

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SCOTTISH WATER ON

4TH DECEMBER 2024

The Board has established an Audit & Risk Committee, as a committee of the Board, to support it in its responsibilities for issues of risk, financial reporting, control and governance and associated assurance through a process of constructive challenge.

MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Audit & Risk Committee are:

- Non-executive members: Iain Lanaghan, Catriona Schmolke, and Graham Dalton.

The Audit & Risk Committee will be chaired by Iain Lanaghan.

The Audit & Risk Committee is provided with a secretariat function by Emma Campbell, Group Legal Counsel and Director of Governance.

REPORTING

- The Audit & Risk Committee will formally report to the Board after each meeting. A copy of minutes of the meeting will be provided with the report.
- The Audit & Risk Committee will provide the Board and Accountable Officer with an Annual Report, timed to support finalisation of the accounts, summarising its conclusions from the work it has done during the year.
- Audit & Risk Committee papers will be made available to all Board members.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Audit & Risk Committee will advise the Board on:

- the strategic processes for risk, control and governance, including the Risk Register;
- the key accounting policies, the Annual Report and Accounts: Performance and Prospects of Scottish Water, including the process for review of these prior to submission to the Board, levels of error identified and management's letter of representation to the external auditor;
- the planned activity and results of both Internal Audit and the External Auditors;
- the management response to issues identified by audit activity, including the External Auditors' management letter/report;
- the effectiveness of the internal control environment;
- assurances relating to the corporate governance requirements for Scottish Water;
- the independence of Scottish Water's External Auditors and proposals for purchase of non-audit services from Scottish Water's External Auditors;
- anti-fraud activities, whistleblowing processes, and arrangements for special investigations;
- Scottish Water's arrangements for complying with any legislation or directions issued by the WICS, in relation to the operation of the retail market and the annual report prepared by the Compliance Officer;
- such other issues as may be prescribed by the Board of Scottish Water or the Scottish Ministers from time to time;
- applications for the post of and the appointment of the Head of Internal Audit and any proposal to dismiss the postholder;
- whether it considers the Annual Report and Accounts: Performance and Prospects, taken as a whole, to be fair, balanced and understandable;
- the annual statement published by Scottish Water under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, setting out the steps taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in any part of Scottish Water's business or in the supply chain; and

- the annual Tax Strategy, prior to publication of the document on the Scottish Water external internet site.

The effectiveness of the Audit & Risk Committee will be assessed annually, as part of the overall review of Board Effectiveness undertaken by the Corporate Secretary.

RIGHTS

The Audit & Risk Committee may:

- co-opt additional members for a period not exceeding a year, to provide specialist skills, knowledge and experience; and
- procure specialist ad-hoc advice at the expense of Scottish Water, subject to budgets agreed by the Board or Accountable Officer.

ACCESS

The Head of Internal Audit and the representative of the External Auditors will have free and confidential access to the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee. The Committee is authorised by the Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference. It is authorised to seek any information it requires from any employee and all employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Committee, to either attend a meeting or provide written reports. Any employee is entitled to raise any concern directly with a member of the Committee. Any non-executive member of the Board has access to the papers and a right to attend the meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee, subject to prior notification to the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee.

MEETINGS

The procedures for meetings are:

- the Audit & Risk Committee will meet at least four times a year, usually in March, May, August and December. The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee may convene additional meetings, as he/she deems necessary;
- a minimum of two members of the Audit & Risk Committee are required to be present for the meeting to be quorate;
- Audit & Risk Committee meetings will normally be attended by the Accountable Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Head of Internal Audit, the Chair of Scottish Water and, when appropriate, a representative of the External Auditors;
- the Audit & Risk Committee may ask any other officials of Scottish Water to attend, to assist it with its discussions on any particular matter;
- the Audit & Risk Committee may ask the Chair of Business Stream's Audit & Risk Committee to attend meetings and provide such information and certification as may reasonably be required, for the purpose of exercising Group corporate governance and reporting in accordance with best practice;
- the Audit & Risk Committee may ask any or all of those who normally attend, but who are not members, to withdraw, to facilitate open and frank discussion of particular matters; and
- the Board or Accountable Officer may ask the Audit & Risk Committee to convene further meetings to discuss particular issues on which they want the Committee's advice.

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

As and when appropriate the Committee will be provided with:

- a report summarising any significant changes to Scottish Water's Risk Register;
- a progress report from the Head of Internal Audit summarising:
 - work performed (and a comparison with work planned);
 - key issues emerging from Internal Audit's work;
 - management response to audit recommendations;
 - significant changes to Internal Audit's plan;

- update on investigations;
- business performance in implementing audit recommendations; and
- any resourcing issues affecting the delivery of Internal Audit's objectives.
- a progress report from the External Auditors' representative summarising work done and emerging findings;
- the Internal Audit Strategy & Plan;
- the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Opinion and Report;
- the Internal Audit Charter;
- quality assurance reports on the Internal Audit function;
- the draft interim and final accounts of Scottish Water;
- the draft Corporate Governance Report and Audit & Risk Committee Report;
- such information and certification from the Chair of Business Stream's Audit & Risk Committee as may reasonably be required, for the purpose of exercising Group corporate governance and reporting in accordance with best practice, including (but not limited to) certification (at half and full year) in relation to (i) internal controls; (ii) accounting issues; and (iii) accounting judgements;
- a report on any changes to key accounting policies;
- the External Auditor's management letter/report;
- a report on any proposals to tender for non-audit advice from the External Auditors;
- a report from the External Auditors on co-operation with Internal Audit; and
- updates from the Counter Fraud Group.

ADVISERS

The Committee is authorised by the Board to obtain external legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of individuals with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary.