

September 2015

Enhancing Confidence in Audit: Proposed Revisions to the Ethical Standard, Auditing Standards, UK Corporate Governance Code and Guidance on Audit Committees

Annex 2: Revised Auditing Standards

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**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON QUALITY CONTROL
(UK AND IRELAND) 1 (REVISED)**

**QUALITY CONTROL FOR FIRMS THAT PERFORM AUDITS AND REVIEWS OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND OTHER ASSURANCE AND RELATED
SERVICES ENGAGEMENTS**

(Effective for engagements relating to financial periods ~~commencing~~ on or after ~~17 June 2016~~
~~December 2010~~)

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International Standard on Quality Control (UK and Ireland) (ISQC (UK and Ireland)) 1 (Revised), “Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISQC (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Quality Control (UK and Ireland) (ISQC (UK and Ireland)) deals with a firm’s responsibilities for its system of quality control for audits and reviews of financial statements, and other assurance and related services engagements. This ISQC (UK and Ireland) is to be read in conjunction with relevant ethical requirements.
- 1-1. In the UK and Ireland, ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 ~~(Revised)~~ applies to firms that perform audits of financial statements, and other public interest assurance engagements, including reporting in connection with investment circulars and client assets and providinge other assurance services where they relate to activities that are ~~reported in the public domain and are therefore~~ in the public interest.
2. Other pronouncements of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) set out additional standards and guidance on the responsibilities of firm personnel regarding quality control procedures for specific types of engagements. ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 ~~(Revised)~~,¹ for example, deals with quality control procedures for audits of financial statements.
 3. A system of quality control consists of policies designed to achieve the objective set out in paragraph 11 and the procedures necessary to implement and monitor compliance with those policies.

Authority of this ISQC (UK and Ireland)

4. This ISQC (UK and Ireland) applies to all firms of professional accountants in respect of audits and reviews of financial statements, and other assurance and related services engagements. The nature and extent of the policies and procedures developed by an individual firm to comply with this ISQC (UK and Ireland) will depend on various factors such as the size and operating characteristics of the firm, and whether it is part of a network.
5. This ISQC (UK and Ireland) contains the objective of the firm in following the ISQC (UK and Ireland), and requirements designed to enable the firm to meet that stated objective. In addition, it contains related guidance in the form of application and other explanatory material, as discussed further in paragraph 8, and introductory material that provides context relevant to a proper understanding of the ISQC (UK and Ireland), and definitions.
6. The objective provides the context in which the requirements of this ISQC (UK and Ireland) are set, and is intended to assist the firm in:
 - Understanding what needs to be accomplished; and
 - Deciding whether more needs to be done to achieve the objective.
7. The requirements of this ISQC (UK and Ireland) are expressed using “shall.”
8. Where necessary, the application and other explanatory material provides further explanation of the requirements and guidance for carrying them out. In particular, it may:

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 ~~(Revised)~~, “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements.”

- Explain more precisely what a requirement means or is intended to cover.
- Include examples of policies and procedures that may be appropriate in the circumstances.

While such guidance does not in itself impose a requirement, it is relevant to the proper application of the requirements. The application and other explanatory material may also provide background information on matters addressed in this ISQC (UK and Ireland). Where appropriate, additional considerations specific to public sector audit organizations or smaller firms are included within the application and other explanatory material. These additional considerations assist in the application of the requirements in this ISQC (UK and Ireland). They do not, however, limit or reduce the responsibility of the firm to apply and comply with the requirements in this ISQC (UK and Ireland).

9. This ISQC (UK and Ireland) includes, under the heading “Definitions,” a description of the meanings attributed to certain terms for purposes of this ISQC (UK and Ireland). These are provided to assist in the consistent application and interpretation of this ISQC (UK and Ireland), and are not intended to override definitions that may be established for other purposes, whether in law, regulation or otherwise. The Glossary of Terms^{1a} relating to International Standards issued by the IAASB in the *Handbook of International Quality Control, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance, and Related Services* published by IFAC includes the terms defined in this ISQC (UK and Ireland). It also includes descriptions of other terms found in this ISQC (UK and Ireland) to assist in common and consistent interpretation and translation.

Effective Date

10. Systems of quality control in compliance with this ISQC (UK and Ireland) are required to be established for engagements relating to financial periods commencing ending on or after 17 June 2016~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

11. The objective of the firm is to establish and maintain a system of quality control to provide it with reasonable assurance that:
 - (a) The firm and its personnel comply with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
 - (b) Reports issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances.

Definitions

12. In this ISQC (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Date of report – The date selected by the practitioner to date the report.
 - (b) Engagement documentation – The record of work performed, results obtained, and conclusions the practitioner reached (terms such as “working papers” or “workpapers” are sometimes used).

^{1a} The FRCAPB’s Glossary of Terms defines terms used in the ISAs (UK and Ireland). It comprises the Glossary of Terms issued by the IAASB supplemented by a small number of additional definitions.

For statutory audits of financial statements, engagement documentation shall include all documents, information, records and other data required by this ISQC (UK and Ireland), ISAs (UK and Ireland) and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

- (c) Engagement partner² – The partner or other person in the firm who is responsible for the engagement and its performance, and for the report that is issued on behalf of the firm, and who, where required, has the appropriate authority from a professional, legal or regulatory body.
- (d) Engagement quality control review – A process designed to provide an objective evaluation, on or before the date of the report, of the significant judgments the engagement team made and the conclusions it reached in formulating the report. The engagement quality control review process is for audits of financial statements of listed entities, and those other engagements, if any, for which the firm has determined an engagement quality control review is required.
- (e) Engagement quality control reviewer – A partner, other person in the firm, suitably qualified external person, or a team made up of such individuals, none of whom is part of the engagement team, with sufficient and appropriate experience and authority to objectively evaluate the significant judgments the engagement team made and the conclusions it reached in formulating the report.
- (f) Engagement team – All partners and staff performing the engagement, and any individuals engaged by the firm or a network firm who perform procedures on the engagement. This excludes an auditor’s external expert engaged by the firm or by a network firm. The term “engagement team” also excludes individuals within the client’s internal audit function who provide direct assistance on an audit engagement when the external auditor complies with the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013).³
- (g) Firm – A sole practitioner, partnership or corporation or other entity of professional accountants.
- (h) Inspection – In relation to completed engagements, procedures designed to provide evidence of compliance by engagement teams with the firm’s quality control policies and procedures.
- (i) Listed entity – An entity whose shares, stock or debt are quoted or listed on a recognized stock exchange, or are marketed under the regulations of a recognized stock exchange or other equivalent body.
- (j) Monitoring – A process comprising an ongoing consideration and evaluation of the firm’s system of quality control, including a periodic inspection of a selection of completed engagements, designed to provide the firm with reasonable assurance that its system of quality control is operating effectively.

² “Engagement partner,” “partner,” and “firm” should be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.

³ ISA 610 (Revised June 2013), “Using the Work of Internal Auditors”, establishes limits on the use of direct assistance. It also acknowledges that the external auditor may be prohibited by law or regulation from obtaining direct assistance from internal auditors. Therefore, the use of direct assistance is restricted to situations where it is permitted.

The use of internal auditors to provide direct assistance is prohibited in an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) – see ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), paragraph 5-1.

- (k) Network firm – A firm or entity that belongs to a network.
- (l) Network – A larger structure:
 - (i) That is aimed at cooperation, and
 - (ii) That is clearly aimed at profit or cost-sharing or shares common ownership, control or management, common quality control policies and procedures, common business strategy, the use of a common brand name, or a significant part of professional resources.
- (m) Partner – Any individual with authority to bind the firm with respect to the performance of a professional services engagement.
- (n) Personnel – Partners and staff.
- (o) Professional standards – IAASB Engagement Standards, as defined in the IAASB’s *Preface to the International Standards on Quality Control, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance, and Related Services*, and relevant ethical requirements.

In the UK and Ireland, professional standards in the context of ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 are the ~~FRC’s~~APB Ethical and Engagement Standards as described in the Statement “The Auditing Practices Board – Scope and Authority of Pronouncements.”

- (p) Reasonable assurance – In the context of this ISQC (UK and Ireland), a high, but not absolute, level of assurance.
- (q) Relevant ethical requirements – Ethical requirements to which the engagement team and engagement quality control reviewer are subject, which ordinarily comprise Parts A and B of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code) together with national requirements that are more restrictive.

~~Auditors~~ In the UK and Ireland, the firm and its personnel are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: the ~~FRC’s~~APB Ethical Standards ~~for Auditors~~ concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the firm auditor and its personnel, and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor or assurance practitioner’s relevant professional body. The ~~FRC~~APB is not aware of any significant instances where the relevant parts of the IESBA Code of Ethics are more restrictive than the ~~FRC’s~~ Ethical Standards ~~for Auditors~~.

~~The APB Ethical Standard for Reporting Accountants applies to all engagements:~~

- ~~• that are subject to the requirements of the Standards for Investment Reporting (SIRs), and~~
- ~~• which are in connection with an investment circular in which a report from the reporting accountant is to be published.~~

- (r) Staff – Professionals, other than partners, including any experts the firm employs.

In the UK and Ireland, professionals, other than partners, including experts the firm employs, also includes employees carrying out a statutory audit.

- (s) Suitably qualified external person – An individual outside the firm with the competence and capabilities to act as an engagement partner, for example a partner of another firm, or an employee (with appropriate experience) of either a professional accountancy body whose members may perform audits and reviews of historical financial information, or other assurance or related services engagements, or of an organization that provides relevant quality control services.

12D-1. In the UK and Ireland, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

- (a) Audit Directive – refers to Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006.
- (b) Audit Regulation – refers to Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014.
- (c) Competent authority – is defined in Article 2(10) of the Audit Directive as “the authorities designated by law that are in charge of the regulation and/or oversight of statutory auditors and audit firms or of specific aspects thereof.”
- (d) Key audit partner – is defined in Article 2(16) of the Audit Directive as:
- (i) The statutory auditor(s) designated by an audit firm for a particular audit engagement as being primarily responsible for carrying out the statutory audit on behalf of the audit firm; or
- (ii) In the case of a group audit, at least the statutory auditor(s) designated by an audit firm as being primarily responsible for carrying out the statutory audit at the level of the group and the statutory auditor(s) designated as being primarily responsible at the level of material subsidiaries; or
- (iii) The statutory auditor(s) who sign(s) the audit report.
- (e) Other public interest assurance engagement – an assurance engagement, other than an audit engagement, undertaken in compliance with performance standards issued by the FRC.
- (fe) Public-interest entity – is as defined in Article 2(13) of the Audit Directive.
- (gf) Statutory audit – is defined in Article 2(1) of the Audit Directive as an audit of financial statements or consolidated financial statements in so far as:
- (i) Required by Union law; or
- (ii) Required by national law as regards small undertakings; or
- (iii) Voluntarily carried out at the request of small undertakings which meets legal requirements that are equivalent to those for an audit under point (b), where national legislation defines such audits as statutory audits.
- (hg) Statutory auditor^{3a} – is defined as either:
- (i) ‘Auditor’ means a natural person who is approved in accordance with the Audit Directive by the competent authorities of a Member State to carry

^{3a} In the Audit Directive and Audit Regulation the term ‘statutory auditor’ is used in the context of a natural person. In the UK Companies Act 2006, the term ‘statutory auditor’ is used for both natural and legal persons.

out statutory audits; or

- (ii) ‘Audit firm’ means a legal person or any other entity, regardless of its legal form, that is approved in accordance with the Audit Directive by the competent authorities of a Member State to carry out statutory audits.

Requirements

Applying, and Complying with, Relevant Requirements

13. Personnel within the firm responsible for establishing and maintaining the firm’s system of quality control shall have an understanding of the entire text of this ISQC (UK and Ireland), including its application and other explanatory material, to understand its objective and to apply its requirements properly.
14. The firm shall comply with each requirement of this ISQC (UK and Ireland) unless, in the circumstances of the firm, the requirement is not relevant to the services provided in respect of audits and reviews of financial statements, and other assurance and related services engagements. (Ref: Para. A1-~~A1-1~~)
15. The requirements are designed to enable the firm to achieve the objective stated in this ISQC (UK and Ireland). The proper application of the requirements is therefore expected to provide a sufficient basis for the achievement of the objective. However, because circumstances vary widely and all such circumstances cannot be anticipated, the firm shall consider whether there are particular matters or circumstances that require the firm to establish policies and procedures in addition to those required by this ISQC (UK and Ireland) to meet the stated objective.

15D-1. For audits of financial statements and other public interest assurance engagements, the firm shall:

- (a) Take into consideration the scale and complexity of the firm’s activities when complying with the applicable requirements set out in paragraphs 16D-1, 16D-2, 20D-1, 21D-1, 29D-1, 29D-2, 32D-1 and 48D-1 of this ISQC (UK and Ireland); and
- (b) Be able to demonstrate to the competent authority that the policies and procedures designed to achieve such compliance with the applicable requirements of this ISQC (UK and Ireland) are appropriate given the scale and complexity of activities of the firm. [AD/Article 24a.2]

Elements of a System of Quality Control

16. The firm shall establish and maintain a system of quality control that includes policies and procedures that address each of the following elements:
 - (a) Leadership responsibilities for quality within the firm.
 - (b) Relevant ethical requirements.
 - (c) Acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements.
 - (d) Human resources.
 - (e) Engagement performance.
 - (f) Monitoring.

16D-1. For audits of financial statements and other public interest assurance engagements, the firm shall establish appropriate policies and procedures to ensure that its owners or

shareholders, as well as the members of the administrative, management and supervisory bodies of the firm, or of a network firm, do not intervene in the carrying-out of an audit in any way which jeopardizes the independence and objectivity of the engagement team. [AD/Article 24a.1(a)]

16D-2. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall have:

- (a) Sound administrative and accounting procedures;
- (b) Internal quality control mechanisms that shall be designed to secure compliance with decisions and procedures at all levels of the firm;
- (c) Effective procedures for risk assessment; and
- (d) Effective control and safeguard arrangements for the firm's information processing systems. [AD/Article 24a.1(b)]

17. The firm shall document its policies and procedures and communicate them to the firm's personnel. (Ref: Para. A2-A3)

Leadership Responsibilities for Quality within the Firm

18. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to promote an internal culture recognizing that quality is essential in performing engagements. Such policies and procedures shall require the firm's chief executive officer (or equivalent) or, if appropriate, the firm's managing board of partners (or equivalent) to assume ultimate responsibility for the firm's system of quality control. (Ref: Para. A4-A5)

19. The firm shall establish policies and procedures such that any person or persons assigned operational responsibility for the firm's system of quality control by the firm's chief executive officer or managing board of partners has sufficient and appropriate experience and ability, and the necessary authority, to assume that responsibility. (Ref: Para. A6)

Relevant Ethical Requirements

20. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that the firm and its personnel comply with relevant ethical requirements. (Ref: Para. A7-A10)

20D-1. For audits of financial statements and other public interest assurance engagements, the firm shall establish appropriate and effective organizational and administrative arrangements for dealing with and recording incidents which have, or may have, serious consequences for the integrity of the firm's activities. [AD/Article 24a.1(i)]

Independence

21. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that the firm, its personnel and, where applicable, others subject to independence requirements (including network firm personnel) maintain independence where required by relevant ethical requirements. Such policies and procedures shall enable the firm to:

- (a) Communicate its independence requirements to its personnel and, where applicable, others subject to them; and
- (b) Identify and evaluate circumstances and relationships that create threats to independence, and to take appropriate action to eliminate those threats or reduce them to an acceptable level by applying safeguards, or, if considered

appropriate, to withdraw from the engagement, where withdrawal is permitted by law or regulation. (Ref: Para. A10)

21D-1 For audits of financial statements and other public interest assurance engagements, the firm shall establish appropriate and effective organizational and administrative arrangements to prevent, identify, eliminate or manage and disclose any threats to the firm's independence required by the FRC's Ethical Standard. [AD/Article 24a/1(e)]

22. Such policies and procedures shall require:
- (a) Engagement partners to provide the firm with relevant information about client engagements, including the scope of services, to enable the firm to evaluate the overall impact, if any, on independence requirements;
 - (b) Personnel to promptly notify the firm of circumstances and relationships that create a threat to independence so that appropriate action can be taken; and
 - (c) The accumulation and communication of relevant information to appropriate personnel so that:
 - (i) The firm and its personnel can readily determine whether they satisfy independence requirements;
 - (ii) The firm can maintain and update its records relating to independence; and
 - (iii) The firm can take appropriate action regarding identified threats to independence that are not at an acceptable level. (Ref: Para. A10)
23. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that it is notified of breaches of independence requirements, and to enable it to take appropriate actions to resolve such situations. The policies and procedures shall include requirements for:
- (a) Personnel to promptly notify the firm of independence breaches of which they become aware;
 - (b) The firm to promptly communicate identified breaches of these policies and procedures to:
 - (i) The engagement partner who, with the firm, needs to address the breach; and
 - (ii) Other relevant personnel in the firm and, where appropriate, the network, and those subject to the independence requirements who need to take appropriate action; and
 - (c) Prompt communication to the firm, if necessary, by the engagement partner and the other individuals referred to in subparagraph (b)(ii) of the actions taken to resolve the matter, so that the firm can determine whether it should take further action. (Ref: Para. A10)
24. At least annually, the firm shall obtain written confirmation of compliance with its policies and procedures on independence from all firm personnel required to be independent by relevant ethical requirements. (Ref: Para. A10-A11)

25. The firm shall establish policies and procedures:
- (a) Setting out criteria for determining the need for safeguards to reduce the familiarity threat to an acceptable level when using the same senior personnel on an assurance engagement over a long period of time; and
 - (b) Requiring, for audits of financial statements of listed entities, the rotation of the engagement partner and the individuals responsible for engagement quality control review, and where applicable, others subject to rotation requirements, after a specified period in compliance with relevant ethical requirements. (Ref: Para. A10, A12-A17)

Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Specific Engagements

26. The firm shall establish policies and procedures for the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements, designed to provide the firm with reasonable assurance that it will only undertake or continue relationships and engagements where the firm:
- (a) Is competent to perform the engagement and has the capabilities, including time and resources, to do so; (Ref: Para. A18, A23)
 - (b) Can comply with relevant ethical requirements; and
 - (c) Has considered the integrity of the client, and does not have information that would lead it to conclude that the client lacks integrity. (Ref: Para. A19-A20, A23)
27. Such policies and procedures shall require:
- (a) The firm to obtain such information as it considers necessary in the circumstances before accepting an engagement with a new client, when deciding whether to continue an existing engagement, and when considering acceptance of a new engagement with an existing client. (Ref: Para. A21, A23)
 - (b) If a potential conflict of interest is identified in accepting an engagement from a new or an existing client, the firm to determine whether it is appropriate to accept the engagement.
 - (c) If issues have been identified, and the firm decides to accept or continue the client relationship or a specific engagement, the firm to document how the issues were resolved.

