

The Professional Oversight Board's Review of the Monitoring Arrangements by the UK Professional Accountancy Bodies of their Members who Practise Non-Regulated Accountancy Services

AIA's Response

AIA welcomes the Professional Oversight Board's (POB) review of the arrangements of UK professional accountancy bodies to monitor their practising members who offer non-regulated accountancy services, and appreciates their work to encourage improvements in the provision of accountancy services in this area.

AIA has always placed a strong emphasis on the monitoring of members in practice and is pleased to further refine our procedures to provide assurance to the public that work is conducted by a professional accountant, and has been undertaken with integrity and competence.

AIA monitors members in practice through the 'AIA Quality Assured' programme, to ensure that members are maintaining the high level of professionalism expected. The 'AIA Quality Assured' programme verifies that practices maintain high professional and ethical standards; that they have implemented robust and suitable anti-money laundering measures; and that they have established appropriate systems and procedures to comply with AIA's practising regulations.

AIA accepts the recommendations made by the POB in their report and has incorporated these recommendations into the 'AIA Quality Assured' programme, where appropriate, and where they will enhance existing procedures.

AIA would like to thank the POB for undertaking this review and for recognising that an increasing proportion of work undertaken by members of the professional bodies is not subject to statutory requirements, and that the public still expects to have a high level of confidence in the work undertaken by a professional accountant.

We would also like to thank the POB for agreeing to provide independent oversight in respect of non-regulatory work carried out by our members, as we believe this to be crucial in the provision of high quality accountancy services to the public. It is also appreciated that they have highlighted that the report only covers qualified accountants and does not include individuals who are practising as accountants, but are not members of a professional body.

AIA believes that there is now a consensus throughout the accountancy profession that it is in the best interest of both accountants and the public for the term 'accountant' to be legally protected and we would like to see the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and the POB lead the way in looking at how this can be achieved. There is widespread confusion amongst the public on this matter and the POB is ideally placed to promote the difference between a qualified and unqualified accountant.

Association of International Accountants

Staithe 3, The Watermark, Metro Riverside,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE11 9SN, United Kingdom

T: +44 (0) 191 493 0277 F: +44 (0)191 493 0278 E: aia@aicaworldwide.com W: www.aicaworldwide.com

Company number 00264086. The AIA is a Recognised Qualifying Body for company auditors in the UK.