

1. Membership

- 1.1. The Committee is constituted by the Board and is responsible for assisting the Board in discharging its responsibilities, including those arising under the UK Corporate Governance Code (published July 2018) (**Code**), by reviewing and monitoring: the integrity of the Company's financial statements; the effectiveness of the Company's systems of internal controls and risk management; the processes for compliance with laws, regulations and ethical codes of practice; the Company's attitude to and appetite for risk and its future risk strategy, how risk is reported internally and externally; and the effectiveness, performance and objectivity of the internal and external auditors.
- 1.2. The Committee shall comprise at least three members, all of whom shall be independent non-executive directors. Members of the Committee shall have appropriate knowledge, skills and expertise to fully understand risk appetite and strategy. At least one member of the Committee shall have recent and relevant financial experience. The Committee as a whole shall have competence relevant to the sector in which the Company operates. The Chair of the Board shall not be a member of the Committee.
- 1.3. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board, on the recommendation of the Nomination Committee in consultation with the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.
- 1.4. Only members of the Committee have the right to attend Committee meetings. However, the Chief Financial Officer, any Chief Risk Officer, Head of Internal Audit (or where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned, the internal audit lead partner), and the external audit lead partner will be invited to attend meetings of the Committee on a regular basis, and other Board members or employees or advisers may be invited to attend all or part of any meeting as and when appropriate.
- 1.5. The Board shall appoint the Committee Chair. In the absence of the Committee Chair and/or an appointed deputy at a Committee meeting, the remaining members present shall elect one of themselves to Chair the meeting.
- 1.6. The Committee Chair shall review membership of the Committee annually and make any recommendations on its membership to the Board.

2. Secretary

- 2.1. The Company Secretary (or their 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.
- 2.2. The Secretary of the Committee shall ascertain, at the beginning of each meeting, the existence of any conflicts of interest and minute them accordingly.

3. Quorum

3.1. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be two members, present in person or by electronic communication.

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 Chair will maintain a dialogue with key individuals involved in the Company's governance, including the Board Chair, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, any Chief Risk Officer, the external audit lead partner and the Head of Internal Audit (or where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned, the internal audit lead partner).

5. Notice of meetings

5.1. Meetings of the Committee shall be called by the Secretary of the Committee at the request of the Committee Chair or any of its members, or at the request of the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Risk Officer or other head of risk (if any), the external audit lead partner or head of internal audit (or where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned, the internal audit lead partner) if they consider it necessary.

5.2. Unless otherwise agreed, notice of each meeting confirming the venue (which may be by telephone or video conference or other electronic means), time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed, shall be forwarded to each member of the Committee and any other person required to attend no later than three working days before the date of the meeting. Supporting papers (which may be in electronic form) shall be sent or made available to Committee members and to other attendees, as appropriate, at the same time.

6. Minutes of meetings

6.1. The Secretary of the Committee shall minute the proceedings and decisions of all Committee meetings, including recording the names of those present and in attendance.

6.2. Draft minutes of Committee meetings shall be agreed with the Committee Chair and then circulated promptly to other members of the Committee and the Company Secretary unless, exceptionally, it would be inappropriate to do so.

7. Engagement with shareholders

7.1. The Committee Chair should attend the Annual General Meeting (or, as necessary, General Meeting) of the Company to answer any shareholder questions on the Committee's activities. 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, and the Group as a whole, as appropriate.

8.1. Financial reporting and narrative

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 external auditor.

8.1.2. In particular, the Committee shall review and challenge where necessary:

8.1.2.1. the application of significant accounting policies and any changes to them;

8.1.2.2. the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions (including off balance sheet arrangements) where different approaches are possible, and the extent to which the financial statements are affected by such transactions;

8.1.2.3. whether the Company has adopted appropriate accounting policies (including the appropriateness of any changes to such policies) and made appropriate estimates and judgements, taking into account the external auditor's views;

8.1.2.4. the clarity and completeness of disclosures in the financial statements and the context in which statements are made;

8.1.2.5. 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;

8.1.2.6. significant adjustments resulting from the audit (including any adjustments proposed by the auditors that have not been adopted);

8.1.2.7. the reasonableness of assumptions made in support of the going concern statement and the longer-term viability statement; and

8.1.2.8. compliance with financial reporting standards and any other financial and governance reporting requirements that are applicable to the Company.