27D-1. Before accepting or continuing an engagement for a statutory audit engagement, the firm shall assess the following:

- (a) Whether the firm complies with relevant independence and objectivity requirements in the FRC's Ethical Standard;
- (b) Whether there are threats to the firm's independence, and the safeguards applied to mitigate those threats;
- (c) Whether the firm has the competent employees, time and resources needed in order to carry out the audit in an appropriate manner; and
- (d) Whether the key audit partner is eligible for appointment as a statutory auditor. [AD/Article 22b]

27R-2. Before accepting or continuing an engagement for a statutory audit engagement of a public-interest entity, the firm shall assess, in addition to the requirements in

paragraph 27D-1, the following:

- (a) Whether the firm complies with the audit fees and the prohibition of the provision of non-audit services requirements in the FRC’s Ethical Standard;
- (b) Whether the conditions for the duration of the audit engagement in accordance with the Audit Regulation are complied with; and
- (c) Without prejudice to UK or Irish anti-money laundering requirements,^{3b} the integrity of the members of the supervisory, administrative and management bodies of the public-interest entity. [AR/Article 6.1]

28. The firm shall establish policies and procedures on continuing an engagement and the client relationship, addressing the circumstances where the firm obtains information that would have caused it to decline the engagement had that information been available earlier. Such policies and procedures shall include consideration of:
- (a) The professional and legal responsibilities that apply to the circumstances, including whether there is a requirement for the firm to report to the person or persons who made the appointment or, in some cases, to regulatory authorities; and
 - (b) The possibility of withdrawing from the engagement or from both the engagement and the client relationship. (Ref: Para. A22-A23)

Human Resources

29. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that it has sufficient personnel with the competence, capabilities, and commitment to ethical principles necessary to:
- (a) Perform engagements in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
 - (b) Enable the firm or engagement partners to issue reports that are appropriate in the circumstances. (Ref: Para. A24-A29)

29D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall:

- (a) Establish appropriate policies and procedures to ensure that the firm’s employees and any other natural persons whose services are placed at the firm’s disposal or under the firm’s control, and who are directly involved in the audit activities, have appropriate knowledge and experience for the duties assigned; and [AD/Article 24a/1(c)]
- (b) Have in place adequate remuneration policies, including profit sharing policies, providing sufficient performance incentives to secure audit quality. In particular, the amount of revenue that the firm derives from providing non-audit services to the audited entity shall not form part of the performance evaluation and remuneration of any person involved in, or able to influence the conduct of, the audit. [AD/Article 24a/1(j)]

Outsourcing

29D-2. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall establish appropriate policies

^{3b} Implemented pursuant to Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005.

and procedures to ensure that outsourcing of important audit functions is not undertaken in such a way as to impair the quality of the firm's internal quality control and the ability of the competent authorities to supervise the firm's compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Any outsourcing of audit functions shall not affect the responsibility of the firm towards the audited entity. [AD/Article 24a/1(d); AD/Article 24a/1]]

Assignment of Engagement Teams

30. The firm shall assign responsibility for each engagement to an engagement partner and shall establish policies and procedures requiring that:
- (a) The identity and role of the engagement partner are communicated to key members of client management and those charged with governance;
 - (b) The engagement partner has the appropriate competence, capabilities, and authority to perform the role; and
 - (c) The responsibilities of the engagement partner are clearly defined and communicated to that partner. (Ref: Para. A30)

30D-1. For a statutory audit of financial statements, the firm shall:

- (a) Designate at least one key audit partner (including the assigned engagement partner); [AD/Article 24b.1]
- (b) Select the key audit partner(s) to be designated in accordance with paragraph 30D-1(a) using the main criteria of securing audit quality, independence and competence. [AD/Article 24b.1]

31. The firm shall also establish policies and procedures to assign appropriate personnel with the necessary competence, and capabilities to:
- (a) Perform engagements in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
 - (b) Enable the firm or engagement partners to issue reports that are appropriate in the circumstances. (Ref: Para. A31)

31D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall provide the key audit partner(s) with sufficient resources and with personnel that have the necessary competence and capabilities to carry out the firm's duties appropriately. [AD/Article 24b.1]

Engagement Performance

32. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that engagements are performed in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and that the firm or the engagement partner issue reports that are appropriate in the circumstances. Such policies and procedures shall include:
- (a) Matters relevant to promoting consistency in the quality of engagement performance; (Ref: Para. A32-A33)
 - (b) Supervision responsibilities; and (Ref: Para. A34)
 - (c) Review responsibilities. (Ref: Para. A35)

32D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall:

- (a) Establish an internal quality control system to ensure the quality of the audit which shall at least cover the policies and procedures required by paragraph 32D-1(c); [AD/Article 24a.1(g)]
- (b) Ensure that responsibility for the internal quality control system lies with a person who is eligible for appointment as a statutory auditor; [AD/Article 24a.1(g)]
- (c) Establish adequate policies and procedures for carrying out audits, coaching, supervising and reviewing employees activities and organizing the structure of the audit file^{3c}; and [AD/Article 24a.1(f)]
- (d) Use appropriate systems, resources and procedures to ensure continuity and regularity in the carrying out of the firm's audit activities. [AD/Article 24a/1(h)]

33. The firm's review responsibility policies and procedures shall be determined on the basis that work of less experienced team members is reviewed by more experienced engagement team members.

Consultation

34. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that:
- (a) Appropriate consultation takes place on difficult or contentious matters;
 - (b) Sufficient resources are available to enable appropriate consultation to take place;
 - (c) The nature and scope of, and conclusions resulting from, such consultations are documented and are agreed by both the individual seeking consultation and the individual consulted; and
 - (d) Conclusions resulting from consultations are implemented. (Ref: Para. A36-A40)

Engagement Quality Control Review

35. The firm shall establish policies and procedures requiring, for appropriate engagements, an engagement quality control review that provides an objective evaluation of the significant judgments made by the engagement team and the conclusions reached in formulating the report. Such policies and procedures shall:
- (a) Require an engagement quality control review for all audits of financial statements of listed entities;
 - (b) Set out criteria against which all other audits and reviews of historical financial information and other assurance and related services engagements shall be evaluated to determine whether an engagement quality control review should be performed; and (Ref: Para. A41)

^{3c} ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), paragraph 14 sets out the requirement to assemble the audit documentation in an audit file. Paragraph 57D-1 of this ISQC (UK and Ireland), paragraphs 24D-1(b) and 24R-2 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraphs 8D-1 and 14D-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) and paragraph 23D-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) set out requirements in respect of documentation for statutory audits.

- (c) Require an engagement quality control review for all engagements, if any, meeting the criteria established in compliance with subparagraph (b).
36. The firm shall establish policies and procedures setting out the nature, timing and extent of an engagement quality control review. Such policies and procedures shall require that the engagement report not be dated until the completion of the engagement quality control review. (Ref: Para. A42-A43)
37. The firm shall establish policies and procedures to require the engagement quality control review to include:
- (a) Discussion of significant matters with the engagement partner;
 - (b) Review of the financial statements or other subject matter information and the proposed report;
 - (c) Review of selected engagement documentation relating to significant judgments the engagement team made and the conclusions it reached; and
 - (d) Evaluation of the conclusions reached in formulating the report and consideration of whether the proposed report is appropriate. (Ref: Para. A44)

37-1. For audits of financial statements or other public-interest assurance engagements, for which an engagement quality control review is required, the firm shall establish policies and procedures to require the engagement quality control reviewer to: (Ref: Para. A44-1-A44-2)

- (a) Consider the firm's compliance with the FRC's Ethical Standard in relation to the engagement;
- (b) Form an independent opinion as to the appropriateness and adequacy of the safeguards applied; and
- (c) Consider the adequacy of the documentation of the engagement partner's consideration of the objectivity and independence of the firm and its personnel. [ES1.51]

38. For audits of financial statements of listed entities, the firm shall establish policies and procedures to require the engagement quality control review to also include consideration of the following:
- (a) The engagement team's evaluation of the firm's independence in relation to the specific engagement;
 - (b) Whether appropriate consultation has taken place on matters involving differences of opinion or other difficult or contentious matters, and the conclusions arising from those consultations; and
 - (c) Whether documentation selected for review reflects the work performed in relation to the significant judgments and supports the conclusions reached. (Ref: Para. A45-A46)

38R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the firm shall require that:

(a) Before the auditor’s report and the additional report to the audit committee^{3d} are issued, an engagement quality control review shall be performed to assess whether the key audit partner(s) could reasonably have come to the opinion and conclusions expressed in the draft of these reports. [AR/Article 8.1]

(b) The review shall be performed by an engagement quality control reviewer. The engagement quality control reviewer shall:

(i) Be eligible for appointment as a statutory auditor; and

(ii) Not be involved in the performance of the audit to which the engagement quality control review relates. [AR/Article 8.2]

Where the audit is carried out by a firm and all the statutory auditors of that firm were involved in the carrying-out of the audit, the firm shall arrange for another firm to perform an engagement quality control review. Documents or information disclosed to the engagement quality control reviewer for this purpose shall be subject to professional secrecy. [AR/Article 8.3]

Criteria for the Eligibility of Engagement Quality Control Reviewers

39. The firm shall establish policies and procedures to address the appointment of engagement quality control reviewers and establish their eligibility through:
- (a) The technical qualifications required to perform the role, including the necessary experience and authority; and (Ref: Para. A47)
 - (b) The degree to which an engagement quality control reviewer can be consulted on the engagement without compromising the reviewer’s objectivity. (Ref: Para. A48)
40. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to maintain the objectivity of the engagement quality control reviewer. (Ref: Para. A49-A51)
41. The firm’s policies and procedures shall provide for the replacement of the engagement quality control reviewer where the reviewer’s ability to perform an objective review may be impaired.

Documentation of the Engagement Quality Control Review

42. The firm shall establish policies and procedures on documentation of the engagement quality control review which require documentation that:
- (a) The procedures required by the firm’s policies on engagement quality control review have been performed;
 - (b) The engagement quality control review has been completed on or before the date of the report; and
 - (c) The reviewer is not aware of any unresolved matters that would cause the reviewer to believe that the significant judgments the engagement team made and the conclusions it reached were not appropriate.

^{3d} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 16R-2 deals with the auditor’s responsibilities to prepare an additional report to the audit committee.

Differences of Opinion

43. The firm shall establish policies and procedures for dealing with and resolving differences of opinion within the engagement team, with those consulted and, where applicable, between the engagement partner and the engagement quality control reviewer. (Ref: Para. A52-A53)

43R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the firm shall establish procedures for determining the manner in which any disagreement between the key audit partner(s) and the engagement quality control reviewer are to be resolved. [AR/Article 8.6]

44. Such policies and procedures shall require that:
- (a) Conclusions reached be documented and implemented; and
 - (b) The report not be dated until the matter is resolved.

Engagement Documentation

Completion of the Assembly of Final Engagement Files

45. The firm shall establish policies and procedures for engagement teams to complete the assembly of final engagement files on a timely basis after the engagement reports have been finalized. (Ref: Para. A54-A55)

Confidentiality, Safe Custody, Integrity, Accessibility and Retrievability of Engagement Documentation

46. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to maintain the confidentiality, safe custody, integrity, accessibility and retrievability of engagement documentation. (Ref: Para. A56-A59)

Retention of Engagement Documentation

47. The firm shall establish policies and procedures for the retention of engagement documentation for a period sufficient to meet the needs of the firm or as required by law or regulation. (Ref: Para. A60-A63)

Monitoring

Monitoring the Firm's Quality Control Policies and Procedures

48. The firm shall establish a monitoring process designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that the policies and procedures relating to the system of quality control are relevant, adequate, and operating effectively. This process shall:
- (a) Include an ongoing consideration and evaluation of the firm's system of quality control including, on a cyclical basis, inspection of at least one completed engagement for each engagement partner;
 - (b) Require responsibility for the monitoring process to be assigned to a partner or partners or other persons with sufficient and appropriate experience and authority in the firm to assume that responsibility; and
 - (c) Require that those performing the engagement or the engagement quality control review are not involved in inspecting the engagements. (Ref: Para. A64-A68)

48D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall:

- (a) Monitor and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the firm's systems,

internal quality control mechanisms and arrangements established in accordance with this ISQC (UK and Ireland) and take appropriate measures to address any deficiencies;

- (b) Carry out an annual evaluation of the internal quality control system, referred to in paragraph 32D-1(a); and
- (c) Keep records of the findings of the evaluation required by paragraph 48D-1(a) and any proposed measure to modify the internal quality control system. [AD/Article 24a.1(k)]

Evaluating, Communicating and Remediating Identified Deficiencies

49. The firm shall evaluate the effect of deficiencies noted as a result of the monitoring process and determine whether they are either:
 - (a) Instances that do not necessarily indicate that the firm’s system of quality control is insufficient to provide it with reasonable assurance that it complies with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and that the reports issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances; or
 - (b) Systemic, repetitive or other significant deficiencies that require prompt corrective action.
50. The firm shall communicate to relevant engagement partners and other appropriate personnel deficiencies noted as a result of the monitoring process and recommendations for appropriate remedial action. (Ref: Para. A69)
51. Recommendations for appropriate remedial actions for deficiencies noted shall include one or more of the following:
 - (a) Taking appropriate remedial action in relation to an individual engagement or member of personnel;
 - (b) The communication of the findings to those responsible for training and professional development;
 - (c) Changes to the quality control policies and procedures; and
 - (d) Disciplinary action against those who fail to comply with the policies and procedures of the firm, especially those who do so repeatedly.
52. The firm shall establish policies and procedures to address cases where the results of the monitoring procedures indicate that a report may be inappropriate or that procedures were omitted during the performance of the engagement. Such policies and procedures shall require the firm to determine what further action is appropriate to comply with relevant professional standards and legal and regulatory requirements and to consider whether to obtain legal advice.
53. The firm shall communicate at least annually the results of the monitoring of its system of quality control to engagement partners and other appropriate individuals within the firm, including the firm’s chief executive officer or, if appropriate, its managing board of partners. This communication shall be sufficient to enable the firm and these individuals to take prompt and appropriate action where necessary in accordance with their defined roles and responsibilities. Information communicated shall include the following:

- (a) A description of the monitoring procedures performed.
 - (b) The conclusions drawn from the monitoring procedures.
 - (c) Where relevant, a description of systemic, repetitive or other significant deficiencies and of the actions taken to resolve or amend those deficiencies.
54. Some firms operate as part of a network and, for consistency, may implement some of their monitoring procedures on a network basis. Where firms within a network operate under common monitoring policies and procedures designed to comply with this ISQC (UK and Ireland), and these firms place reliance on such a monitoring system, the firm's policies and procedures shall require that:
- (a) At least annually, the network communicate the overall scope, extent and results of the monitoring process to appropriate individuals within the network firms; and
 - (b) The network communicate promptly any identified deficiencies in the system of quality control to appropriate individuals within the relevant network firm or firms so that the necessary action can be taken,

in order that engagement partners in the network firms can rely on the results of the monitoring process implemented within the network, unless the firms or the network advise otherwise.

Complaints and Allegations

55. The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that it deals appropriately with:
- (a) Complaints and allegations that the work performed by the firm fails to comply with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
 - (b) Allegations of non-compliance with the firm's system of quality control.

As part of this process, the firm shall establish clearly defined channels for firm personnel to raise any concerns in a manner that enables them to come forward without fear of reprisals. (Ref: Para. A70)

55D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall keep records of any complaints made in writing about the performance of the audits carried out. [AD/Article 24b.6]

56. If during the investigations into complaints and allegations, deficiencies in the design or operation of the firm's quality control policies and procedures or non-compliance with the firm's system of quality control by an individual or individuals are identified, the firm shall take appropriate actions as set out in paragraph 51. (Ref: Para. A71-A72)

Documentation of the System of Quality Control

57. The firm shall establish policies and procedures requiring appropriate documentation to provide evidence of the operation of each element of its system of quality control. (Ref: Para. A73-A75)

57D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall retain any other data and documents that are of importance for monitoring compliance with this ISQC (UK and Ireland) and other applicable legal requirements. [AD/Article 24b.5]

57D-2. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall document:

- (a) Whether the firm complies with the independence and objectivity requirements in the Ethical Standards;
- (b) Whether there are threats to the firm’s independence, and the safeguards applied to mitigate those threats;
- (c) Whether the firm has the competent employees, time and resources needed in order to carry out the audit in an appropriate manner; and
- (d) Whether the key audit partner(s) is eligible to be appointed as a statutory auditor. [AD/Article 22b]

58. The firm shall establish policies and procedures that require retention of documentation for a period of time sufficient to permit those performing monitoring procedures to evaluate the firm’s compliance with its system of quality control, or for a longer period if required by law or regulation.

58R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall keep the documents and information required by this ISQC (UK and Ireland) and ISAs (UK and Ireland) including:

- (a) paragraph 27R-2 of ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised) and paragraph 17R-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised);
- (b) paragraphs 22R-1 and 28R-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 Section A (Revised) and paragraphs 42R-1 and 43R-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised);
- (c) paragraphs 38R-1 and 43R-1 of ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised) and paragraphs 21R-1, 21R-2, 24R-2 and 24R-3 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised);
- (d) paragraphs 30-1 and 45R-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised);
- (e) paragraphs 11R-1, 16R-2 and 20R-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised);
- (f) paragraph 13R-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 Section B (Revised);
- (g) paragraphs 27D-1 and 57D-2 of ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised);
- (h) paragraphs 15D-1, 16D-1, 16D-2, 20D-1, 21D-1, 29D-1, 29D-2, 32D-1 and 48D-1 of ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised);
- (i) paragraphs 30D-1, 31D-1, 55D-1, 57D-1 and 59D-1 of ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraphs 15D-1 and 24D-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraphs 8D-1 and 14D-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) and paragraph 15D-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 620 (Revised);
- (j) paragraphs 11D-1, 19D-1, 42D-1, 49D-1 and 50D-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised);
- (k) paragraphs 25-2, 27D-1, and 48D-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised),

for a period that is not less than any period necessary to satisfy the requirements of any applicable laws or regulation relating to data protection and to meet the requirements for any applicable administrative and judicial proceedings, and that is in any case not less than six years from the date of the auditor’s report. [AR/Article 15]

59. The firm shall establish policies and procedures requiring documentation of complaints and allegations and the responses to them.

59D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the firm shall maintain a client account record. Such record shall include the following data for each audit client:

- (a) Client's name, address and place of business;
- (b) Name(s) of the key audit partner(s); and
- (c) Fees charged for the statutory audit and fees charged for other services in any financial year. [AD/Article 24b.4]

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Applying, and Complying with, Relevant Requirements

Considerations Specific to Smaller Firms (Ref: Para. 14)

- A1. This ISQC (UK and Ireland) does not call for compliance with requirements that are not relevant, for example, in the circumstances of a sole practitioner with no staff. Requirements in this ISQC (UK and Ireland) such as those for policies and procedures for the assignment of appropriate personnel to the engagement team (see paragraph 31), for review responsibilities (see paragraph 33), and for the annual communication of the results of monitoring to engagement partners within the firm (see paragraph 53) are not relevant in the absence of staff.

A1-1. Requirements for statutory audits of financial statements that derive from the Audit Directive or the Audit Regulation are required by legislation to be complied with.

Elements of a System of Quality Control (Ref: Para. 17)

- A2. In general, communication of quality control policies and procedures to firm personnel includes a description of the quality control policies and procedures and the objectives they are designed to achieve, and the message that each individual has a personal responsibility for quality and is expected to comply with these policies and procedures. Encouraging firm personnel to communicate their views or concerns on quality control matters recognizes the importance of obtaining feedback on the firm's system of quality control.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Firms

- A3. Documentation and communication of policies and procedures for smaller firms may be less formal and extensive than for larger firms.

Leadership Responsibilities for Quality within the Firm

Promoting an Internal Culture of Quality (Ref: Para. 18)

- A4. The firm's leadership and the examples it sets significantly influence the internal culture of the firm. The promotion of a quality-oriented internal culture depends on clear, consistent and frequent actions and messages from all levels of the firm's management that emphasize the firm's quality control policies and procedures, and the requirement to:
- (a) Perform work that complies with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and

- (b) Issue reports that are appropriate in the circumstances.

Such actions and messages encourage a culture that recognizes and rewards high quality work. These actions and messages may be communicated by, but are not limited to, training seminars, meetings, formal or informal dialogue, mission statements, newsletters, or briefing memoranda. They may be incorporated in the firm's internal documentation and training materials, and in partner and staff appraisal procedures such that they will support and reinforce the firm's view on the importance of quality and how, practically, it is to be achieved.

- A5. Of particular importance in promoting an internal culture based on quality is the need for the firm's leadership to recognize that the firm's business strategy is subject to the overriding requirement for the firm to achieve quality in all the engagements that the firm performs. Promoting such an internal culture includes:
- (a) Establishment of policies and procedures that address performance evaluation, compensation, and promotion (including incentive systems) with regard to its personnel, in order to demonstrate the firm's overriding commitment to quality;
 - (b) Assignment of management responsibilities so that commercial considerations do not override the quality of work performed; and
 - (c) Provision of sufficient resources for the development, documentation and support of its quality control policies and procedures.

Assigning Operational Responsibility for the Firm's System of Quality Control (Ref: Para. 19)

- A6. Sufficient and appropriate experience and ability enables the person or persons responsible for the firm's system of quality control to identify and understand quality control issues and to develop appropriate policies and procedures. Necessary authority enables the person or persons to implement those policies and procedures.

Relevant Ethical Requirements

Compliance with Relevant Ethical Requirements (Ref: Para. 20)

- A7. The IESBA Code^{3f} establishes the fundamental principles of professional ethics, which include:
- (a) Integrity;
 - (b) Objectivity;
 - (c) Professional competence and due care;
 - (d) Confidentiality; and
 - (e) Professional behavior.
- A8. Part B of the IESBA Code^{3f} illustrates how the conceptual framework is to be applied in specific situations. It provides examples of safeguards that may be appropriate to address threats to compliance with the fundamental principles and also provides examples of situations where safeguards are not available to address the threats.

^{3f} See paragraph 12(q). Auditors and ~~assurance practitioners~~~~reporting accountants~~ in the UK and Ireland are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: the ~~FRC's~~~~APB~~ Ethical Standards and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor's relevant professional body. The ~~FRC~~~~APB~~ is not aware of any significant instances where the relevant parts of the IESBA Code of Ethics are more restrictive than the ~~FRC~~~~APB~~ Ethical Standards.

A9. The fundamental principles are reinforced in particular by:

- The leadership of the firm;
- Education and training;
- Monitoring; and
- A process for dealing with non-compliance.

Definition of “Firm,” “Network” and “Network Firm” (Ref: Para. 20-25)

A10. The definitions of “firm,” “network” or “network firm” in relevant ethical requirements may differ from those set out in this ISA (UK and Ireland). For example, the IESBA Code⁴ defines the “firm” as:

- (i) A sole practitioner, partnership or corporation of professional accountants;
- (ii) An entity that controls such parties through ownership, management or other means; and
- (iii) An entity controlled by such parties through ownership, management or other means.

The IESBA Code also provides guidance in relation to the terms “network” and “network firm.”

In complying with the requirements in paragraphs 20-25, the definitions used in the relevant ethical requirements apply in so far as is necessary to interpret those ethical requirements.

Written Confirmation (Ref: Para. 24)

A11. Written confirmation may be in paper or electronic form. By obtaining confirmation and taking appropriate action on information indicating non-compliance, the firm demonstrates the importance that it attaches to independence and makes the issue current for, and visible to, its personnel.

Familiarity Threat (Ref: Para. 25)

A12. The IESBA Code^{2a} discusses the familiarity threat that may be created by using the same senior personnel on an assurance engagement over a long period of time and the safeguards that might be appropriate to address such threats.

A13. Determining appropriate criteria to address familiarity threat may include matters such as:

- The nature of the engagement, including the extent to which it involves a matter of public interest; and
- The length of service of the senior personnel on the engagement.

Examples of safeguards include rotating the senior personnel or requiring an engagement quality control review.

A14. The IESBA Code^{2a} recognizes that the familiarity threat is particularly relevant in the context of financial statement audits of listed entities. For these audits, the IESBA Code requires the rotation of the key audit partner⁵ after a pre-defined period,

⁴ “IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.” See footnote [3f2a](#).

⁵ IESBA Code, Definitions. ~~See footnote 1a.~~

normally no more than seven years^{4a}, and provides related standards and guidance. National requirements may establish shorter rotation periods.

Considerations specific to public sector audit organizations

- A15. Statutory measures may provide safeguards for the independence of public sector auditors. However, threats to independence may still exist regardless of any statutory measures designed to protect it. Therefore, in establishing the policies and procedures required by paragraphs 20-25, the public sector auditor may have regard to the public sector mandate and address any threats to independence in that context.
- A16. Listed entities as referred to in paragraphs 25 and A14 are not common in the public sector. However, there may be other public sector entities that are significant due to size, complexity or public interest aspects, and which consequently have a wide range of stakeholders. Therefore, there may be instances when a firm determines, based on its quality control policies and procedures, that a public sector entity is significant for the purposes of expanded quality control procedures.
- A17. In the public sector, legislation may establish the appointments and terms of office of the auditor with engagement partner responsibility. As a result, it may not be possible to comply strictly with the engagement partner rotation requirements envisaged for listed entities. Nonetheless, for public sector entities considered significant, as noted in paragraph A16, it may be in the public interest for public sector audit organizations to establish policies and procedures to promote compliance with the spirit of rotation of engagement partner responsibility.

Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Specific Engagements

Competence, Capabilities, and Resources (Ref: Para. 26(a))

- A18. Consideration of whether the firm has the competence, capabilities, and resources to undertake a new engagement from a new or an existing client involves reviewing the specific requirements of the engagement and the existing partner and staff profiles at all relevant levels, and including whether:
- Firm personnel have knowledge of relevant industries or subject matters;
 - Firm personnel have experience with relevant regulatory or reporting requirements, or the ability to gain the necessary skills and knowledge effectively;
 - The firm has sufficient personnel with the necessary competence and capabilities;
 - Experts are available, if needed;
 - Individuals meeting the criteria and eligibility requirements to perform engagement quality control review are available, where applicable; and
 - The firm is able to complete the engagement within the reporting deadline.

The IESBA definition of “key audit partner” is not the same definition as applied in the FRC’s ethical and auditing standards as the FRC’s definition is derived from the Audit Directive. See paragraph 12D-1(d).

^{4a} The FRC’s APB Ethical Standard 3 (Revised), “Section 3 – Long Association With The Audit Engagements and Entities Relevant to Engagements,” specifies for the audits of public-interest entities and listed companies the rotation periods for the audit engagement partner, the engagement quality control reviewer, and other key partners involved in the audit.

Integrity of Client (Ref: Para. 26(c))

A19. With regard to the integrity of a client, matters to consider include, for example:

- The identity and business reputation of the client's principal owners, key management, and those charged with its governance.
- The nature of the client's operations, including its business practices.
- Information concerning the attitude of the client's principal owners, key management and those charged with its governance towards such matters as aggressive interpretation of accounting standards and the internal control environment.
- Whether the client is aggressively concerned with maintaining the firm's fees as low as possible.
- Indications of an inappropriate limitation in the scope of work.
- Indications that the client might be involved in money laundering or other criminal activities.
- The reasons for the proposed appointment of the firm and non-reappointment of the previous firm.
- The identity and business reputation of related parties.

The extent of knowledge a firm will have regarding the integrity of a client will generally grow within the context of an ongoing relationship with that client.

A20. Sources of information on such matters obtained by the firm may include the following:

- Communications with existing or previous providers of professional accountancy services to the client in accordance with relevant ethical requirements, and discussions with other third parties.
- Inquiry of other firm personnel or third parties such as bankers, legal counsel and industry peers.
- Background searches of relevant databases.

Continuance of Client Relationship (Ref: Para. 27(a))

A21. Deciding whether to continue a client relationship includes consideration of significant matters that have arisen during the current or previous engagements, and their implications for continuing the relationship. For example, a client may have started to expand its business operations into an area where the firm does not possess the necessary expertise.

Withdrawal (Ref: Para. 28)

A22. Policies and procedures on withdrawal from an engagement or from both the engagement and the client relationship address issues that include the following:

- Discussing with the appropriate level of the client's management and those charged with its governance the appropriate action that the firm might take based on the relevant facts and circumstances.
- If the firm determines that it is appropriate to withdraw, discussing with the appropriate level of the client's management and those charged with its

governance withdrawal from the engagement or from both the engagement and the client relationship, and the reasons for the withdrawal.

- Considering whether there is a professional, legal or regulatory requirement for the firm to remain in place, or for the firm to report the withdrawal from the engagement, or from both the engagement and the client relationship, together with the reasons for the withdrawal, to regulatory authorities.
- Documenting significant matters, consultations, conclusions and the basis for the conclusions.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Audit Organizations (Ref: Para. 26-28)

A23. In the public sector, auditors may be appointed in accordance with statutory procedures. Accordingly, certain of the requirements and considerations regarding the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements as set out paragraphs 26-28 and A18-A22 may not be relevant. Nonetheless, establishing policies and procedures as described may provide valuable information to public sector auditors in performing risk assessments and in carrying out reporting responsibilities.

Human Resources (Ref: Para. 29)

A24. Personnel issues relevant to the firm's policies and procedures related to human resources include, for example:

- Recruitment.
- Performance evaluation.
- Capabilities, including time to perform assignments.
- Competence.
- Career development.
- Promotion.
- Compensation.
- The estimation of personnel needs.

Effective recruitment processes and procedures help the firm select individuals of integrity who have the capacity to develop the competence and capabilities necessary to perform the firm's work and possess the appropriate characteristics to enable them to perform competently.

A25. Competence can be developed through a variety of methods, including the following:

- Professional education.
- Continuing professional development, including training.
- Work experience.
- Coaching by more experienced staff, for example, other members of the engagement team.
- Independence education for personnel who are required to be independent.

A26. The continuing competence of the firm's personnel depends to a significant extent on an appropriate level of continuing professional development so that personnel

maintain their knowledge and capabilities. Effective policies and procedures emphasize the need for continuing training for all levels of firm personnel, and provide the necessary training resources and assistance to enable personnel to develop and maintain the required competence and capabilities.

A27. The firm may use a suitably qualified external person, for example, when internal technical and training resources are unavailable.

A28. Performance evaluation, compensation and promotion procedures give due recognition and reward to the development and maintenance of competence and commitment to ethical principles. Steps a firm may take in developing and maintaining competence and commitment to ethical principles include:

- Making personnel aware of the firm's expectations regarding performance and ethical principles;
- Providing personnel with evaluation of, and counseling on, performance, progress and career development; and
- Helping personnel understand that advancement to positions of greater responsibility depends, among other things, upon performance quality and adherence to ethical principles, and that failure to comply with the firm's policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Firms

A29. The size and circumstances of the firm will influence the structure of the firm's performance evaluation process. Smaller firms, in particular, may employ less formal methods of evaluating the performance of their personnel.

Assignment of Engagement Teams

Engagement Partners (Ref: Para. 30)

A30. Policies and procedures may include systems to monitor the workload and availability of engagement partners so as to enable these individuals to have sufficient time to adequately discharge their responsibilities.

Engagement Teams (Ref: Para. 31)

A31. The firm's assignment of engagement teams and the determination of the level of supervision required, include for example, consideration of the engagement team's:

- Understanding of, and practical experience with, engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation;
- Understanding of professional standards and legal and regulatory requirements;
- Technical knowledge and expertise, including knowledge of relevant information technology;
- Knowledge of relevant industries in which the clients operate;
- Ability to apply professional judgment; and
- Understanding of the firm's quality control policies and procedures.

Engagement Performance

Consistency in the Quality of Engagement Performance (Ref: Para. 32(a))

- A32. The firm promotes consistency in the quality of engagement performance through its policies and procedures. This is often accomplished through written or electronic manuals, software tools or other forms of standardized documentation, and industry or subject matter-specific guidance materials. Matters addressed may include:
- How engagement teams are briefed on the engagement to obtain an understanding of the objectives of their work.
 - Processes for complying with applicable engagement standards.
 - Processes of engagement supervision, staff training and coaching.
 - Methods of reviewing the work performed, the significant judgments made and the form of report being issued.
 - Appropriate documentation of the work performed and of the timing and extent of the review.
 - Processes to keep all policies and procedures current.
- A33. Appropriate teamwork and training assist less experienced members of the engagement team to clearly understand the objectives of the assigned work.

Supervision (Ref: Para. 32(b))

- A34. Engagement supervision includes the following:
- Tracking the progress of the engagement;
 - Considering the competence and capabilities of individual members of the engagement team, whether they have sufficient time to carry out their work, whether they understand their instructions and whether the work is being carried out in accordance with the planned approach to the engagement;
 - Addressing significant matters arising during the engagement, considering their significance and modifying the planned approach appropriately; and
 - Identifying matters for consultation or consideration by more experienced engagement team members during the engagement.

Review (Ref: Para. 32(c))

- A35. A review consists of consideration of whether:
- The work has been performed in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements;
 - Significant matters have been raised for further consideration;
 - Appropriate consultations have taken place and the resulting conclusions have been documented and implemented;
 - There is a need to revise the nature, timing and extent of work performed;
 - The work performed supports the conclusions reached and is appropriately documented;
 - The evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support the report; and

- The objectives of the engagement procedures have been achieved.

Consultation (Ref: Para. 34)

- A36. Consultation includes discussion at the appropriate professional level, with individuals within or outside the firm who have specialized expertise.
- A37. Consultation uses appropriate research resources as well as the collective experience and technical expertise of the firm. Consultation helps to promote quality and improves the application of professional judgment. Appropriate recognition of consultation in the firm's policies and procedures helps to promote a culture in which consultation is recognized as a strength and encourages personnel to consult on difficult or contentious matters.
- A38. Effective consultation on significant technical, ethical and other matters within the firm, or where applicable, outside the firm can be achieved when those consulted:
- are given all the relevant facts that will enable them to provide informed advice; and
 - have appropriate knowledge, seniority and experience,
- and when conclusions resulting from consultations are appropriately documented and implemented.
- A39. Documentation of consultations with other professionals that involve difficult or contentious matters that is sufficiently complete and detailed contributes to an understanding of:
- The issue on which consultation was sought; and
 - The results of the consultation, including any decisions taken, the basis for those decisions and how they were implemented.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Firms

- A40. A firm needing to consult externally, for example, a firm without appropriate internal resources, may take advantage of advisory services provided by:
- Other firms;
 - Professional and regulatory bodies; or
 - Commercial organizations that provide relevant quality control services.

Before contracting for such services, consideration of the competence and capabilities of the external provider helps the firm to determine whether the external provider is suitably qualified for that purpose.

Engagement Quality Control Review

Criteria for an Engagement Quality Control Review (Ref: Para. 35(b))

- A41. Criteria for determining which engagements other than audits of financial statements of listed entities are to be subject to an engagement quality control review may include, for example:
- The nature of the engagement, including the extent to which it involves a matter of public interest.

- The identification of unusual circumstances or risks in an engagement or class of engagements.
- Whether laws or regulations require an engagement quality control review.

Nature, Timing and Extent of the Engagement Quality Control Review (Ref: Para. 36-37)

- A42. The engagement report is not dated until the completion of the engagement quality control review. However, documentation of the engagement quality control review may be completed after the date of the report.
- A43. Conducting the engagement quality control review in a timely manner at appropriate stages during the engagement allows significant matters to be promptly resolved to the engagement quality control reviewer’s satisfaction on or before the date of the report.
- A44. The extent of the engagement quality control review may depend, among other things, on the complexity of the engagement, whether the entity is a listed entity, and the risk that the report might not be appropriate in the circumstances. The performance of an engagement quality control review does not reduce the responsibilities of the engagement partner.

A44-1. The firm’s policies and procedures set out whether there are circumstances in which an engagement quality control review is performed for other audit or public interest assurance engagements as described in paragraph 35(b). [ES1.52]

A44-2. Where the involvement of an engagement quality control reviewer provides a safeguard to reduce to an acceptable level those threats to independence that have been identified as potentially arising from the provision of non-audit or additional services^{5b}, the engagement quality control review specifically addresses the related threat by ensuring that the work that was performed in the course of the non-audit or additional service engagement has been properly and effectively assessed in the context of the audit of the financial statements or other public-interest assurance engagement. [ES1.53]

Engagement Quality Control Review of a Listed Entity (Ref: Para. 38)

- A45. Other matters relevant to evaluating the significant judgments made by the engagement team that may be considered in an engagement quality control review of an audit of financial statements of a listed entity include:
- Significant risks identified during the engagement and the responses to those risks.
 - Judgments made, particularly with respect to materiality and significant risks.
 - The significance and disposition of corrected and uncorrected misstatements identified during the engagement.
 - The matters to be communicated to management and those charged with governance and, where applicable, other parties such as regulatory bodies.

These other matters, depending on the circumstances, may also be applicable for engagement quality control reviews for audits of the financial statements of other entities as well as reviews of financial statements and other assurance and related services engagements.

^{5b} The FRC’s Ethical Standard, “Section 5 – Non-audit / Additional Services.”

Considerations specific to public sector audit organizations

A46. Although not referred to as listed entities, as described in paragraph A16, certain public sector entities may be of sufficient significance to warrant performance of an engagement quality control review.

Criteria for the Eligibility of Engagement Quality Control Reviewers

Sufficient and Appropriate Technical Expertise, Experience and Authority (Ref: Para. 39(a))

A47. What constitutes sufficient and appropriate technical expertise, experience and authority depends on the circumstances of the engagement. For example, the engagement quality control reviewer for an audit of the financial statements of a listed entity is likely to be an individual with sufficient and appropriate experience and authority to act as an audit engagement partner on audits of financial statements of listed entities.

Consultation with the Engagement Quality Control Reviewer (Ref: Para. 39(b))

A48. The engagement partner may consult the engagement quality control reviewer during the engagement, for example, to establish that a judgment made by the engagement partner will be acceptable to the engagement quality control reviewer. Such consultation avoids identification of differences of opinion at a late stage of the engagement and need not compromise the engagement quality control reviewer's eligibility to perform the role. Where the nature and extent of the consultations become significant the reviewer's objectivity may be compromised unless care is taken by both the engagement team and the reviewer to maintain the reviewer's objectivity. Where this is not possible, another individual within the firm or a suitably qualified external person may be appointed to take on the role of either the engagement quality control reviewer or the person to be consulted on the engagement.

