necessary.
- 1.4 The board shall appoint the committee chairman. In the absence of the committee chairman and/or an appointed deputy at a committee meeting, the remaining members present shall elect one of themselves to chair the meeting.

2. Secretary

The company secretary, or his or her nominee, shall act as the secretary of the committee and will ensure that the committee receives information and papers in a timely manner to enable full and proper consideration to be given to issues.

3. Quorum

- 3.1 The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be two members.
- 3.2 A duly convened committee meeting at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers and discretions vested in or exercisable by the committee.

4. Frequency of meetings

- 4.1 The committee shall meet at least three times a year at appropriate intervals in the financial reporting and audit cycle and otherwise as required.
- 4.2 Outside of the formal meeting programme, the committee chairman, and to a lesser extent the other committee members, will maintain a dialogue with key individuals in the company's governance, including the board chairman, the chief executive, the finance director and the external lead audit partner.

5. Notice of meetings

- 5.1 Meetings of the committee shall be convened by the secretary of the committee at the request of any of its members or at the request of the external audit lead partner if they consider it necessary.
- 5.2 Unless otherwise agreed by the committee, notice of each meeting confirming the venue, time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed, shall be forwarded to each member of the committee no later than five working days before the date of the meeting. Supporting papers shall be sent to committee members at the same time.
- 5.3 Notices, agendas and supporting papers can be sent in electronic form where the recipient has agreed to receive documents in such a way.

6. Minutes of meetings

- 6.1 The secretary shall minute the proceedings and decisions of all meetings of the committee, including recording the names of those present and in attendance.
- 6.2 The secretary shall ascertain, at the start of each meeting, the existence of any conflicts of interest and minute them accordingly.
- 6.3 Draft minutes of committee meetings shall be agreed with committee chairman and then circulated promptly to all members of the committee, unless it would be inappropriate to do in the opinion of the committee chairman.

7. Annual general meeting

The committee chairman should attend the annual general meeting to answer shareholder questions. In addition, the committee chair should seek engagement with shareholders on significant matters related to the committee's areas of responsibility.

8. Duties

The committee should have oversight of the group as a whole and, unless required otherwise by regulation, carry out the duties below for the parent company, major subsidiary undertakings and the group as a whole.

8.1 Financial reporting

- 8.1.1 The committee shall monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the company, including its annual and half-yearly reports, preliminary announcements and any other formal statements relating to its financial performance, and review and report to the board on significant financial reporting issues and judgements which those statements contain having regard to matters communicated to it by the auditor.
- 8.1.2 In particular, the committee shall review and challenge where necessary:
 - 8.1.2.1 the application and appropriateness of significant accounting policies and any changes to them;
 - 8.1.2.2 management's assessment of the impact of new accounting policies on the distributable reserves of the company;
 - 8.1.2.3 the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible;
 - 8.1.2.4 significant adjustments resulting from the external audit;

- 8.1.2.5 the assumptions or qualifications in support of the going concern statement (including any material uncertainties as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern over a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements) and the longer term viability statement (including an assessment of the prospects of the company looking forward over an appropriate and justified period), including the robustness of stress-testing and scenario planning, and disclosures around such analysis and the legality of any proposed dividend and the company's ability to pay it and remain a going concern;
 - 8.1.2.6 compliance with financial reporting standards and the AIM Rules and related guidance and other financial and governance reporting requirements;
 - 8.1.2.7 whether the company has adopted appropriate accounting policies and made appropriate estimates and judgements, taking into account the external auditors views on the financial statements;
 - 8.1.2.8 the clarity and completeness of disclosures in the financial statements and the context in which statements are made; and
 - 8.1.2.9 all material information presented with the financial statements, including the strategic report and the corporate governance statements relating to the audit and to risk management.
- 8.1.3 The committee shall review any other statements requiring board approval which contain financial information first, where to carry out a review prior to board approval would be practical and consistent with any prompt reporting requirements under any law or regulation including the Listing rules and Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules sourcebook.

- 8.1.4 Where the committee is not satisfied with any aspect of the proposed financial reporting by the company, it shall report its views to the board.

8.2 Narrative reporting

Where requested by the board, the committee should review the content of the annual report and accounts and advise the board on whether, taken as a whole, it is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the company's performance, business model and strategy and whether it informs the board's statement in the annual report on these matters that is required under the Code.