- 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 practicable and consistent with any prompt reporting requirements under any law or regulation including the Listing Rules, Prospectus Rules and Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules.
- 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.
- 8.1.5. 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.

8.2. Internal audit

The Committee shall

- 8.2.1. approve the appointment or termination of appointment of the Head of Internal Audit (or where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned, the appointment or termination of appointment such third party);
- 8.2.2. review and approve the role and mandate of internal audit, monitor and review the effectiveness of its work, and annually approve the internal audit charter ensuring it is appropriate for the current needs of the organisation;
- 8.2.3. review and approve the annual internal audit plan to ensure it is aligned to the key risks of the business, and receive regular reports on work carried out including;
 - 8.2.3.1. reviewing progress on the annual plan and approve any changes;
 - 8.2.3.2. receiving and reviewing regular reports on the work of internal audit; and
 - 8.2.3.3. reviewing and monitoring management's responsiveness to internal audit findings review including the actions taken by management to implement the recommendations of internal audit and to support the effective working of the internal audit function (including its equivalent where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned).
- 8.2.4. ensure internal audit has unrestricted scope, the necessary resources and access to information to enable it to fulfil its mandate, ensure there is open communication between different functions and that the internal audit function (including its

equivalent where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned), evaluates the effectiveness of these functions as part of its internal audit plan, and ensure that the internal audit function (including its equivalent where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned) is equipped to perform in accordance with appropriate professional standards for internal auditors;

8.2.5. ensure the internal auditor has direct access to the Board Chair and to the Committee Chair, providing independence from the executive and accountability to the Committee;

8.2.6. carry out an annual assessment of the effectiveness of the internal audit function (including its equivalent where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned) and as part of this assessment:

8.2.6.1. meet with the Head of Internal Audit (or where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned, the internal audit lead partner), at least annually without the presence of management to discuss the effectiveness of the function;

8.2.6.2. review and assess the annual internal audit work plan;

8.2.6.3. receive a report on the results of the internal auditor's work; and

8.2.6.4. determine whether it is satisfied that the quality, experience and expertise of internal audit is appropriate for the business.

8.2.7. monitor and assess the role and effectiveness of the internal audit function (including its equivalent where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned) in the overall context of the Company's risk management system and the work of compliance, finance and the external auditor; and

8.2.8. consider whether an independent, third party review of processes is appropriate.

8.3. External Audit

The Committee shall:

8.3.1. consider and make recommendations to the Board, to be put to shareholders for approval at the Annual General Meeting (or, as necessary, General Meeting) of the Company, in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the Company's external auditor;

8.3.2. ensure that key partners of the external auditor are rotated at appropriate intervals and that at least once every ten years the audit services contract is put out to tender

to enable the Committee to compare the quality and effectiveness of the services provided by the incumbent auditor with those of other audit firms;

- 8.3.3. develop and oversee the selection procedure for the appointment of the audit firm in accordance with applicable Code and regulatory requirements, ensuring that all tendering firms have access to all necessary information and individuals during the tendering process;
- 8.3.4. if an external auditor resigns, investigate the issues leading to this and decide whether any action is required;
- 8.3.5. oversee the relationship with the external auditor. In this context the Committee shall
 - 8.3.5.1. 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;
 - 8.3.5.2. approve their terms of engagement, including any engagement letter issued at the start of each audit and the scope of the audit;
- 8.3.6. assess annually the external auditor's independence and objectivity taking into account relevant 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;
- 8.3.7. 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;
- 8.3.8. 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;
- 8.3.9. monitor the auditor's processes for maintaining independence, its compliance with relevant law, regulation, other professional requirements and the Ethical Standard, including the guidance on the rotation of audit partner and staff;
- 8.3.10. 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;
- 8.3.11. 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;