Objectivity of the Engagement Quality Control Reviewer (Ref: Para. 40)

A49. The firm is required to establish policies and procedures designed to maintain objectivity of the engagement quality control reviewer. Accordingly, such policies and procedures provide that the engagement quality control reviewer:

- Where practicable, is not selected by the engagement partner;
- Does not otherwise participate in the engagement during the period of review;
- Does not make decisions for the engagement team; and
- Is not subject to other considerations that would threaten the reviewer's objectivity.

Considerations specific to smaller firms

A50. It may not be practicable, in the case of firms with few partners, for the engagement partner not to be involved in selecting the engagement quality control reviewer. Suitably qualified external persons may be contracted where sole practitioners or small firms identify engagements requiring engagement quality control reviews. Alternatively, some sole practitioners or small firms may wish to use other firms to facilitate engagement quality control reviews. Where the firm contracts suitably qualified external persons, the requirements in paragraphs 39-41 and guidance in paragraphs A47-A48 apply.

Considerations specific to public sector audit organizations

A51. In the public sector, a statutorily appointed auditor (for example, an Auditor General, or other suitably qualified person appointed on behalf of the Auditor General) may act in a role equivalent to that of engagement partner with overall responsibility for public sector audits. In such circumstances, where applicable, the selection of the engagement quality control reviewer includes consideration of the need for independence from the audited entity and the ability of the engagement quality control reviewer to provide an objective evaluation.

Differences of Opinion (Ref: Para. 43)

A52. Effective procedures encourage identification of differences of opinion at an early stage, provide clear guidelines as to the successive steps to be taken thereafter, and require documentation regarding the resolution of the differences and the implementation of the conclusions reached.

A53. Procedures to resolve such differences may include consulting with another practitioner or firm, or a professional or regulatory body.

Engagement Documentation

Completion of the Assembly of Final Engagement Files (Ref: Para. 45)

A54. Law or regulation may prescribe the time limits by which the assembly of final engagement files for specific types of engagement is to be completed. Where no such time limits are prescribed in law or regulation, paragraph 45 requires the firm to establish time limits that reflect the need to complete the assembly of final engagement files on a timely basis. In the case of an audit, for example, such a time limit would ordinarily not be more than 60 days after the date of the auditor's report.

A55. Where two or more different reports are issued in respect of the same subject matter information of an entity, the firm's policies and procedures relating to time limits for the assembly of final engagement files address each report as if it were for a separate engagement. This may, for example, be the case when the firm issues an auditor's report on a component's financial information for group consolidation purposes and, at a subsequent date, an auditor's report on the same financial information for statutory purposes.

Confidentiality, Safe Custody, Integrity, Accessibility and Retrievability of Engagement Documentation (Ref: Para. 46)

A56. Relevant ethical requirements establish an obligation for the firm's personnel to observe at all times the confidentiality of information contained in engagement documentation, unless specific client authority has been given to disclose information, or there is a legal or professional duty to do so. Specific laws or regulations may impose additional obligations on the firm's personnel to maintain client confidentiality, particularly where data of a personal nature are concerned.

A57. Whether engagement documentation is in paper, electronic or other media, the integrity, accessibility or retrievability of the underlying data may be compromised if the documentation could be altered, added to or deleted without the firm's knowledge, or if it could be permanently lost or damaged. Accordingly, controls that the firm designs and implements to avoid unauthorized alteration or loss of engagement documentation may include those that:

- Enable the determination of when and by whom engagement documentation was created, changed or reviewed;
- Protect the integrity of the information at all stages of the engagement, especially when the information is shared within the engagement team or transmitted to other parties via the Internet;
- Prevent unauthorized changes to the engagement documentation; and
- Allow access to the engagement documentation by the engagement team and other authorized parties as necessary to properly discharge their responsibilities.

A58. Controls that the firm designs and implements to maintain the confidentiality, safe custody, integrity, accessibility and retrievability of engagement documentation may include the following:

- The use of a password among engagement team members to restrict access to electronic engagement documentation to authorized users.
- Appropriate back-up routines for electronic engagement documentation at appropriate stages during the engagement.
- Procedures for properly distributing engagement documentation to the team members at the start of the engagement, processing it during engagement, and collating it at the end of engagement.
- Procedures for restricting access to, and enabling proper distribution and confidential storage of, hardcopy engagement documentation.

A59. For practical reasons, original paper documentation may be electronically scanned for inclusion in engagement files. In such cases, the firm's procedures designed to maintain the integrity, accessibility, and retrievability of the documentation may include requiring the engagement teams to:

- Generate scanned copies that reflect the entire content of the original paper documentation, including manual signatures, cross-references and annotations;
- Integrate the scanned copies into the engagement files, including indexing and signing off on the scanned copies as necessary; and
- Enable the scanned copies to be retrieved and printed as necessary.

There may be legal, regulatory or other reasons for a firm to retain original paper documentation that has been scanned.

Retention of Engagement Documentation (Ref: Para. 47)

A60. The needs of the firm for retention of engagement documentation, and the period of such retention, will vary with the nature of the engagement and the firm's circumstances, for example, whether the engagement documentation is needed to provide a record of matters of continuing significance to future engagements. The retention period may also depend on other factors, such as whether local law or regulation prescribes specific retention periods for certain types of engagements, or whether there are generally accepted retention periods in the jurisdiction in the absence of specific legal or regulatory requirements.

- A61. In the specific case of audit engagements, the retention period would ordinarily be no shorter than five years from the date of the auditor’s report, or, if later, the date of the group auditor’s report.^{4b}

~~In the UK and Ireland, for statutory audits of financial statements, engagement documentation is retained in accordance with paragraph 58R-1. For other audit engagements, this requirement is applied having regard to specific requirements of the auditor’s relevant professional body.~~

- A62. Procedures that the firm adopts for retention of engagement documentation include those that enable the requirements of paragraph 47 to be met during the retention period, for example to:
- Enable the retrieval of, and access to, the engagement documentation during the retention period, particularly in the case of electronic documentation since the underlying technology may be upgraded or changed over time;
 - Provide, where necessary, a record of changes made to engagement documentation after the engagement files have been completed; and
 - Enable authorized external parties to access and review specific engagement documentation for quality control or other purposes.

Ownership of engagement documentation

- A63. Unless otherwise specified by law or regulation, engagement documentation is the property of the firm. The firm may, at its discretion, make portions of, or extracts from, engagement documentation available to clients, provided such disclosure does not undermine the validity of the work performed, or, in the case of assurance engagements, the independence of the firm or its personnel.

Monitoring

Monitoring the Firm’s Quality Control Policies and Procedures (Ref: Para. 48)

- A64. The purpose of monitoring compliance with quality control policies and procedures is to provide an evaluation of:
- Adherence to professional standards and legal and regulatory requirements;
 - Whether the system of quality control has been appropriately designed and effectively implemented; and
 - Whether the firm’s quality control policies and procedures have been appropriately applied, so that reports that are issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances.
- A65. Ongoing consideration and evaluation of the system of quality control include matters such as the following:
- Analysis of:
 - New developments in professional standards and legal and regulatory requirements, and how they are reflected in the firm’s policies and procedures where appropriate;

~~^{4b}—In the UK and Ireland this requirement is applied having regard to specific requirements of the auditor’s relevant professional body.~~

- Written confirmation of compliance with policies and procedures on independence;
 - Continuing professional development, including training; and
 - Decisions related to acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements.
- Determination of corrective actions to be taken and improvements to be made in the system, including the provision of feedback into the firm's policies and procedures relating to education and training.
 - Communication to appropriate firm personnel of weaknesses identified in the system, in the level of understanding of the system, or compliance with it.
 - Follow-up by appropriate firm personnel so that necessary modifications are promptly made to the quality control policies and procedures.
- A66. Inspection cycle policies and procedures may, for example, specify a cycle that spans three years. The manner in which the inspection cycle is organized, including the timing of selection of individual engagements, depends on many factors, such as the following:
- The size of the firm.
 - The number and geographical location of offices.
 - The results of previous monitoring procedures.
 - The degree of authority both personnel and offices have (for example, whether individual offices are authorized to conduct their own inspections or whether only the head office may conduct them).
 - The nature and complexity of the firm's practice and organization.
 - The risks associated with the firm's clients and specific engagements.
- A67. The inspection process includes the selection of individual engagements, some of which may be selected without prior notification to the engagement team. In determining the scope of the inspections, the firm may take into account the scope or conclusions of an independent external inspection program. However, an independent external inspection program does not act as a substitute for the firm's own internal monitoring program.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Firms

- A68. In the case of small firms, monitoring procedures may need to be performed by individuals who are responsible for design and implementation of the firm's quality control policies and procedures, or who may be involved in performing the engagement quality control review. A firm with a limited number of persons may choose to use a suitably qualified external person or another firm to carry out engagement inspections and other monitoring procedures. Alternatively, the firm may establish arrangements to share resources with other appropriate organizations to facilitate monitoring activities.

Communicating Deficiencies (Ref: Para. 50)

- A69. The reporting of identified deficiencies to individuals other than the relevant engagement partners need not include an identification of the specific engagements

concerned, although there may be cases where such identification may be necessary for the proper discharge of the responsibilities of the individuals other than the engagement partners.

Complaints and Allegations

Source of Complaints and Allegations (Ref: Para. 55)

A70. Complaints and allegations (which do not include those that are clearly frivolous) may originate from within or outside the firm. They may be made by firm personnel, clients or other third parties. They may be received by engagement team members or other firm personnel.

Investigation Policies and Procedures (Ref: Para. 56)

A71. Policies and procedures established for the investigation of complaints and allegations may include for example, that the partner supervising the investigation:

- Has sufficient and appropriate experience;
- Has authority within the firm; and
- Is otherwise not involved in the engagement.

The partner supervising the investigation may involve legal counsel as necessary.

Considerations specific to smaller firms

A72. It may not be practicable, in the case of firms with few partners, for the partner supervising the investigation not to be involved in the engagement. These small firms and sole practitioners may use the services of a suitably qualified external person or another firm to carry out the investigation into complaints and allegations.

Documentation of the System of Quality Control (Ref: Para. 57)

A73. The form and content of documentation evidencing the operation of each of the elements of the system of quality control is a matter of judgment and depends on a number of factors, including the following:

- The size of the firm and the number of offices.
- The nature and complexity of the firm's practice and organization.

For example, large firms may use electronic databases to document matters such as independence confirmations, performance evaluations and the results of monitoring inspections.

A74. Appropriate documentation relating to monitoring includes, for example:

- Monitoring procedures, including the procedure for selecting completed engagements to be inspected.
- A record of the evaluation of:
 - Adherence to professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements;
 - Whether the system of quality control has been appropriately designed and effectively implemented; and

- Whether the firm’s quality control policies and procedures have been appropriately applied, so that reports that are issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances.
- Identification of the deficiencies noted, an evaluation of their effect, and the basis for determining whether and what further action is necessary.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Firms

A75. Smaller firms may use more informal methods in the documentation of their systems of quality control such as manual notes, checklists and forms.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 200 (REVISED)**

**OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR AND THE
CONDUCT OF AN AUDIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS ON AUDITING (UK AND IRELAND)**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after 17 June 2016~~5~~
~~December 2010~~)

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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the independent auditor’s overall responsibilities when conducting an audit of financial statements in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland). Specifically, it sets out the overall objectives of the independent auditor, and explains the nature and scope of an audit designed to enable the independent auditor to meet those objectives. It also explains the scope, authority and structure of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), and includes requirements establishing the general responsibilities of the independent auditor applicable in all audits, including the obligation to comply with the ISAs (UK and Ireland). The independent auditor is referred to as “the auditor” hereafter.
2. ISAs (UK and Ireland) are written in the context of an audit of financial statements by an auditor. They are to be adapted as necessary in the circumstances when applied to audits of other historical financial information. ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not address the responsibilities of the auditor that may exist in legislation, regulation or otherwise in connection with, for example, the offering of securities to the public^{1a}. Such responsibilities may differ from those established in the ISAs (UK and Ireland). Accordingly, while the auditor may find aspects of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) helpful in such circumstances, it is the responsibility of the auditor to ensure compliance with all relevant legal, regulatory or professional obligations.

An Audit of Financial Statements

3. The purpose of an audit is to enhance the degree of confidence of intended users in the financial statements. This is achieved by the expression of an opinion by the auditor on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework. In the case of most general purpose frameworks, that opinion is on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view in accordance with the framework. An audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) and relevant ethical requirements enables the auditor to form that opinion. (Ref: Para. A1)

The scope of an audit does not, however, constitute an assurance engagement with respect to the future viability of the audited entity or on the efficiency or effectiveness with which the management or administrative body has conducted or will conduct the affairs of the entity. However, when conducting such an audit, the auditor may identify or be required to consider related matters and, where applicable, may be required to report or to communicate with management or those charged with governance or other parties in accordance with applicable laws or regulations, the ISAs (UK and Ireland) or relevant ethical requirements. [AD/Article 25a]

4. The financial statements subject to audit are those of the entity, prepared by management of the entity with oversight from those charged with governance^{1b}. ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not impose responsibilities on management or those charged with

^{1a} In the UK and Ireland, standards and guidance for accountants undertaking engagements in connection with an investment circular are set out in APB’s Standards for Investment Reporting (SIRS).

^{1b} In the UK and Ireland, those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. For corporate entities, directors have a collective responsibility; those charged with governance of other types of entity may also have a collective responsibility established in applicable law or regulation or under the terms of their appointment.

governance and do not override laws and regulations that govern their responsibilities. However, an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) is conducted on the premise that management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance have acknowledged certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of the audit. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities. (Ref: Para. A2-A11)

5. As the basis for the auditor’s opinion, ISAs (UK and Ireland) require the auditor to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance. It is obtained when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk (that is, the risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated) to an acceptably low level. However, reasonable assurance is not an absolute level of assurance, because there are inherent limitations of an audit which result in most of the audit evidence on which the auditor draws conclusions and bases the auditor’s opinion being persuasive rather than conclusive. (Ref: Para. A28-A52)
6. The concept of materiality is applied by the auditor both in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements.¹ In general, misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. Judgments about materiality are made in the light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by the auditor’s perception of the financial information needs of users of the financial statements, and by the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both. The auditor’s opinion deals with the financial statements as a whole and therefore the auditor is not responsible for the detection of misstatements that are not material to the financial statements as a whole.
7. The ISAs (UK and Ireland) contain objectives, requirements and application and other explanatory material that are designed to support the auditor in obtaining reasonable assurance. The ISAs (UK and Ireland) require that the auditor exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit and, among other things:
 - Identify and assess risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, based on an understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity’s internal control.
 - Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether material misstatements exist, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to the assessed risks.
 - Form an opinion on the financial statements based on conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit” and ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit.”

8. The form of opinion expressed by the auditor will depend upon the applicable financial reporting framework and any applicable law or regulation. (Ref: Para. A12-A13)
9. The auditor may also have certain other communication and reporting responsibilities to users, management, those charged with governance, or parties outside the entity, in relation to matters arising from the audit. These may be established by the ISAs (UK and Ireland) or by applicable law or regulation.²

Effective Date

10. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016~~15 December 2010~~.

Overall Objectives of the Auditor

11. In conducting an audit of financial statements, the overall objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, thereby enabling the auditor to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework; and
 - (b) To report on the financial statements, and communicate as required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland), in accordance with the auditor’s findings.
12. In all cases when reasonable assurance cannot be obtained and a qualified opinion in the auditor’s report is insufficient in the circumstances for purposes of reporting to the intended users of the financial statements, the ISAs (UK and Ireland) require that the auditor disclaim an opinion or withdraw (or resign)³ from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation.

Definitions

13. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Applicable financial reporting framework – The financial reporting framework adopted by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in the preparation of the financial statements that is acceptable in view of the nature of the entity and the objective of the financial statements, or that is required by law or regulation.

The term “fair presentation framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

- (i) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework; or
- (ii) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the

² See, for example, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance;” and paragraph 43 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements.”

³ In the ISAs (UK and Ireland), only the term “withdrawal” is used.

financial statements. Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

The term “compliance framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework, but does not contain the acknowledgements in (i) or (ii) above.

In the UK and Ireland, the applicable financial reporting framework includes the requirements of applicable law.

- (b) Audit evidence – Information used by the auditor in arriving at the conclusions on which the auditor’s opinion is based. Audit evidence includes both information contained in the accounting records underlying the financial statements and other information. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland):
 - (i) Sufficiency of audit evidence is the measure of the quantity of audit evidence. The quantity of the audit evidence needed is affected by the auditor’s assessment of the risks of material misstatement and also by the quality of such audit evidence.
 - (ii) Appropriateness of audit evidence is the measure of the quality of audit evidence; that is, its relevance and its reliability in providing support for the conclusions on which the auditor’s opinion is based.
- (c) Audit risk – The risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate audit opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated. Audit risk is a function of the risks of material misstatement and detection risk.
- (d) Auditor – “Auditor” is used to refer to the person or persons conducting the audit, usually the engagement partner or other members of the engagement team^{3a}, or, as applicable, the firm. Where an ISA (UK and Ireland) expressly intends that a requirement or responsibility be fulfilled by the engagement partner, the term “engagement partner” rather than “auditor” is used. “Engagement partner” and “firm” are to be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.
- (e) Detection risk – The risk that the procedures performed by the auditor to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level will not detect a misstatement that exists and that could be material, either individually or when aggregated with other misstatements.
- (f) Financial statements – A structured representation of historical financial information, including disclosures related notes, intended to communicate an entity’s economic resources or obligations at a point in time or the changes therein for a period of time in accordance with a financial reporting framework. ~~The related notes ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.~~ The term “financial statements” ordinarily refers to a complete set of financial statements as determined by the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, but can also refer to a single financial statement. Disclosures comprise explanatory or descriptive information, set out as required, expressly permitted or otherwise allowed by the applicable financial reporting framework, on the face of a financial statement, or in the notes,

^{3a} In the UK and Ireland, this includes the key audit partner as defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 7D-1(d).

or incorporated therein by cross-reference. (Ref: Para. A1-A1a) [IAASB/Disclosures]

- (g) Historical financial information – Information expressed in financial terms in relation to a particular entity, derived primarily from that entity’s accounting system, about economic events occurring in past time periods or about economic conditions or circumstances at points in time in the past.
- (h) Management – The person(s) with executive responsibility for the conduct of the entity’s operations. For some entities in some jurisdictions, management includes some or all of those charged with governance, for example, executive members of a governance board, or an owner-manager.

In the UK and Ireland, management will not normally include non-executive directors.

- (i) Misstatement – A difference between the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure of a reported financial statement item and the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure that is required for the item to be in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Misstatements can arise from error or fraud.

Where the auditor expresses an opinion on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view, misstatements also include those adjustments of amounts, classifications, presentation, or disclosures that, in the auditor’s judgment, are necessary for the financial statements to be presented fairly, in all material respects, or to give a true and fair view.

