



Rt. Hon Frank Field MP
Chair Work and Pensions Committee

Stephen Haddrill
Chief Executive Officer

Iain Wright MP
Chair, Business, Innovation and Skills Committee

14 Tothill Street
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6 July 2016

Dear Mr Field and Mr Wright,

Thank you for your letter of 30 June about our investigation into the conduct of PWC in relation to BHS.

You asked first about the scope of the investigation and I can confirm that if during the investigation evidence emerges which indicates that a wider time period should be considered, or that the audits of other connected entities should be investigated, our Executive Counsel can request that the FRC's Conduct Committee widens the scope of the investigation.

On your second point, we do not set a deadline in our investigations although we aim to conclude them in about two years. The investigation must be thorough and carefully undertaken to ensure that there is sufficient appropriate evidence to bring a case before a Disciplinary Tribunal if appropriate. In recent years the FRC has concluded its investigations in much shorter periods than in the past but it is unwise for us to predict the timing in any particular case. There are a number of uncertain factors which will influence the timetable, some of which, such as challenges from the firms, we will have no control over. We will work for as rapid a conclusion as possible but when the outcome may culminate in highly contentious litigation we have to take great care.

If it would assist we would be happy to meet to discuss our role further.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Haddrill

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