- 8.3.12. seek to ensure coordination of the external audit with the activities of the internal audit function (including its equivalent where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned);
- 8.3.13. evaluate the risks to the quality and effectiveness of the financial reporting process in the light of the external auditor's communications with the Committee;
- 8.3.14. develop, recommend to the Board and keep under review the Company's formal policy on the provision of non-audit services by the auditor, including prior approval of non-audit services by the Committee and specifying the types 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:
 - 8.3.14.1. threats to the independence and objectivity of the external auditor and any safeguards in place;
 - 8.3.14.2. the nature of the non-audit services;
 - 8.3.14.3. whether the external audit firm is the most suitable supplier of the non-audit service;
 - 8.3.14.4. the fees for the non-audit services, both individually and in aggregate, relative to the audit fee; and
 - 8.3.14.5. the criteria governing compensation;
- 8.3.15. 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;
- 8.3.16. 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;
- 8.3.17. review the findings of the audit with the external auditor. This shall include but not be limited to, the following;
 - 8.3.17.1. a discussion of any major issues which arose during the audit;
 - 8.3.17.2. the auditor's explanation of how the risks to audit quality were addressed;

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- 8.3.17.3. key accounting and audit judgements;
 - 8.3.17.4. the auditor's view of their interactions with senior management; and
 - 8.3.17.5. levels of errors identified during the audit;
 - 8.3.18. review any representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before it is (they are) signed by management;
 - 8.3.19. review the management letter and management's response to the auditor's findings and recommendations; and
 - 8.3.20. review the effectiveness of the audit process, including
 - 8.3.20.1. an assessment of the quality of the audit and whether it met the agreed audit plan or any changes agreed thereto,
 - 8.3.20.2. the robustness and perceptiveness of the auditors in their handling of key judgements, and responding to questions from the Committee.
- 8.4. Risk appetite, tolerance and strategy
- The Committee shall:
- 8.4.1. advise the Board on the Company's overall risk appetite, tolerance and strategy, and the principal and emerging risks the Company is willing to take in order to achieve its long-term strategic objectives;
 - 8.4.2. advise the Board on the likelihood and the impact of principal risks materialising, and the management and mitigation of principal risks to reduce the likelihood of their incidence or their impact; and
 - 8.4.3. advise the Board on the risk aspects of proposed changes to strategy and strategic transactions including acquisitions or disposals, ensuring that a due diligence appraisal of the proposition is undertaken, focussing in particular on implications for the risk appetite, tolerance and strategy of the Company, and taking independent external advice where appropriate and available.
- 8.5. Risk oversight
- The Committee shall:
- 8.5.1. consider whether the risks recorded in the Company's risk register sufficiently capture the principal and emerging risks facing the Company;

- 8.5.2. monitor and review significant risks recorded in the Company's risk register, consider management's assessment of the controls in place, and the actions being implemented by management to mitigate those risks; and
- 8.5.3. at least every six months, provide a report to the Board, on the Company's principal risks including an assessment of whether management's assessment of the principal risks, and the implemented recommendations are appropriate and in-line with the Board's appetite for risk.

8.6. Risk reporting

The Committee shall carry out the following duties to assist the Board in fulfilling its reporting responsibilities in the Annual Report:

- 8.6.1. monitor and review the effectiveness of the Company's risk management and internal control systems (including financial controls) that identify, assess, manage and monitor risks (including financial risks), and at least annually carry out a review of their effectiveness;
- 8.6.2. review the Company's procedures to manage or mitigate principal risks and to identify emerging risks, to assist in the Board's assessment of principal and emerging risks;
- 8.6.3. review and assess the Company's risk appetite and associated stress testing;
- 8.6.4. evaluate the Company's principal risks, to be taken into account by the Board when assessing the Company's prospects; and
- 8.6.5. review and approve the statements to be included in the Annual Report concerning internal controls and risk management including the assessment of principal risks and emerging risks, and the viability statement.