- (j) Premise, relating to the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, on which an audit is conducted – That management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance have acknowledged and understand that they have the following responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland). That is, responsibility:
 - (i) For the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation;
 - (ii) For such internal control as management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
 - (iii) To provide the auditor with:
 - a. Access to all information of which management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - b. Additional information that the auditor may request from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance for the purpose of the audit; and

- c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

In the case of a fair presentation framework, (i) above may be restated as “for the preparation and *fair* presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting framework,” or “for the preparation of financial statements *that give a true and fair view* in accordance with the financial reporting framework.”

The “premise, relating to the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, on which an audit is conducted” may also be referred to as the “premise.”

- (k) Professional judgment – The application of relevant training, knowledge and experience, within the context provided by auditing, accounting and ethical standards, in making informed decisions about the courses of action that are appropriate in the circumstances of the audit engagement.
- (l) Professional skepticism – An attitude that includes a questioning mind, being alert to conditions which may indicate possible misstatement due to error or fraud, and a critical assessment of audit evidence.
- (m) Reasonable assurance – In the context of an audit of financial statements, a high, but not absolute, level of assurance.
- (n) Risk of material misstatement – The risk that the financial statements are materially misstated prior to audit. This consists of two components, described as follows at the assertion level:
 - (i) Inherent risk – The susceptibility of an assertion about a class of transaction, account balance or disclosure to a misstatement that could be material, either individually or when aggregated with other misstatements, before consideration of any related controls.
 - (ii) Control risk – The risk that a misstatement that could occur in an assertion about a class of transaction, account balance or disclosure and that could be material, either individually or when aggregated with other misstatements, will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis by the entity’s internal control.
- (o) Those charged with governance – The person(s) or organization(s) (for example, a corporate trustee) with responsibility for overseeing the strategic direction of the entity and obligations related to the accountability of the entity. This includes overseeing the financial reporting process. For some entities in some jurisdictions, those charged with governance may include management personnel, for example, executive members of a governance board of a private or public sector entity, or an owner-manager.

In the UK and Ireland, those charged with governance include the directors (executive and non-executive) of a company and the members of an audit committee where one exists. For other types of entity it usually includes equivalent persons such as the partners, proprietors, committee of management or trustees.

Requirements

Ethical Requirements Relating to an Audit of Financial Statements

14. The auditor shall comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to financial statement audit engagements. (Ref: Para. A14-A17)

Professional Skepticism

15. The auditor shall plan and perform an audit with professional skepticism recognizing that circumstances may exist that cause the financial statements to be materially misstated. (Ref: Para. A18-A22)

In the UK and Ireland, the auditor shall maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit, recognising the possibility of a material misstatement due to facts or behaviour indicating irregularities, including fraud, or error, notwithstanding the auditor's past experience of the honesty and integrity of the entity's management and of those charged with governance. [AD/Article 21.2]

Professional Judgment

16. The auditor shall exercise professional judgment in planning and performing an audit of financial statements. (Ref: Para. A23-A27)

Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence and Audit Risk

17. To obtain reasonable assurance, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level and thereby enable the auditor to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion. (Ref: Para. A28-A52)

Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland)

Complying with ISAs (UK and Ireland) Relevant to the Audit

18. The auditor shall comply with all ISAs (UK and Ireland) relevant to the audit. An ISA (UK and Ireland) is relevant to the audit when the ISA (UK and Ireland) is in effect and the circumstances addressed by the ISA (UK and Ireland) exist. (Ref: Para. A53-A57)
19. The auditor shall have an understanding of the entire text of an ISA (UK and Ireland), including its application and other explanatory material, to understand its objectives and to apply its requirements properly. (Ref: Para. A58-A66)
20. The auditor shall not represent compliance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) in the auditor's report unless the auditor has complied with the requirements of this ISA and all other ISAs (UK and Ireland) relevant to the audit.

Objectives Stated in Individual ISAs (UK and Ireland)

21. To achieve the overall objectives of the auditor, the auditor shall use the objectives stated in relevant ISAs (UK and Ireland) in planning and performing the audit, having regard to the interrelationships among the ISAs (UK and Ireland), to:
- (a) Determine whether any audit procedures in addition to those required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland) are necessary in pursuance of the objectives stated in the ISAs (UK and Ireland); and (Ref: Para. A70)
 - (b) Evaluate whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained. (Ref: Para. A71)

Complying with Relevant Requirements

22. Subject to paragraph 23, the auditor shall comply with each requirement of an ISA (UK and Ireland) unless, in the circumstances of the audit:
- (a) The entire ISA (UK and Ireland) is not relevant; or
 - (b) The requirement is not relevant because it is conditional and the condition does not exist. (Ref: Para. A72-A73)
23. In exceptional circumstances, the auditor may judge it necessary to depart from a relevant requirement in an ISA (UK and Ireland). In such circumstances, the auditor shall perform alternative audit procedures to achieve the aim of that requirement. The need for the auditor to depart from a relevant requirement is expected to arise only where the requirement is for a specific procedure to be performed and, in the specific circumstances of the audit, that procedure would be ineffective in achieving the aim of the requirement. (Ref: Para. A74)

Failure to Achieve an Objective

24. If an objective in a relevant ISA (UK and Ireland) cannot be achieved, the auditor shall evaluate whether this prevents the auditor from achieving the overall objectives of the auditor and thereby requires the auditor, in accordance with the ISAs (UK and Ireland), to modify the auditor's opinion or withdraw from the engagement (where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation). Failure to achieve an objective represents a significant matter requiring documentation in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised).⁴ (Ref: Para. A75-A76)

Application and Other Explanatory Material**Definitions***Financial Statements* (Ref: Para. 13(f))

A1. Some financial reporting frameworks may refer to an entity's economic resources or obligations in other terms. For example, these may be referred to as the entity's assets and liabilities, and the residual difference between them may be referred to as equity or equity interests. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A1a. Explanatory or descriptive information required to be included in the financial statements by the applicable financial reporting framework may be incorporated therein by cross-reference to information in another document, such as a management report or a risk report. "Incorporated therein by cross-reference" means cross-referenced from the financial statements to the other document, but not from the other document to the financial statements, Where the applicable financial reporting framework does not expressly prohibit the cross-referencing of where explanatory or descriptive information may be found, and the information has been appropriately cross-referenced, the information will form part of the financial statements. [IAASB/Disclosures]

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), "Audit Documentation," paragraph 8(c).

An Audit of Financial Statements

Scope of the Audit (Ref: Para. 3)

A1**b**. The auditor's opinion on the financial statements deals with whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Such an opinion is common to all audits of financial statements. The auditor's opinion therefore does not assure, for example, the future viability of the entity nor the efficiency or effectiveness with which management has conducted the affairs of the entity. In some jurisdictions, however, applicable law or regulation may require auditors to provide opinions on other specific matters, such as the effectiveness of internal control, or the consistency of a separate management report with the financial statements. While the ISAs (UK and Ireland) include requirements and guidance in relation to such matters to the extent that they are relevant to forming an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor would be required to undertake further work if the auditor had additional responsibilities to provide such opinions.

Preparation of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 4)

A2. Law or regulation may establish the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in relation to financial reporting. However, the extent of these responsibilities, or the way in which they are described, may differ across jurisdictions. Despite these differences, an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) is conducted on the premise that management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance have acknowledged and understand that they have responsibility:

- (a) For the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation;
- (b) For such internal control as management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- (c) To provide the auditor with:
 - (i) Access to all information of which management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - (ii) Additional information that the auditor may request from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance for the purpose of the audit; and
 - (iii) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

A3. The preparation of the financial statements by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance requires:

- The identification of the applicable financial reporting framework, in the context of any relevant laws or regulations.
- The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with that framework.

- The inclusion of an adequate description of that framework in the financial statements.

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to exercise judgment in making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances, as well as to select and apply appropriate accounting policies. These judgments are made in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

A4. The financial statements may be prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet:

- The common financial information needs of a wide range of users (that is, “general purpose financial statements”); or
- The financial information needs of specific users (that is, “special purpose financial statements”).

A5. The applicable financial reporting framework often encompasses financial reporting standards established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization, or legislative or regulatory requirements. In some cases, the financial reporting framework may encompass both financial reporting standards established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization and legislative or regulatory requirements. Other sources may provide direction on the application of the applicable financial reporting framework. In some cases, the applicable financial reporting framework may encompass such other sources, or may even consist only of such sources. Such other sources may include:

- The legal and ethical environment, including statutes, regulations, court decisions, and professional ethical obligations in relation to accounting matters;
- Published accounting interpretations of varying authority issued by standards setting, professional or regulatory organizations;
- Published views of varying authority on emerging accounting issues issued by standards setting, professional or regulatory organizations;
- General and industry practices widely recognized and prevalent; and
- Accounting literature.

Where conflicts exist between the financial reporting framework and the sources from which direction on its application may be obtained, or among the sources that encompass the financial reporting framework, the source with the highest authority prevails.

A6. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial statements. Although the framework may not specify how to account for or disclose all transactions or events, it ordinarily embodies sufficient broad principles that can serve as a basis for developing and applying accounting policies that are consistent with the concepts underlying the requirements of the framework.

A7. Some financial reporting frameworks are fair presentation frameworks, while others are compliance frameworks. Financial reporting frameworks that encompass primarily the financial reporting standards established by an organization that is authorized or recognized to promulgate standards to be used by entities for preparing general purpose

financial statements are often designed to achieve fair presentation, for example, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

A8. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework also determine what constitutes a complete set of financial statements. In the case of many frameworks, financial statements are intended to provide information about the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of an entity. For such frameworks, a complete set of financial statements would include a balance sheet; an income statement; a statement of changes in equity; a cash flow statement; and related notes. For some other financial reporting frameworks, a single financial statement and the related notes might constitute a complete set of financial statements:

- For example, the International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS), “Financial Reporting Under the Cash Basis of Accounting” issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board states that the primary financial statement is a statement of cash receipts and payments when a public sector entity prepares its financial statements in accordance with that IPSAS.
- Other examples of a single financial statement, each of which would include related notes, are:
 - Balance sheet.
 - Statement of income or statement of operations.
 - Statement of retained earnings.
 - Statement of cash flows.
 - Statement of assets and liabilities that does not include owner’s equity.
 - Statement of changes in owners’ equity.
 - Statement of revenue and expenses.
 - Statement of operations by product lines.

A9. ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised) establishes requirements and provides guidance on determining the acceptability of the applicable financial reporting framework.⁵ ISA 800 deals with special considerations when financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.⁶

A10. Because of the significance of the premise to the conduct of an audit, the auditor is required to obtain the agreement of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance that they acknowledge and understand that they have the responsibilities set out in paragraph A2 as a precondition for accepting the audit engagement.⁷

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements,” paragraph 6(a).

⁶ ISA 800, “Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks,” paragraph 8.

ISA 800 has not been promulgated by the FRCAPB for application in the UK and Ireland.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), paragraph 6(b).

Considerations Specific to Audits in the Public Sector

A11. The mandates for audits of the financial statements of public sector entities may be broader than those of other entities. As a result, the premise, relating to management’s responsibilities, on which an audit of the financial statements of a public sector entity is conducted may include additional responsibilities, such as the responsibility for the execution of transactions and events in accordance with law, regulation or other authority.⁸

Form of the Auditor’s Opinion (Ref: Para. 8)

A12. The opinion expressed by the auditor is on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The form of the auditor’s opinion, however, will depend upon the applicable financial reporting framework and any applicable law or regulation. Most financial reporting frameworks include requirements relating to the presentation of the financial statements; for such frameworks, *preparation* of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework includes *presentation*.

A13. Where the financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework, as is generally the case for general purpose financial statements, the opinion required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland) is on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view. Where the financial reporting framework is a compliance framework, the opinion required is on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the framework. Unless specifically stated otherwise, references in the ISAs (UK and Ireland) to the auditor’s opinion cover both forms of opinion.

Ethical Requirements Relating to an Audit of Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 14)

A14. The auditor is subject to relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to financial statement audit engagements. Relevant ethical requirements ordinarily comprise Parts A and B of the International Ethics Standards Board of Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the IESBA Code) related to an audit of financial statements together with national requirements that are more restrictive.

A14-1. Auditors in the UK and Ireland are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: the **FRC’s APB Ethical Standards for Auditors** concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor, and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor’s relevant professional body. The **FRCAPB** is not aware of any significant instances where the relevant parts of the IESBA Code of Ethics are more restrictive than the **FRC’s APB Ethical Standards for Auditors**.

A15. Part A of the IESBA Code establishes the fundamental principles of professional ethics relevant to the auditor when conducting an audit of financial statements and provides a conceptual framework for applying those principles. The fundamental principles with which the auditor is required to comply by the IESBA Code are:

- (a) Integrity;
- (b) Objectivity;

⁸ See paragraph A57.

- (c) Professional competence and due care;
- (d) Confidentiality; and
- (e) Professional behavior.

Part B of the IESBA Code illustrates how the conceptual framework is to be applied in specific situations.

- A16. In the case of an audit engagement it is in the public interest and, therefore, required by the IESBA Code, that the auditor be independent of the entity subject to the audit. The IESBA Code describes independence as comprising both independence of mind and independence in appearance. The auditor’s independence from the entity safeguards the auditor’s ability to form an audit opinion without being affected by influences that might compromise that opinion. Independence enhances the auditor’s ability to act with integrity, to be objective and to maintain an attitude of professional skepticism.
- A17. International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised)⁹, or national requirements that are at least as demanding,¹⁰ deal with the firm’s responsibilities to establish and maintain its system of quality control for audit engagements. ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 sets out the responsibilities of the firm for establishing policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that the firm and its personnel comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence.¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) sets out the engagement partner’s responsibilities with respect to relevant ethical requirements. These include remaining alert, through observation and making inquiries as necessary, for evidence of non-compliance with relevant ethical requirements by members of the engagement team, determining the appropriate action if matters come to the engagement partner’s attention that indicate that members of the engagement team have not complied with relevant ethical requirements, and forming a conclusion on compliance with independence requirements that apply to the audit engagement.¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) recognizes that the engagement team is entitled to rely on a firm’s system of quality control in meeting its responsibilities with respect to quality control procedures applicable to the individual audit engagement, unless information provided by the firm or other parties suggests otherwise.

Professional Skepticism (Ref: Para. 15)

- A18. Professional skepticism includes being alert to, for example:
- Audit evidence that contradicts other audit evidence obtained.
 - Information that brings into question the reliability of documents and responses to inquiries to be used as audit evidence.
 - Conditions that may indicate possible fraud.

⁹ International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), “Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements.”

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraph 2.

¹¹ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraphs 20-25.

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraphs 9-11.

- Circumstances that suggest the need for audit procedures in addition to those required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland).
- A19. Maintaining professional skepticism throughout the audit is necessary if the auditor is, for example, to reduce the risks of:
- Overlooking unusual circumstances.
 - Over generalizing when drawing conclusions from audit observations.
 - Using inappropriate assumptions in determining the nature, timing, and extent of the audit procedures and evaluating the results thereof.
- A20. Professional skepticism is necessary to the critical assessment of audit evidence. This includes questioning contradictory audit evidence and the reliability of documents and responses to inquiries and other information obtained from management and those charged with governance. It also includes consideration of the sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence obtained in the light of the circumstances, for example in the case where fraud risk factors exist and a single document, of a nature that is susceptible to fraud, is the sole supporting evidence for a material financial statement amount.
- A21. The auditor may accept records and documents as genuine unless the auditor has reason to believe the contrary. Nevertheless, the auditor is required to consider the reliability of information to be used as audit evidence.¹³ In cases of doubt about the reliability of information or indications of possible fraud (for example, if conditions identified during the audit cause the auditor to believe that a document may not be authentic or that terms in a document may have been falsified), the ISAs (UK and Ireland) require that the auditor investigate further and determine what modifications or additions to audit procedures are necessary to resolve the matter.¹⁴
- A22. The auditor cannot be expected to disregard past experience of the honesty and integrity of the entity’s management and those charged with governance. Nevertheless, a belief that management and those charged with governance are honest and have integrity does not relieve the auditor of the need to maintain professional skepticism or allow the auditor to be satisfied with less-than-persuasive audit evidence when obtaining reasonable assurance.

Professional Judgment (Ref: Para. 16)

- A23. Professional judgment is essential to the proper conduct of an audit. This is because interpretation of relevant ethical requirements and the ISAs (UK and Ireland) and the informed decisions required throughout the audit cannot be made without the application of relevant knowledge and experience to the facts and circumstances. Professional judgment is necessary in particular regarding decisions about:
- Materiality and audit risk.
 - The nature, timing, and extent of audit procedures used to meet the requirements of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) and gather audit evidence.

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 500, “Audit Evidence,” paragraphs 7-9.

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), paragraph 13; ISA (UK and Ireland) 500, paragraph 11; ISA (UK and Ireland) 505, “External Confirmations,” paragraphs 10-11, and 16.

- Evaluating whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained, and whether more needs to be done to achieve the objectives of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) and thereby, the overall objectives of the auditor.
 - The evaluation of management’s judgments in applying the entity’s applicable financial reporting framework.
 - The drawing of conclusions based on the audit evidence obtained, for example, assessing the reasonableness of the estimates made by management in preparing the financial statements.
- A24. The distinguishing feature of the professional judgment expected of an auditor is that it is exercised by an auditor whose training, knowledge and experience have assisted in developing the necessary competencies to achieve reasonable judgments.
- A25. The exercise of professional judgment in any particular case is based on the facts and circumstances that are known by the auditor. Consultation on difficult or contentious matters during the course of the audit, both within the engagement team and between the engagement team and others at the appropriate level within or outside the firm, such as that required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised),¹⁵ assist the auditor in making informed and reasonable judgments.
- A26. Professional judgment can be evaluated based on whether the judgment reached reflects a competent application of auditing and accounting principles and is appropriate in the light of, and consistent with, the facts and circumstances that were known to the auditor up to the date of the auditor’s report.
- A27. Professional judgment needs to be exercised throughout the audit. It also needs to be appropriately documented. In this regard, the auditor is required to prepare audit documentation sufficient to enable an experienced auditor, having no previous connection with the audit, to understand the significant professional judgments made in reaching conclusions on significant matters arising during the audit.¹⁶ Professional judgment is not to be used as the justification for decisions that are not otherwise supported by the facts and circumstances of the engagement or sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence and Audit Risk (Ref: Para. 5 and 17)

Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence

- A28. Audit evidence is necessary to support the auditor’s opinion and report. It is cumulative in nature and is primarily obtained from audit procedures performed during the course of the audit. It may, however, also include information obtained from other sources such as previous audits (provided the auditor has determined whether changes have occurred since the previous audit that may affect its relevance to the current audit¹⁷) or a firm’s quality control procedures for client acceptance and continuance. In addition to other sources inside and outside the entity, the entity’s accounting records are an important source of audit evidence. Also, information that may be used as audit evidence may have been prepared by an expert employed or engaged by the entity. Audit evidence

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 18.

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), paragraph 8.