8.3 Internal controls and risk management systems

The committee shall:

- 8.3.1 keep under review the company's internal financial controls systems that identify, assess, manage and monitor financial risks, and other internal control and risk management systems;
- 8.3.2 review and approve the statements to be included in the annual report concerning internal control, risk management, including the assessment of principal risks and emerging risks and the viability statement.
- 8.3.3 consider any disclosure implications of the process that has been applied by the board to deal with material internal control aspects of any significant problems disclosed in the annual report and accounts; and
- 8.3.4 consider the major findings of relevant internal investigations into risk and control weaknesses, fraud, or misconduct and management's response, and also consider whether any such failings or weaknesses are significant and therefore require disclosure, the basis and accuracy of explanations given as to what actions are being taken to address them, and whether the level of disclosure of such actions is appropriate.

8.4 Compliance, whistleblowing and fraud

The committee shall:

- 8.4.1 review the adequacy and security of the company's arrangements for its employees, contractors and external parties to raise concerns, in confidence, about possible wrongdoing in financial reporting or other matters. The committee shall ensure that these arrangements allow proportionate and independent investigation of such matters and appropriate follow up action;
- 8.4.2 review the company's procedures for detecting fraud; and
- 8.4.3 review the company's systems and controls for the prevention of bribery and receive reports on non-compliance.

8.5 External audit

The committee shall:

- 8.5.1 consider and make recommendations to the board, to be put to shareholders for approval at the annual general meeting, in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the company's external auditor;
- 8.5.2 develop and oversee the selection procedure for the appointment of the audit firm, ensuring that all tendering firms have access to all necessary information and individuals during the tendering process;
- 8.5.3 if an external auditor resigns, investigate the issues leading to this and decide whether any action is required;
- 8.5.4 oversee the relationship with the external auditor. In this context the committee shall:

- 8.5.4.1 approve their remuneration, including both fees for audit and non-audit services, and ensure that the level of fees is appropriate to enable an effective and high-quality audit to be conducted; and
 - 8.5.4.2 approve their terms of engagement, including any engagement letter issued at the start of each audit and the scope of the audit;
- 8.5.5 assess annually the external auditor's independence and objectivity taking into account relevant UK law, regulation, the Ethical Standard and other professional requirements and the group's relationship with the auditor as a whole, including any threats to the auditor's independence and the safeguards applied to mitigate those threats including the provision of any non-audit services;
- 8.5.6 satisfy itself that there are no relationships between the auditor and the company (other than in the ordinary course of business) which could adversely affect the auditor's independence and objectivity;
- 8.5.7 agree with the board a policy on the employment of former employees of the company's auditor, taking into account the Ethical Standard and legal requirements, and monitor the application of this policy;
- 8.5.8 monitor the auditor's processes for maintaining independence, its compliance with relevant UK law, regulation, other professional requirements and the Ethical Standard, including the guidance on the rotation of audit partner and staff;
- 8.5.9 monitor the level of fees paid by the company to the external auditor compared to the overall fee income of the firm, office and partner and assess these in the context of relevant legal, professional and regulatory requirements, guidance and the Ethical Standard;
- 8.5.10 assess annually the qualifications, expertise and resources, and independence of the external auditor and the effectiveness of the external audit process, which shall include a report from the external auditor on their own internal quality procedures;

- 8.5.11 evaluate the risks to the quality and effectiveness of the financial reporting process in the light of the external auditor's communications with committee;
- 8.5.12 develop and recommend to the board the company's formal policy on the provision of non-audit services by the auditor, including approval of non-audit service to be pre-approved, and assessment of whether non-audit services have a direct or material effect on the audited financial statements. The policy should include consideration of the following matters:
 - 8.5.12.1 threats to the independence and objectivity of the external auditor and any safeguards in place;
 - 8.5.12.2 the nature of non-audit services;
 - 8.5.12.3 whether the external audit firm is the most suitable supplier of the non-audit service;
 - 8.5.12.4 the fees for the non-audit services, both individually and in aggregate, relative to the audit fee; and
 - 8.5.12.5 the criteria governing compensation;
- 8.5.13 meet regularly with the external auditor (including once at the planning stage before the audit and once after the audit at the reporting stage) and, at least once a year, meet with the external auditor without management being present, to discuss the auditor's remit and any issues arising from the audit;
- 8.5.14 discuss with the external auditor the factors that could affect audit quality and review and approve the annual audit plan, ensuring it is consistent with the scope of the audit engagement, having regard to the seniority, expertise and experience of the audit team;
- 8.5.15 review the findings of the audit with the external auditor. This shall include but not limited to, the following:

- 8.5.15.1 a discussion of any issues which arose during the audit;
- 8.5.15.2 the auditor's explanation of how the risks to audit quality were addressed;
- 8.5.15.3 key accounting and audit judgements;
- 8.5.15.4 the auditor's view of their interactions with senior management; and
- 8.5.15.5 levels of errors identified during the audit;
- 8.5.16 review any representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before they are signed by management;
- 8.5.17 review the management letter and management's response to auditor's findings and recommendations; and
- 8.5.18 review the effectiveness of the audit process, including an assessment of the quality of the audit, the handling of key judgements by the auditor, and the auditor's response to questions from the committee.

9. Reporting responsibilities

9.1 The committee chairman shall report formally to the board on its proceedings after each meeting on all matters within its duties and responsibilities and shall also formally report to the board on how it has discharged its responsibilities.

This report shall include:

- 9.1.1 the significant issues that it considered in relation to the financial statements (required under paragraph 8.1.1) and how these were addressed;

- 9.1.2 its assessment of the effectiveness of the external audit process (required under paragraph 8.5.10), the approach taken to the appointment or reappointment of the external auditor, length of tenure of audit firm, when a tender was last conducted and advance notice of any retendering plan; and
- 9.1.3 any other issues on which the board has requested the committee's opinion.

9.2 The committee shall make whatever recommendations to the board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit where action or improvement is needed.

9.3 The committee shall compile a report on its activities to be included in the company's annual report. The report should include:

- 9.3.1 details of the membership of the committee, including the number of meetings held and attendance over the course of the year;
- 9.3.2 a summary of the role and work of the committee;
- 9.3.3 how the committee's performance evaluation has been conducted;
- 9.3.4 an explanation of its assessment of the independence and effectiveness of the external audit process (including the provision of non-audit services and an explanation of how auditor objectivity and independence is safeguarded if non-audit services are provided) and its approach to the appointment or reappointment of the external auditor, and the amount of fees paid to the auditor for its services;
- 9.3.5 the policy for approval of non-audit services, how auditor objectivity and independence is safeguarded, audit fees for the statutory audit for audit related services and other non-audit services, including the ratio of audit to non-audit work, and for each significant engagement, or category of engagements, what the services are and why the committee concluded that it was in the company's interests to purchase them from the external auditor;
- 9.3.6 an explanation of the significant issues that the committee considered in relation to the financial statements and how these issues were addressed, having regard to matters communicated to it by the auditor; and all other information requirements set out in the Code.

9.4 In compiling reports referred to in 9.1 and 9.3, the committee should exercise judgement in deciding which of the issues it considers in relation to the financial statements are significant, but should include at least those matters that have informed the board's assessment of whether the company is a going concern and the inputs to the board's viability statement. The report to shareholders need not repeat information disclosed elsewhere in the annual report and accounts, but could provide cross-references to that information.

10. Other matters

The committee shall:

- 10.1 have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out its duties, including access to the company secretariat for assistance as required;
- 10.2 be provided with appropriate and timely training, both in the form of an induction programme for new members and on an ongoing basis for all members;
- 10.3 give due consideration to relevant laws and regulations, the provisions of the Code and the requirements of the Listing Rules, Prospectus Rules and Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules sourcebook and any other applicable rules, as appropriate;

10.4 oversee any investigation of activities which are within its terms of reference.

10.5 work and liaise as necessary with all other board committees, taking particular account of the impact of risk management and internal controls being delegated to different committees; and

10.6 arrange for periodic reviews of its own performance and, at least annually, review its constitution and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and recommend any changes it considers necessary to the board.

11. Authority

The committee is authorised to:

11.1 seek any information it requires from any employee of the company in order to perform its duties;

11.2 obtain, at the company's expense, independent legal, accounting or other professional advice on any matter it believes necessary to do so;

11.3 call any employee to be questioned at a meeting of the committee as and when required; and

11.4 have the right to publish in the company's annual report, details of any issues that cannot be resolved between the committee and the board.

Approved by the Audit and Risk Committee on 30 January 2025