8.7. Internal controls and risk management systems

The Committee shall oversee and seek suitable assurance regarding:

- 8.7.1. the risk exposures of the Company, including risk to the Company's business model, and solvency and liquidity risks;
- 8.7.2. the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's processes and procedures to manage risk and the internal control framework, including the design, implementation and effectiveness of those system;
- 8.7.3. the ability of the Company's risk management and internal control systems to identify the risks facing the Company and enable a robust assessment of principal risks;
- 8.7.4. the Company's capability to identify and manage new and emerging risks;
- 8.7.5. the effectiveness and relative costs and benefit of particular controls;

- 8.7.6. the effectiveness of management's processes for monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of risk management and internal control systems and ensuring corrective action is taken when necessary;
- 8.7.7. the Company's ability to reduce the likelihood of principal risks materialising and the impact on the business of risks that do materialize;
- 8.7.8. the appropriateness of the Company's values and culture and reward systems for managing risk and internal controls, and the extent to which the culture and values are embedded at all levels of the Company; and
- 8.7.9. right of direct access by any Chief Risk Officer (or head of risk) or Head of Internal Audit (or where a third party is contracted to perform some or all of the work concerned, the internal audit lead partner), to the Chair of the Board and to the Committee.

8.8. Compliance, speaking-up and fraud

The Committee shall:

- 8.8.1. review the adequacy and security of the Company's arrangements for the receipt, handling and reporting of:
 - 8.8.1.1. complaints concerning accounting, internal accounting controls, audit matters, misconduct, bribery and corruption and any other relevant matters; and
 - 8.8.1.2. the confidential, anonymous submission by employees, contractors and external parties of concerns regarding the above;and ensure that such arrangements allow proportionate and independent investigation of such matters and appropriate follow up action;
- 8.8.2. receive reports of investigations into any material complaints or submissions received including but not limited to those referred to in 8.8.1 above and shall draw to the attention of the Board any significant issues raised as a result of such reports.
- 8.8.3. review the Company's procedures for detecting fraud; and
- 8.8.4. review the Company's systems and controls for the prevention of bribery and receive reports on non-compliance.

9. Reporting responsibilities

- 9.1. The Committee Chair 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, but is not limited to:
 - 9.1.1. the significant issues that it considered in relation to the financial statements and how these were addressed;
 - 9.1.2. its assessment of the effectiveness of the external audit process, 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 plans; 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 provide advice to the Remuneration Committee on any risk weightings to be applied to performance objectives incorporated in the incentive structure for executive remuneration and make recommendations to the Remuneration Committee on clawback provisions.
- 9.4. The Committee shall compile a report on its activities to be included in the Company's Annual Report describing the work of the Audit and Risk Committee, including but not limited to:
 - 9.4.1. the significant issues that the Committee considered in relation to the financial statements and how these issues were addressed;
 - 9.4.2. an explanation of how the Committee has assessed the independence and effectiveness of the external audit process and the approach taken to the appointment or reappointment of the external auditor, information on the length of tenure of the current audit firm, when a tender was last conducted and advance notice of any retendering plans;
 - 9.4.3. an explanation of how auditor independence and objectivity are safeguarded if the external auditor provides non-audit services, having regard to matter communicated to it by the auditor and all other information requirements set out in the Code; and
 - 9.3.4 any other reporting requirements including but not limited to those set out in the Code.
- 9.5. In compiling its reports, 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 and management for advice and 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 all relevant laws and regulations, the provisions of the Code and published guidance, the requirements of the FCA's Listing Rules, Prospectus Rules and Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules sourcebook and any other applicable rules, as appropriate.
- 10.4. Be responsible for oversight of the coordination of the internal and external auditors.
- 10.5. Oversee any investigation of activities which are within its terms of reference.
- 10.6. Work and liaise as necessary with all other Board Committees ensuring interaction between Committees and with the Board is reviewed regularly, taking particular account of the impact of risk management and internal controls being delegated to different Committees.
- 10.7. Ensure that a periodic evaluation of the Committee's performance is carried out.
- 10.8. 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 for approval.

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 if it believes it necessary to do so;
- 11.3. call any employee to be questioned at a meeting of the Committee as and when required;
- 11.4. delegate a matter to another committee or person(s) as it deems appropriate; and
- 11.5. 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. If the Board has not accepted the Committee's recommendation on the external auditor appointment, reappointment or

removal, the Annual Report should include a statement explaining the Committee's recommendation and the reasons why the Board has taken a different position.

Date of approval

3 June 2024

Date of next review

April 2025