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment,” paragraph 9.

comprises both information that supports and corroborates management's assertions, and any information that contradicts such assertions. In addition, in some cases, the absence of information (for example, management's refusal to provide a requested representation) is used by the auditor, and therefore, also constitutes audit evidence. Most of the auditor's work in forming the auditor's opinion consists of obtaining and evaluating audit evidence.

- A29. The sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence are interrelated. Sufficiency is the measure of the quantity of audit evidence. The quantity of audit evidence needed is affected by the auditor's assessment of the risks of misstatement (the higher the assessed risks, the more audit evidence is likely to be required) and also by the quality of such audit evidence (the higher the quality, the less may be required). Obtaining more audit evidence, however, may not compensate for its poor quality.
- A30. Appropriateness is the measure of the quality of audit evidence; that is, its relevance and its reliability in providing support for the conclusions on which the auditor's opinion is based. The reliability of evidence is influenced by its source and by its nature, and is dependent on the individual circumstances under which it is obtained.
- A31. Whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level, and thereby enable the auditor to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion, is a matter of professional judgment. ISA (UK and Ireland) 500 and other relevant ISAs (UK and Ireland) establish additional requirements and provide further guidance applicable throughout the audit regarding the auditor's considerations in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

Audit Risk

- A32. Audit risk is a function of the risks of material misstatement and detection risk. The assessment of risks is based on audit procedures to obtain information necessary for that purpose and evidence obtained throughout the audit. The assessment of risks is a matter of professional judgment, rather than a matter capable of precise measurement.
- A33. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), audit risk does not include the risk that the auditor might express an opinion that the financial statements are materially misstated when they are not. This risk is ordinarily insignificant. Further, audit risk is a technical term related to the process of auditing; it does not refer to the auditor's business risks such as loss from litigation, adverse publicity, or other events arising in connection with the audit of financial statements.

Risks of Material Misstatement

- A34. The risks of material misstatement may exist at two levels:
- The overall financial statement level; and
 - The assertion level for classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures.
- A35. Risks of material misstatement at the overall financial statement level refer to risks of material misstatement that relate pervasively to the financial statements as a whole and potentially affect many assertions.
- A36. Risks of material misstatement at the assertion level are assessed in order to determine the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. This evidence enables the auditor to express an opinion on the financial statements at an acceptably low level of audit risk. Auditors use various

approaches to accomplish the objective of assessing the risks of material misstatement. For example, the auditor may make use of a model that expresses the general relationship of the components of audit risk in mathematical terms to arrive at an acceptable level of detection risk. Some auditors find such a model to be useful when planning audit procedures.

- A37. The risks of material misstatement at the assertion level consist of two components: inherent risk and control risk. Inherent risk and control risk are the entity's risks; they exist independently of the audit of the financial statements.
- A38. Inherent risk is higher for some assertions and related classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures than for others. For example, it may be higher for complex calculations or for accounts consisting of amounts derived from accounting estimates that are subject to significant estimation uncertainty. External circumstances giving rise to business risks may also influence inherent risk. For example, technological developments might make a particular product obsolete, thereby causing inventory to be more susceptible to overstatement. Factors in the entity and its environment that relate to several or all of the classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosures may also influence the inherent risk related to a specific assertion. Such factors may include, for example, a lack of sufficient working capital to continue operations or a declining industry characterized by a large number of business failures.
- A39. Control risk is a function of the effectiveness of the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control by management to address identified risks that threaten the achievement of the entity's objectives relevant to preparation of the entity's financial statements. However, internal control, no matter how well designed and operated, can only reduce, but not eliminate, risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, because of the inherent limitations of internal control. These include, for example, the possibility of human errors or mistakes, or of controls being circumvented by collusion or inappropriate management override. Accordingly, some control risk will always exist. The ISAs (UK and Ireland) provide the conditions under which the auditor is required to, or may choose to, test the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the nature, timing and extent of substantive procedures to be performed.¹⁸
- A40. The ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not ordinarily refer to inherent risk and control risk separately, but rather to a combined assessment of the "risks of material misstatement." However, the auditor may make separate or combined assessments of inherent and control risk depending on preferred audit techniques or methodologies and practical considerations. The assessment of the risks of material misstatement may be expressed in quantitative terms, such as in percentages, or in non-quantitative terms. In any case, the need for the auditor to make appropriate risk assessments is more important than the different approaches by which they may be made.
- A41. ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised) establishes requirements and provides guidance on identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels.

Detection Risk

- A42. For a given level of audit risk, the acceptable level of detection risk bears an inverse relationship to the assessed risks of material misstatement at the assertion level. For

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), "The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks," paragraphs 7-17.

example, the greater the risks of material misstatement the auditor believes exists, the less the detection risk that can be accepted and, accordingly, the more persuasive the audit evidence required by the auditor.

A43. Detection risk relates to the nature, timing, and extent of the auditor’s procedures that are determined by the auditor to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level. It is therefore a function of the effectiveness of an audit procedure and of its application by the auditor. Matters such as:

- adequate planning;
- proper assignment of personnel to the engagement team;
- the application of professional scepticism; and
- supervision and review of the audit work performed,

assist to enhance the effectiveness of an audit procedure and of its application and reduce the possibility that an auditor might select an inappropriate audit procedure, misapply an appropriate audit procedure, or misinterpret the audit results.

A44. ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised)¹⁹ and ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised) establish requirements and provide guidance on planning an audit of financial statements and the auditor’s responses to assessed risks. Detection risk, however, can only be reduced, not eliminated, because of the inherent limitations of an audit. Accordingly, some detection risk will always exist.

Inherent Limitations of an Audit

A45. The auditor is not expected to, and cannot, reduce audit risk to zero and cannot therefore obtain absolute assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. This is because there are inherent limitations of an audit, which result in most of the audit evidence on which the auditor draws conclusions and bases the auditor’s opinion being persuasive rather than conclusive. The inherent limitations of an audit arise from:

- The nature of financial reporting;
- The nature of audit procedures; and
- The need for the audit to be conducted within a reasonable period of time and at a reasonable cost.

The Nature of Financial Reporting

A46. The preparation of financial statements involves judgment by management in applying the requirements of the entity’s applicable financial reporting framework to the facts and circumstances of the entity. In addition, many financial statement items involve subjective decisions or assessments or a degree of uncertainty, and there may be a range of acceptable interpretations or judgments that may be made. Consequently, some financial statement items are subject to an inherent level of variability which cannot be eliminated by the application of additional auditing procedures. For example, this is often the case with respect to certain accounting estimates. Nevertheless, the ISAs (UK and Ireland) require the auditor to give specific consideration to whether accounting estimates are

¹⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised), “Planning an Audit of Financial Statements.”

reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework and related disclosures, and to the qualitative aspects of the entity’s accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management’s judgments.²⁰

The Nature of Audit Procedures

A47. There are practical and legal limitations on the auditor’s ability to obtain audit evidence. For example:

- There is the possibility that management or others may not provide, intentionally or unintentionally, the complete information that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements or that has been requested by the auditor. Accordingly, the auditor cannot be certain of the completeness of information, even though the auditor has performed audit procedures to obtain assurance that all relevant information has been obtained.
- Fraud may involve sophisticated and carefully organized schemes designed to conceal it. Therefore, audit procedures used to gather audit evidence may be ineffective for detecting an intentional misstatement that involves, for example, collusion to falsify documentation which may cause the auditor to believe that audit evidence is valid when it is not. The auditor is neither trained as nor expected to be an expert in the authentication of documents.
- An audit is not an official investigation into alleged wrongdoing. Accordingly, the auditor is not given specific legal powers, such as the power of search, which may be necessary for such an investigation.

Timeliness of Financial Reporting and the Balance between Benefit and Cost

A48. The matter of difficulty, time, or cost involved is not in itself a valid basis for the auditor to omit an audit procedure for which there is no alternative or to be satisfied with audit evidence that is less than persuasive. Appropriate planning assists in making sufficient time and resources available for the conduct of the audit. Notwithstanding this, the relevance of information, and thereby its value, tends to diminish over time, and there is a balance to be struck between the reliability of information and its cost. This is recognized in certain financial reporting frameworks (see, for example, the IASB’s “Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements”). Therefore, there is an expectation by users of financial statements that the auditor will form an opinion on the financial statements within a reasonable period of time and at a reasonable cost, recognizing that it is impracticable to address all information that may exist or to pursue every matter exhaustively on the assumption that information is in error or fraudulent until proved otherwise.

A49. Consequently, it is necessary for the auditor to:

- Plan the audit so that it will be performed in an effective manner;

²⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised), “Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures,” and ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements,” paragraph 132.

~~—The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraph 8 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 includes requirements equivalent to those in paragraph 12 of ISA 700.~~

- Direct audit effort to areas most expected to contain risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, with correspondingly less effort directed at other areas; and
- Use testing and other means of examining populations for misstatements.

A50. In light of the approaches described in paragraph A49, the ISAs (UK and Ireland) contain requirements for the planning and performance of the audit and require the auditor, among other things, to:

- Have a basis for the identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels by performing risk assessment procedures and related activities;²¹ and
- Use testing and other means of examining populations in a manner that provides a reasonable basis for the auditor to draw conclusions about the population.²²

Other Matters that Affect the Inherent Limitations of an Audit

A51. In the case of certain assertions or subject matters, the potential effects of the inherent limitations on the auditor's ability to detect material misstatements are particularly significant. Such assertions or subject matters include:

- Fraud, particularly fraud involving senior management or collusion. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised) for further discussion.
- The existence and completeness of related party relationships and transactions. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 550²³ for further discussion.
- The occurrence of non-compliance with laws and regulations. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised)²⁴ for further discussion.
- Future events or conditions that may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised)²⁵ for further discussion.

Relevant ISAs (UK and Ireland) identify specific audit procedures to assist in mitigating the effect of the inherent limitations.

A52. Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements of the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland). Accordingly, the subsequent discovery of a material misstatement of the financial statements resulting from fraud or error does not by itself indicate a failure to conduct an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland). However, the inherent limitations of an audit are not a justification for the auditor to be satisfied with less-than-persuasive audit evidence. Whether the auditor has performed an audit in accordance with ISAs is determined by the audit procedures performed in the circumstances, the sufficiency and appropriateness of the audit evidence obtained as a result thereof and the suitability of

²¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraphs 5-10.

²² ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised); ISA (UK and Ireland) 500; ISA 520, "Analytical Procedures;" ISA (UK and Ireland) 530, "Audit Sampling."

²³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 550, "Related Parties."

²⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised), "Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements."

²⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), "Going Concern."

the auditor’s report based on an evaluation of that evidence in light of the overall objectives of the auditor.

Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland)

Nature of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) (Ref: Para. 18)

- A53. The ISAs (UK and Ireland), taken together, provide the standards for the auditor’s work in fulfilling the overall objectives of the auditor. The ISAs (UK and Ireland) deal with the general responsibilities of the auditor, as well as the auditor’s further considerations relevant to the application of those responsibilities to specific topics.
- A54. The scope, effective date and any specific limitation of the applicability of a specific ISA (UK and Ireland) is made clear in the ISA (UK and Ireland). Unless otherwise stated in the ISA (UK and Ireland), the auditor is permitted to apply an ISA (UK and Ireland) before the effective date specified therein.
- A55. In performing an audit, the auditor may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements in addition to the ISAs (UK and Ireland). The ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not override law or regulation that governs an audit of financial statements. In the event that such law or regulation differs from the ISAs (UK and Ireland), an audit conducted only in accordance with law or regulation will not automatically comply with ISAs (UK and Ireland).
- A56. The auditor may also conduct the audit in accordance with both ISAs (UK and Ireland) and auditing standards of a specific jurisdiction or country. In such cases, in addition to complying with each of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) relevant to the audit, it may be necessary for the auditor to perform additional audit procedures in order to comply with the relevant standards of that jurisdiction or country.

Considerations Specific to Audits in the Public Sector

- A57. The ISAs (UK and Ireland) are relevant to engagements in the public sector. The public sector auditor’s responsibilities, however, may be affected by the audit mandate, or by obligations on public sector entities arising from law, regulation or other authority (such as ministerial directives, government policy requirements, or resolutions of the legislature), which may encompass a broader scope than an audit of financial statements in accordance with the ISAs (UK and Ireland). These additional responsibilities are not dealt with in the ISAs (UK and Ireland). They may be dealt with in the pronouncements of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions or national standard setters, or in guidance developed by government audit agencies.

Contents of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) (Ref: Para. 19)

- A58. In addition to objectives and requirements (requirements are expressed in the ISAs (UK and Ireland) using “shall”), an ISA (UK and Ireland) contains related guidance in the form of application and other explanatory material. It may also contain introductory material that provides context relevant to a proper understanding of the ISA (UK and Ireland), and definitions. The entire text of an ISA (UK and Ireland), therefore, is relevant to an understanding of the objectives stated in an ISA (UK and Ireland) and the proper application of the requirements of an ISA (UK and Ireland).
- A59. Where necessary, the application and other explanatory material provides further explanation of the requirements of an ISA (UK and Ireland) and guidance for carrying them out. In particular, it may:

- Explain more precisely what a requirement means or is intended to cover.
- Include examples of procedures that may be appropriate in the circumstances.

While such guidance does not in itself impose a requirement, it is relevant to the proper application of the requirements of an ISA (UK and Ireland). The application and other explanatory material may also provide background information on matters addressed in an ISA (UK and Ireland).

- A60. Appendices form part of the application and other explanatory material. The purpose and intended use of an appendix are explained in the body of the related ISA (UK and Ireland) or within the title and introduction of the appendix itself.
- A61. Introductory material may include, as needed, such matters as explanation of:
- The purpose and scope of the ISA (UK and Ireland), including how the ISA (UK and Ireland) relates to other ISAs (UK and Ireland).
 - The subject matter of the ISA (UK and Ireland).
 - The respective responsibilities of the auditor and others in relation to the subject matter of the ISA (UK and Ireland).
 - The context in which the ISA (UK and Ireland) is set.
- A62. An ISA (UK and Ireland) may include, in a separate section under the heading “Definitions,” a description of the meanings attributed to certain terms for purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland). These are provided to assist in the consistent application and interpretation of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), and are not intended to override definitions that may be established for other purposes, whether in law, regulation or otherwise. Unless otherwise indicated, those terms will carry the same meanings throughout the ISAs (UK and Ireland). The Glossary of Terms relating to International Standards issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board in the *Handbook of International Quality Control, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance, and Related Services Pronouncements* published by IFAC contains a complete listing of terms defined in the ISAs (UK and Ireland). It also includes descriptions of other terms found in ISAs (UK and Ireland) to assist in common and consistent interpretation and translation.
- A63. When appropriate, additional considerations specific to audits of smaller entities and public sector entities are included within the application and other explanatory material of an ISA (UK and Ireland). These additional considerations assist in the application of the requirements of the ISA (UK and Ireland) in the audit of such entities. They do not, however, limit or reduce the responsibility of the auditor to apply and comply with the requirements of the ISAs (UK and Ireland).

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

- A64. For purposes of specifying additional considerations to audits of smaller entities, a “smaller entity” refers to an entity which typically possesses qualitative characteristics such as:
- (a) Concentration of ownership and management in a small number of individuals (often a single individual – either a natural person or another enterprise that owns the entity provided the owner exhibits the relevant qualitative characteristics); and

- (b) One or more of the following:
- (i) Straightforward or uncomplicated transactions;
 - (ii) Simple record-keeping;
 - (iii) Few lines of business and few products within business lines;
 - (iv) Few internal controls;
 - (v) Few levels of management with responsibility for a broad range of controls;
or
 - (vi) Few personnel, many having a wide range of duties.

These qualitative characteristics are not exhaustive, they are not exclusive to smaller entities, and smaller entities do not necessarily display all of these characteristics.

- A65. The considerations specific to smaller entities included in the ISAs (UK and Ireland) have been developed primarily with unlisted entities in mind. Some of the considerations, however, may be helpful in audits of smaller listed entities.
- A66. The ISAs (UK and Ireland) refer to the proprietor of a smaller entity who is involved in running the entity on a day-to-day basis as the “owner-manager.”

Objectives Stated in Individual ISAs (UK and Ireland) (Ref: Para. 21)

- A67. Each ISA (UK and Ireland) contains one or more objectives which provide a link between the requirements and the overall objectives of the auditor. The objectives in individual ISAs (UK and Ireland) serve to focus the auditor on the desired outcome of the ISA (UK and Ireland), while being specific enough to assist the auditor in:
- Understanding what needs to be accomplished and, where necessary, the appropriate means of doing so; and
 - Deciding whether more needs to be done to achieve them in the particular circumstances of the audit.
- A68. Objectives are to be understood in the context of the overall objectives of the auditor stated in paragraph 11 of this ISA (UK and Ireland). As with the overall objectives of the auditor, the ability to achieve an individual objective is equally subject to the inherent limitations of an audit.
- A69. In using the objectives, the auditor is required to have regard to the interrelationships among the ISAs (UK and Ireland). This is because, as indicated in paragraph A53, the ISAs (UK and Ireland) deal in some cases with general responsibilities and in others with the application of those responsibilities to specific topics. For example, this ISA (UK and Ireland) requires the auditor to adopt an attitude of professional skepticism; this is necessary in all aspects of planning and performing an audit but is not repeated as a requirement of each ISA (UK and Ireland). At a more detailed level, ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised) and ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised) contain, among other things, objectives and requirements that deal with the auditor’s responsibilities to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement and to design and perform further audit procedures to respond to those assessed risks, respectively; these objectives and requirements apply throughout the audit. An ISA (UK and Ireland) dealing with specific aspects of the audit (for example, ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised)) may expand on how the objectives and requirements of such ISAs (UK and Ireland) as ISA (UK and

Ireland) 315 (Revised) and ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised) are to be applied in relation to the subject of the ISA (UK and Ireland) but does not repeat them. Thus, in achieving the objective stated in ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised), the auditor has regard to the objectives and requirements of other relevant ISAs (UK and Ireland).

Use of Objectives to Determine Need for Additional Audit Procedures (Ref: Para. 21(a))

A70. The requirements of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) are designed to enable the auditor to achieve the objectives specified in the ISAs (UK and Ireland), and thereby the overall objectives of the auditor. The proper application of the requirements of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) by the auditor is therefore expected to provide a sufficient basis for the auditor's achievement of the objectives. However, because the circumstances of audit engagements vary widely and all such circumstances cannot be anticipated in the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the auditor is responsible for determining the audit procedures necessary to fulfill the requirements of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) and to achieve the objectives. In the circumstances of an engagement, there may be particular matters that require the auditor to perform audit procedures in addition to those required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland) to meet the objectives specified in the ISAs (UK and Ireland).

Use of Objectives to Evaluate Whether Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence Has Been Obtained (Ref: Para. 21(b))

A71. The auditor is required to use the objectives to evaluate whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained in the context of the overall objectives of the auditor. If as a result the auditor concludes that the audit evidence is not sufficient and appropriate, then the auditor may follow one or more of the following approaches to meeting the requirement of paragraph 21(b):

- Evaluate whether further relevant audit evidence has been, or will be, obtained as a result of complying with other ISAs (UK and Ireland);
- Extend the work performed in applying one or more requirements; or
- Perform other procedures judged by the auditor to be necessary in the circumstances.

Where none of the above is expected to be practical or possible in the circumstances, the auditor will not be able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence and is required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland) to determine the effect on the auditor's report or on the auditor's ability to complete the engagement.

Complying with Relevant Requirements

Relevant Requirements (Ref: Para. 22)

A72. In some cases, an ISA (UK and Ireland) (and therefore all of its requirements) may not be relevant in the circumstances. For example, if an entity does not have an internal audit function, nothing in ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013)²⁶ is relevant.

A73. Within a relevant ISA (UK and Ireland), there may be conditional requirements. Such a requirement is relevant when the circumstances envisioned in the requirement apply

²⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), "Using the Work of Internal Auditors," Paragraph 2.

and the condition exists. In general, the conditionality of a requirement will either be explicit or implicit, for example:

- The requirement to modify the auditor’s opinion if there is a limitation of scope²⁷ represents an explicit conditional requirement.
- The requirement to communicate significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit to those charged with governance,²⁸ which depends on the existence of such identified significant deficiencies; and the requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the presentation and disclosure of segment information in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework,²⁹ which depends on that framework requiring or permitting such disclosure, represent implicit conditional requirements.

In some cases, a requirement may be expressed as being conditional on applicable law or regulation. For example, the auditor may be required to withdraw from the audit engagement, *where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation*, or the auditor may be required to do something, *unless prohibited by law or regulation*. Depending on the jurisdiction, the legal or regulatory permission or prohibition may be explicit or implicit.

Departure from a Requirement (Ref: Para. 23)

A74. ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) establishes documentation requirements in those exceptional circumstances where the auditor departs from a relevant requirement.³⁰ The ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not call for compliance with a requirement that is not relevant in the circumstances of the audit.

Failure to Achieve an Objective (Ref: Para. 24)

A75. Whether an objective has been achieved is a matter for the auditor’s professional judgment. That judgment takes account of the results of audit procedures performed in complying with the requirements of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), and the auditor’s evaluation of whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained and whether more needs to be done in the particular circumstances of the audit to achieve the objectives stated in the ISAs (UK and Ireland). Accordingly, circumstances that may give rise to a failure to achieve an objective include those that:

- Prevent the auditor from complying with the relevant requirements of an ISA (UK and Ireland).
- Result in its not being practicable or possible for the auditor to carry out the additional audit procedures or obtain further audit evidence as determined necessary from the use of the objectives in accordance with paragraph 21, for example due to a limitation in the available audit evidence.

A76. Audit documentation that meets the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) and the specific documentation requirements of other relevant ISAs (UK and

²⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraph 13.

²⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 265, “Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management,” paragraph 9.

²⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 501, “Audit Evidence—Specific Considerations for Selected Items,” paragraph 13.

³⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), paragraph 12.

Ireland) provides evidence of the auditor's basis for a conclusion about the achievement of the overall objectives of the auditor. While it is unnecessary for the auditor to document separately (as in a checklist, for example) that individual objectives have been achieved, the documentation of a failure to achieve an objective assists the auditor's evaluation of whether such a failure has prevented the auditor from achieving the overall objectives of the auditor.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 210 (REVISED)**

AGREEING THE TERMS OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENTS

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016
~~December 2010~~)

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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor’s responsibilities in agreeing the terms of the audit engagement with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance. This includes establishing that certain preconditions for an audit, responsibility for which rests with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, are present. ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised)¹ deals with those aspects of engagement acceptance that are within the control of the auditor. (Ref: Para. A1)

Effective Date

2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing ending~~ on or after ~~17 June 2016~~~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

3. The objective of the auditor is to accept or continue an audit engagement only when the basis upon which it is to be performed has been agreed, through:
 - (a) Establishing whether the preconditions for an audit are present; and
 - (b) Confirming that there is a common understanding between the auditor and management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance of the terms of the audit engagement.

Definitions

4. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following term has the meaning attributed below:

Preconditions for an audit – The use by management^{1a} of an acceptable financial reporting framework in the preparation of the financial statements and the agreement of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance to the premise² on which an audit is conducted.
5. For the purposes of this ISA (UK and Ireland), references to “management” should be read hereafter as “management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance.”

Requirements

Preconditions for an Audit

6. In order to establish whether the preconditions for an audit are present, the auditor shall:
 - (a) Determine whether the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements is acceptable; and (Ref: Para. A2-A10)

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements.”

^{1a} In the UK and Ireland those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 13.

- (b) Obtain the agreement of management that it acknowledges and understands its responsibility: (Ref: Para. A11-A14, A21~~0~~)
 - (i) For the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation; (Ref: Para. A15)
 - (ii) For such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and (Ref: Para. A16-A19)
 - (iii) To provide the auditor with^{2a}:
 - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - b. Additional information that the auditor may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
 - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Limitation on Scope Prior to Audit Engagement Acceptance

- 7. If management or those charged with governance impose a limitation on the scope of the auditor’s work in the terms of a proposed audit engagement such that the auditor believes the limitation will result in the auditor disclaiming an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall not accept such a limited engagement as an audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so.

Other Factors Affecting Audit Engagement Acceptance

- 8. If the preconditions for an audit are not present, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management. Unless required by law or regulation to do so, the auditor shall not accept the proposed audit engagement:
 - (a) If the auditor has determined that the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements is unacceptable, except as provided in paragraph 19; or
 - (b) If the agreement referred to in paragraph 6(b) has not been obtained.

Agreement on Audit Engagement Terms

- 9. The auditor shall agree the terms of the audit engagement with management or those charged with governance, as appropriate. (Ref: Para. A22~~4~~)
- 10. Subject to paragraph 11, the agreed terms of the audit engagement shall be recorded in an audit engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement and shall include: (Ref: Para. A23~~2~~-A27~~5~~)
 - (a) The objective and scope of the audit of the financial statements;

^{2a} Sections 499 and 500 of the Companies Act 2006 set legal requirements in relation to the auditor’s right to obtain information. For the Republic of Ireland, relevant requirements are set out in Section 193(3), Companies Act 1990.

- (b) The responsibilities of the auditor;
 - (c) The responsibilities of management^{2b};
 - (d) Identification of the applicable financial reporting framework for the preparation of the financial statements; and
 - (e) Reference to the expected form and content of any reports to be issued by the auditor; and (Ref: Para. A23a5)
 - ~~(e)(f)-Aa~~ statement that there may be circumstances in which a report may differ from its expected form and content.
11. If law or regulation prescribes in sufficient detail the terms of the audit engagement referred to in paragraph 10, the auditor need not record them in a written agreement, except for the fact that such law or regulation applies and that management acknowledges and understands its responsibilities as set out in paragraph 6(b). (Ref: Para. A232, A286-A297)
 12. If law or regulation prescribes responsibilities of management similar to those described in paragraph 6(b), the auditor may determine that the law or regulation includes responsibilities that, in the auditor’s judgment, are equivalent in effect to those set out in that paragraph. For such responsibilities that are equivalent, the auditor may use the wording of the law or regulation to describe them in the written agreement. For those responsibilities that are not prescribed by law or regulation such that their effect is equivalent, the written agreement shall use the description in paragraph 6(b). (Ref: Para. A286)

Recurring Audits

13. On recurring audits, the auditor shall assess whether circumstances require the terms of the audit engagement to be revised and whether there is a need to remind the entity of the existing terms of the audit engagement. (Ref: Para. A3028)

Acceptance of a Change in the Terms of the Audit Engagement

14. The auditor shall not agree to a change in the terms of the audit engagement where there is no reasonable justification for doing so. (Ref: Para. A3129-A334)
15. If, prior to completing the audit engagement, the auditor is requested to change the audit engagement to an engagement that conveys a lower level of assurance, the auditor shall determine whether there is reasonable justification for doing so. (Ref: Para. A342-A353)
16. If the terms of the audit engagement are changed, the auditor and management shall agree on and record the new terms of the engagement in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement.
17. If the auditor is unable to agree to a change of the terms of the audit engagement and is not permitted by management to continue the original audit engagement, the auditor shall:
 - (a) Withdraw from the audit engagement where possible under applicable law or regulation; and

^{2b} In the UK and Ireland, the engagement letter sets out the responsibilities of those charged with governance.

- (b) Determine whether there is any obligation, either contractual or otherwise, to report the circumstances to other parties, such as those charged with governance, owners or regulators. (Ref: Para. A353-1)

Additional Considerations in Engagement Acceptance

Financial Reporting Standards Supplemented by Law or Regulation

18. If financial reporting standards established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization are supplemented by law or regulation, the auditor shall determine whether there are any conflicts between the financial reporting standards and the additional requirements. If such conflicts exist, the auditor shall discuss with management the nature of the additional requirements and shall agree whether:
- (a) The additional requirements can be met through additional disclosures in the financial statements; or
 - (b) The description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the financial statements can be amended accordingly.

If neither of the above actions is possible, the auditor shall determine whether it will be necessary to modify the auditor’s opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).³ (Ref: Para. A364)

Financial Reporting Framework Prescribed by Law or Regulation—Other Matters Affecting Acceptance

19. If the auditor has determined that the financial reporting framework prescribed by law or regulation would be unacceptable but for the fact that it is prescribed by law or regulation, the auditor shall accept the audit engagement only if the following conditions are present: (Ref: Para. A375)
- (a) Management agrees to provide additional disclosures in the financial statements required to avoid the financial statements being misleading; and
 - (b) It is recognized in the terms of the audit engagement that:
 - (i) The auditor’s report on the financial statements will incorporate an Emphasis of Matter paragraph, drawing users’ attention to the additional disclosures, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised);⁴ and
 - (ii) Unless the auditor is required by law or regulation to express the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements by using the phrases “present fairly, in all material respects,” or “give a true and fair view” in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements will not include such phrases.
20. If the conditions outlined in paragraph 19 are not present and the auditor is required by law or regulation to undertake the audit engagement, the auditor shall:
- (a) Evaluate the effect of the misleading nature of the financial statements on the auditor’s report; and

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

- (b) Include appropriate reference to this matter in the terms of the audit engagement.

Auditor’s Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation

21. In some cases, law or regulation of the relevant jurisdiction prescribes the layout or wording of the auditor’s report in a form or in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of ISAs (UK and Ireland). In these circumstances, the auditor shall evaluate:
- (a) Whether users might misunderstand the assurance obtained from the audit of the financial statements and, if so,
 - (b) Whether additional explanation in the auditor’s report can mitigate possible misunderstanding.⁵

If the auditor concludes that additional explanation in the auditor’s report cannot mitigate possible misunderstanding, the auditor shall not accept the audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so. An audit conducted in accordance with such law or regulation does not comply with ISAs (UK and Ireland). Accordingly, the auditor shall not include any reference within the auditor’s report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland).⁶ (Ref: Para. A386-A397)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland) (Ref: Para. 1)

- A1. Assurance engagements, which include audit engagements, may only be accepted when the practitioner considers that relevant ethical requirements such as independence and professional competence will be satisfied, and when the engagement exhibits certain characteristics.⁷ The auditor’s responsibilities in respect of ethical requirements in the context of the acceptance of an audit engagement and in so far as they are within the control of the auditor are dealt with in ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised).⁸ This ISA (UK and Ireland) deals with those matters (or preconditions) that are within the control of the entity and upon which it is necessary for the auditor and the entity’s management to agree.

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised).

⁶ See also ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements,” paragraph 43.

~~— The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraph 5 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 explains that compliance with that ISA (UK and Ireland) does not preclude the auditor from being able to assert compliance with ISAs.~~

⁷ “International Framework for Assurance Engagements,” paragraph 17.

The “International Framework for Assurance Engagements” has not been promulgated by the **FRCAPB** for application in the UK and Ireland.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraphs 9-11.

Preconditions for an Audit

The Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 6(a))

- A2. A condition for acceptance of an assurance engagement is that the criteria referred to in the definition of an assurance engagement are suitable and available to intended users.⁹ Criteria are the benchmarks used to evaluate or measure the subject matter including, where relevant, benchmarks for presentation and disclosure. Suitable criteria enable reasonably consistent evaluation or measurement of a subject matter within the context of professional judgment. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the applicable financial reporting framework provides the criteria the auditor uses to audit the financial statements, including where relevant their fair presentation.
- A3. Without an acceptable financial reporting framework, management does not have an appropriate basis for the preparation of the financial statements and the auditor does not have suitable criteria for auditing the financial statements. In many cases the auditor may presume that the applicable financial reporting framework is acceptable, as described in paragraphs A8-A9.

Determining the Acceptability of the Financial Reporting Framework

- A4. Factors that are relevant to the auditor's determination of the acceptability of the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements include:
- The nature of the entity (for example, whether it is a business enterprise, a public sector entity or a not for profit organization);
 - The purpose of the financial statements (for example, whether they are prepared to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users or the financial information needs of specific users);
 - The nature of the financial statements (for example, whether the financial statements are a complete set of financial statements or a single financial statement); and
 - Whether law or regulation prescribes the applicable financial reporting framework.
- A5. Many users of financial statements are not in a position to demand financial statements tailored to meet their specific information needs. While all the information needs of specific users cannot be met, there are financial information needs that are common to a wide range of users. Financial statements prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users are referred to as general purpose financial statements.
- A6. In some cases, the financial statements will be prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users. Such financial statements are referred to as special purpose financial statements. The financial information needs of the intended users will determine the applicable financial reporting framework in these circumstances. ISA 800 discusses the acceptability of

⁹ "International Framework for Assurance Engagements," paragraph 17(b)(ii).

The "International Framework for Assurance Engagements" has not been promulgated by the [FRCAPB](#) for application in the UK and Ireland.

financial reporting frameworks designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users.¹⁰

- A7. Deficiencies in the applicable financial reporting framework that indicate that the framework is not acceptable may be encountered after the audit engagement has been accepted. When use of that framework is prescribed by law or regulation, the requirements of paragraphs 19-20 apply. When use of that framework is not prescribed by law or regulation, management may decide to adopt another framework that is acceptable. When management does so, as required by paragraph 16, new terms of the audit engagement are agreed to reflect the change in the framework as the previously agreed terms will no longer be accurate.

General purpose frameworks

- A8. At present, there is no objective and authoritative basis that has been generally recognized globally for judging the acceptability of general purpose frameworks. In the absence of such a basis, financial reporting standards established by organizations that are authorized or recognized to promulgate standards to be used by certain types of entities are presumed to be acceptable for general purpose financial statements prepared by such entities, provided the organizations follow an established and transparent process involving deliberation and consideration of the views of a wide range of stakeholders. Examples of such financial reporting standards include:

- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Board;
- International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) promulgated by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board; and
- Accounting principles promulgated by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization in a particular jurisdiction, provided the organization follows an established and transparent process involving deliberation and consideration of the views of a wide range of stakeholders.

These financial reporting standards are often identified as the applicable financial reporting framework in law or regulation governing the preparation of general purpose financial statements.

Financial reporting frameworks prescribed by law or regulation

- A9. In accordance with paragraph 6(a), the auditor is required to determine whether the financial reporting framework, to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements, is acceptable. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation may prescribe the financial reporting framework to be used in the preparation of general purpose financial statements for certain types of entities. In the absence of indications to the contrary, such a financial reporting framework is presumed to be acceptable for general purpose financial statements prepared by such entities. In the event that the framework is not considered to be acceptable, paragraphs 19-20 apply.

¹⁰ ISA 800, “Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks,” paragraph 8.

ISA 800 has not been promulgated by the **FRCAPB** for application in the UK and Ireland.

Jurisdictions that do not have standards setting organizations or prescribed financial reporting frameworks

A10. When an entity is registered or operating in a jurisdiction that does not have an authorized or recognized standards setting organization, or where use of the financial reporting framework is not prescribed by law or regulation, management identifies a financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements. Appendix 2 contains guidance on determining the acceptability of financial reporting frameworks in such circumstances.

Agreement of the Responsibilities of Management (Ref: Para. 6(b))

A11. An audit in accordance with ISAs is conducted on the premise that management has acknowledged and understands that it has the responsibilities set out in paragraph 6(b).¹¹ In certain jurisdictions, such responsibilities may be specified in law or regulation. In others, there may be little or no legal or regulatory definition of such responsibilities. ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not override law or regulation in such matters. However, the concept of an independent audit requires that the auditor's role does not involve taking responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements or for the entity's related internal control, and that the auditor has a reasonable expectation of obtaining the information necessary for the audit (including information obtained from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers) in so far as management is able to provide or procure it. Accordingly, the premise is fundamental to the conduct of an independent audit. To avoid misunderstanding, agreement is reached with management that it acknowledges and understands that it has such responsibilities as part of agreeing and recording the terms of the audit engagement in paragraphs 9-12. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A12. The way in which the responsibilities for financial reporting are divided between management and those charged with governance will vary according to the resources and structure of the entity and any relevant law or regulation, and the respective roles of management and those charged with governance within the entity. In most cases, management is responsible for execution while those charged with governance have oversight of management. In some cases, those charged with governance will have, or will assume, responsibility for approving the financial statements or monitoring the entity's internal control related to financial reporting. In larger or public entities, a subgroup of those charged with governance, such as an audit committee, may be charged with certain oversight responsibilities.

A13. ISA (UK and Ireland) 580 requires the auditor to request management to provide written representations that it has fulfilled certain of its responsibilities.¹² It may therefore be appropriate to make management aware that receipt of such written representations will be expected, together with written representations required by other ISAs (UK and Ireland) and, where necessary, written representations to support other audit evidence relevant to the financial statements or one or more specific assertions in the financial statements.

A14. Where management will not acknowledge its responsibilities, or agree to provide the written representations, the auditor will be unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph A2.

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, "Written Representations," paragraphs 10-11.

evidence.¹³ In such circumstances, it would not be appropriate for the auditor to accept the audit engagement, unless law or regulation requires the auditor to do so. In cases where the auditor is required to accept the audit engagement, the auditor may need to explain to management the importance of these matters, and the implications for the auditor’s report.

Preparation of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 6(b)(i))

A15. Most financial reporting frameworks include requirements relating to the presentation of the financial statements; for such frameworks, *preparation* of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting framework includes *presentation*. In the case of a fair presentation framework the importance of the reporting objective of fair presentation is such that the premise agreed with management includes specific reference to fair presentation, or to the responsibility to ensure that the financial statements will “give a true and fair view” in accordance with the financial reporting framework.

A15-1. In the UK and Ireland, accounting standards relating to the small companies regime are prohibited by EU law from specifying disclosure requirements in addition to the limited number of disclosures set out in the Accounting Directive, even though the financial statements of those small entities are required by law to give a true and fair view. Further, it is not sufficient for the auditor to conclude that the financial statements give a true and fair view solely on the basis that the financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting standards and any other applicable legal requirements^{12a}. The auditor therefore considers carefully whether additional disclosures will be necessary in the financial statements when compliance with an accounting standard is insufficient to give a true and fair view.

Internal Control (Ref: Para. 6(b)(ii))

A16. Management maintains such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Internal control, no matter how effective, can provide an entity with only reasonable assurance about achieving the entity’s financial reporting objectives due to the inherent limitations of internal control.¹⁴

A17. An independent audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs (UK and Ireland) does not act as a substitute for the maintenance of internal control necessary for the preparation of financial statements by management. Accordingly, the auditor is required to obtain the agreement of management that it acknowledges and understands its responsibility for internal control. However, the agreement required by paragraph 6(b)(ii) does not imply that the auditor will find that internal control maintained by management has achieved its purpose or will be free of deficiencies.

A18. It is for management to determine what internal control is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements. The term “internal control” encompasses a wide range of activities within components that may be described as the control environment;

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, paragraph A26.

^{12a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements”, paragraph 14

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment,” paragraph A46.

the entity's risk assessment process; the information system, including the related business processes relevant to financial reporting, and communication; control activities; and monitoring of controls. This division, however, does not necessarily reflect how a particular entity may design, implement and maintain its internal control, or how it may classify any particular component.¹⁵ An entity's internal control (in particular, its accounting books and records, or accounting systems) will reflect the needs of management, the complexity of the business, the nature of the risks to which the entity is subject, and relevant laws or regulation.

- A19. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation may refer to the responsibility of management for the adequacy of accounting books and records, or accounting systems. In some cases, general practice may assume a distinction between accounting books and records or accounting systems on the one hand, and internal control or controls on the other. As accounting books and records, or accounting systems, are an integral part of internal control as referred to in paragraph A18, no specific reference is made to them in paragraph 6(b)(ii) for the description of the responsibility of management. To avoid misunderstanding, it may be appropriate for the auditor to explain to management the scope of this responsibility.

Additional Information (Ref: Para. (b)(iii)(b))

A19a. Additional information that the auditor may request from management for the purpose of the audit may include when applicable, matters related to other information in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised). When the auditor expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report, the terms of the audit engagement may also acknowledge the auditor's responsibilities relating to such other information including, if applicable, the actions that may be appropriate or necessary if the auditor concludes that a material misstatement of the other information exists in other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report. [IAASB/OI]

Considerations Relevant to Smaller Entities (Ref: Para. 6(b))

- A20. One of the purposes of agreeing the terms of the audit engagement is to avoid misunderstanding about the respective responsibilities of management and the auditor. For example, when a third party has assisted with the preparation of the financial statements, it may be useful to remind management that the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework remains its responsibility.

Agreement on Audit Engagement Terms

Agreeing the Terms of the Audit Engagement (Ref: Para. 9)

- A21. The roles of management and those charged with governance in agreeing the terms of the audit engagement for the entity depend on the governance structure of the entity and relevant law or regulation.

*Audit Engagement Letter or Other Form of Written Agreement*¹⁶ (Ref: Para. 10-11)

- A22. It is in the interests of both the entity and the auditor that the auditor sends an audit engagement letter before the commencement of the audit to help avoid

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph A51 and Appendix 1.

¹⁶ In the paragraphs that follow, any reference to an audit engagement letter is to be taken as a reference to an audit engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement.

misunderstandings with respect to the audit. In some countries, however, the objective and scope of an audit and the responsibilities of management and of the auditor may be sufficiently established by law, that is, they prescribe the matters described in paragraph 10. Although in these circumstances paragraph 11 permits the auditor to include in the engagement letter only reference to the fact that relevant law or regulation applies and that management acknowledges and understands its responsibilities as set out in paragraph 6(b), the auditor may nevertheless consider it appropriate to include the matters described in paragraph 10 in an engagement letter for the information of management.

Form and Content of the Audit Engagement Letter

A23. The form and content of the audit engagement letter may vary for each entity. Information included in the audit engagement letter on the auditor’s responsibilities may be based on ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised).¹⁷ Paragraphs 6(b) and 12 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) deal with the description of the responsibilities of management. In addition to including the matters required by paragraph 10, an audit engagement letter may make reference to, for example:

- Elaboration of the scope of the audit, including reference to applicable legislation, regulations, ISAs (UK and Ireland), and ethical and other pronouncements of professional bodies to which the auditor adheres.
- The form of any other communication of results of the audit engagement.
- The requirement for the auditor to communicate key audit matters in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.¹⁸ [IAASB/AR]
- The fact that because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland).
- Arrangements regarding the planning and performance of the audit, including the composition of the audit team.
- The expectation that management will provide written representations (see also paragraph A13).
- The expectation that management will provide access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, including an expectation that management will provide access to information relevant to disclosures. [IAASB/Disclosures]
- The agreement of management to make available to the auditor draft financial statements, including all information relevant to their preparation, whether obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers (including all information relevant to the preparation of disclosures), and the other information,¹⁹ if any, and any accompanying other information in time to allow

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraphs 3-9.

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report”

¹⁹ As defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information”

the auditor to complete the audit in accordance with the proposed timetable. [\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)

- The agreement of management to inform the auditor of facts that may affect the financial statements, of which management may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.
- The basis on which fees are computed and any billing arrangements.
- A request for management to acknowledge receipt of the audit engagement letter and to agree to the terms of the engagement outlined therein.

A23a. When the auditor is not required to communicate key audit matters, it may be helpful for the auditor to make reference in the terms of the audit engagement to the possibility of communicating key audit matters in the auditor's report and, in certain jurisdictions, it may be necessary for the auditor to include a reference to such possibility in order to retain the ability to do so. [IAASB/AR]

A24. When relevant, the following points could also be made in the audit engagement letter:

- Arrangements concerning the involvement of other auditors and experts in some aspects of the audit.
- Arrangements concerning the involvement of internal auditors and other staff of the entity.
- Arrangements to be made with the predecessor auditor, if any, in the case of an initial audit.
- Any restriction of the auditor's liability when such possibility exists.
- A reference to any further agreements between the auditor and the entity.
- Any obligations to provide audit working papers to other parties.

An example of an audit engagement letter is set out in Appendix 1^{19a}.

Audits of Components

A25. When the auditor of a parent entity is also the auditor of a component, the factors that may influence the decision whether to send a separate audit engagement letter to the component include the following:

- Who appoints the component auditor;
- Whether a separate auditor's report is to be issued on the component;
- Legal requirements in relation to audit appointments;
- Degree of ownership by parent; and
- Degree of independence of the component management from the parent entity.

Responsibilities of Management Prescribed by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para. 11-12)

A26. If, in the circumstances described in paragraphs A22 and A27, the auditor concludes that it is not necessary to record certain terms of the audit engagement in an audit engagement letter, the auditor is still required by paragraph 11 to seek the written

^{19a} The example letter in ~~the~~ Appendix 1 has not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

agreement from management that it acknowledges and understands that it has the responsibilities set out in paragraph 6(b). However, in accordance with paragraph 12, such written agreement may use the wording of the law or regulation if such law or regulation establishes responsibilities for management that are equivalent in effect to those described in paragraph 6(b). The accounting profession, audit standards setter, or audit regulator in a jurisdiction may have provided guidance as to whether the description in law or regulation is equivalent.

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A27. Law or regulation governing the operations of public sector audits generally mandate the appointment of a public sector auditor and commonly set out the public sector auditor's responsibilities and powers, including the power to access an entity's records and other information. When law or regulation prescribes in sufficient detail the terms of the audit engagement, the public sector auditor may nonetheless consider that there are benefits in issuing a fuller audit engagement letter than permitted by paragraph 11.

Recurring Audits (Ref: Para. 13)

A28. The auditor may decide not to send a new audit engagement letter or other written agreement each period. However, the following factors may make it appropriate to revise the terms of the audit engagement or to remind the entity of existing terms:

- Any indication that the entity misunderstands the objective and scope of the audit.
- Any revised or special terms of the audit engagement.
- A recent change of senior management.
- A significant change in ownership.
- A significant change in nature or size of the entity's business.
- A change in legal or regulatory requirements.
- A change in the financial reporting framework adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.
- A change in other reporting requirements.

Acceptance of a Change in the Terms of the Audit Engagement

Request to Change the Terms of the Audit Engagement (Ref: Para. 14)

A29. A request from the entity for the auditor to change the terms of the audit engagement may result from a change in circumstances affecting the need for the service, a misunderstanding as to the nature of an audit as originally requested or a restriction on the scope of the audit engagement, whether imposed by management or caused by other circumstances. The auditor, as required by paragraph 14, considers the justification given for the request, particularly the implications of a restriction on the scope of the audit engagement.

A30. A change in circumstances that affects the entity's requirements or a misunderstanding concerning the nature of the service originally requested may be considered a reasonable basis for requesting a change in the audit engagement.

A31. In contrast, a change may not be considered reasonable if it appears that the change relates to information that is incorrect, incomplete or otherwise unsatisfactory. An example might be where the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit

evidence regarding receivables and the entity asks for the audit engagement to be changed to a review engagement to avoid a qualified opinion or a disclaimer of opinion.

Request to Change to a Review or a Related Service (Ref: Para. 15)

- A32. Before agreeing to change an audit engagement to a review or a related service, an auditor who was engaged to perform an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) may need to assess, in addition to the matters referred to in paragraphs A29-A31 above, any legal or contractual implications of the change.
- A33. If the auditor concludes that there is reasonable justification to change the audit engagement to a review or a related service, the audit work performed to the date of change may be relevant to the changed engagement; however, the work required to be performed and the report to be issued would be those appropriate to the revised engagement. In order to avoid confusing the reader, the report on the related service would not include reference to:
- (a) The original audit engagement; or
 - (b) Any procedures that may have been performed in the original audit engagement, except where the audit engagement is changed to an engagement to undertake agreed-upon procedures and thus reference to the procedures performed is a normal part of the report.

Statement by Auditor on Ceasing to Hold Office (Ref: Para. 17)

A33-1. The auditor of a limited company in the UK who ceases to hold office as auditor is required to comply with the requirements of sections 519 and 521 of the Companies Act 2006 regarding the statement to be made by the auditor in relation to ceasing to hold office. For the Republic of Ireland, equivalent requirements are contained in section 185 of the Companies Act 1990. In addition, in the UK the auditor may need to notify the appropriate audit authority in accordance with section 522 of the Companies Act 2006.

Additional Considerations in Engagement Acceptance

Financial Reporting Standards Supplemented by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para. 18)

- A34. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation may supplement the financial reporting standards established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization with additional requirements relating to the preparation of financial statements. In those jurisdictions, the applicable financial reporting framework for the purposes of applying the ISAs (UK and Ireland) encompasses both the identified financial reporting framework and such additional requirements provided they do not conflict with the identified financial reporting framework. This may, for example, be the case when law or regulation prescribes disclosures in addition to those required by the financial

reporting standards or when they narrow the range of acceptable choices that can be made within the financial reporting standards.²⁰

Financial Reporting Framework Prescribed by Law or Regulation—Other Matters Affecting Acceptance (Ref: Para. 19)

A35. Law or regulation may prescribe that the wording of the auditor’s opinion use the phrases “present fairly, in all material respects” or “give a true and fair view” in a case where the auditor concludes that the applicable financial reporting framework prescribed by law or regulation would otherwise have been unacceptable. In this case, the terms of the prescribed wording of the auditor’s report are significantly different from the requirements of ISAs (UK and Ireland) (see paragraph 21).

Auditor’s Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para. 21)

A36. ISAs (UK and Ireland) require that the auditor shall not represent compliance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) unless the auditor has complied with all of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) relevant to the audit.²¹ When law or regulation prescribes the layout or wording of the auditor’s report in a form or in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of ISAs (UK and Ireland) and the auditor concludes that additional explanation in the auditor’s report cannot mitigate possible misunderstanding, the auditor may consider including a statement in the auditor’s report that the audit is not conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland). The auditor is, however, encouraged to apply ISAs (UK and Ireland), including the ISAs (UK and Ireland) that address the auditor’s report, to the extent practicable, notwithstanding that the auditor is not permitted to refer to the audit being conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland).

A36-1. In the UK, certain small companies are permitted by law to prepare their financial statements in accordance with the micro-entities regime^{21a} in which those financial statements are presumed in law to give a true and fair view [of the micro-entity’s assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss]. This financial reporting framework is not considered to be a fair presentation framework as defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 200^{21b} as it does not explicitly or implicitly acknowledge that to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements it may be necessary for management to either provide additional disclosures beyond those required by the framework or to depart from a requirement of the framework. Accordingly, this financial reporting framework is a compliance framework. Whilst entities eligible to prepare financial statements in

²⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), paragraph 15, includes a requirement regarding the evaluation of whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework.

~~The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraph 9(a) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 includes a requirement regarding evaluation of whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the relevant financial reporting framework.~~

²¹ ~~ISA~~ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 20.

^{21a} The micro-entities regime consists of FRS 105 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-entities Regime” and “The Small Companies and Groups (Accounts and Directors’ Report) Regulations 2008” (SI 2008/409) amended by “The Small Companies (Micro-Entities’ Accounts) Regulations 2013” (SI 2013/3008) and “The Companies, Partnerships and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2015” (SI 2015/980).

^{21b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 13(a).

accordance with the micro-entities regime are not required by UK legislation to have those financial statements audited, in the rare circumstances that such an audit of financial statements is requested, the auditor is required by law to state whether the financial statements give a true and fair view. In accordance with paragraphs 25 and 26 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) expressing an unmodified opinion in terms of a true and fair view is reserved for financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework. Accordingly, there is a risk that the auditor's report may be misunderstood by users as implying that the micro-entities regime is a fair presentation framework. The auditor therefore considers this requirement in light of paragraph 21. It may be possible for the auditor to mitigate the potential misunderstanding through the prominent inclusion of an other matter paragraph addressing this in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised).

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A37. In the public sector, specific requirements may exist within the legislation governing the audit mandate; for example, the auditor may be required to report directly to a minister, the legislature or the public if the entity attempts to limit the scope of the audit.

Appendix 1

(Ref: Paras. A23-24)

The example letter in this Appendix has not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

Example of an Audit Engagement Letter

The following is an example of an audit engagement letter for an audit of general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This letter is not authoritative but is intended only to be a guide that may be used in conjunction with the considerations outlined in this ISA. It will need to be varied according to individual requirements and circumstances. It is drafted to refer to the audit of financial statements for a single reporting period and would require adaptation if intended or expected to apply to recurring audits (see paragraph 13 of this ISA). It may be appropriate to seek legal advice that any proposed letter is suitable.

To the appropriate representative of management or those charged with governance of ABC Company:²²

[The objective and scope of the audit]

You²³ have requested that we audit the financial statements of ABC Company, which comprise the statement of financial position~~balance sheet~~ as at December 31, 20X1, and the ~~income~~ statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows~~statement~~ for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies~~and other explanatory information~~. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

~~Our audit will be conducted with t~~The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our expressing an opinion on the financial statements. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

[The responsibilities of the auditor]

We will conduct our audit in accordance with ~~International Standards on Auditing (ISAs)~~. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements. As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional

²² The addressees and references in the letter would be those that are appropriate in the circumstances of the engagement, including the relevant jurisdiction. It is important to refer to the appropriate persons – see paragraph A21.

²³ Throughout this letter, references to “you,” “we,” “us,” “management,” “those charged with governance” and “auditor” would be used or amended as appropriate in the circumstances.

~~skepticism throughout and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We also:~~

- ~~• Identify and assess~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ~~• Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.~~²⁴ However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- ~~• E-An audit also includes evaluating~~ the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management
- ~~• Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.~~
- ~~• ,as well as Eevaluating~~ the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with ISAs.

~~In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.~~

[The responsibilities of management and identification of the applicable financial reporting framework (for purposes of this example it is assumed that the auditor has not determined that

²⁴ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.

the law or regulation prescribes those responsibilities in appropriate terms; the descriptions in paragraph 6(b) of this ISA are therefore used.)

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that [management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance]²⁵ acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- (a) For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards;²⁶
- (b) For such internal control as [management] determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- (c) To provide us with:²⁷
 - (i) Access to all information of which [management] is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - (ii) Additional information that we may request from [management] for the purpose of the audit; and
 - (iii) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

As part of our audit process, we will request from [management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance], written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

We look forward to full cooperation from your staff during our audit.

[Other relevant information]

[Insert other information, such as fee arrangements, billings and other specific terms, as appropriate.]

[Reporting]

[Insert appropriate reference to the expected form and content of the auditor’s report including, if applicable, the reporting on other information in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised).]

The form and content of our report may need to be amended in the light of our audit findings.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

XYZ & Co.

²⁵ Use terminology as appropriate in the circumstances.

²⁶ Or, if appropriate, “For the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.”

²⁷ See paragraph A23 for examples of other matters relating to management’s responsibilities that may be included.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of ABC Company by
(signed)

.....
Name and Title
Date

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. A10)

Determining the Acceptability of General Purpose Frameworks**Jurisdictions that Do Not Have Authorized or Recognized Standards Setting Organizations or Financial Reporting Frameworks Prescribed by Law or Regulation**

1. As explained in paragraph A10 of this ISA (UK and Ireland), when an entity is registered or operating in a jurisdiction that does not have an authorized or recognized standards setting organization, or where use of the financial reporting framework is not prescribed by law or regulation, management identifies an applicable financial reporting framework. Practice in such jurisdictions is often to use the financial reporting standards established by one of the organizations described in paragraph A8 of this ISA (UK and Ireland).
2. Alternatively, there may be established accounting conventions in a particular jurisdiction that are generally recognized as the financial reporting framework for general purpose financial statements prepared by certain specified entities operating in that jurisdiction. When such a financial reporting framework is adopted, the auditor is required by paragraph 6(a) of this ISA (UK and Ireland) to determine whether the accounting conventions collectively can be considered to constitute an acceptable financial reporting framework for general purpose financial statements. When the accounting conventions are widely used in a particular jurisdiction, the accounting profession in that jurisdiction may have considered the acceptability of the financial reporting framework on behalf of the auditors. Alternatively, the auditor may make this determination by considering whether the accounting conventions exhibit attributes normally exhibited by acceptable financial reporting frameworks (see paragraph 3 below), or by comparing the accounting conventions to the requirements of an existing financial reporting framework considered to be acceptable (see paragraph 4 below).
3. Acceptable financial reporting frameworks normally exhibit the following attributes that result in information provided in financial statements that is useful to the intended users:
 - (a) Relevance, in that the information provided in the financial statements is relevant to the nature of the entity and the purpose of the financial statements. For example, in the case of a business enterprise that prepares general purpose financial statements, relevance is assessed in terms of the information necessary to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users in making economic decisions. These needs are ordinarily met by presenting the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the business enterprise.
 - (b) Completeness, in that transactions and events, account balances and disclosures that could affect conclusions based on the financial statements are not omitted.
 - (c) Reliability, in that the information provided in the financial statements:
 - (i) Where applicable, reflects the economic substance of events and transactions and not merely their legal form; and
 - (ii) Results in reasonably consistent evaluation, measurement, presentation and disclosure, when used in similar circumstances.

- (d) Neutrality, in that it contributes to information in the financial statements that is free from bias.
 - (e) Understandability, in that the information in the financial statements is clear and comprehensive and not subject to significantly different interpretation.
4. The auditor may decide to compare the accounting conventions to the requirements of an existing financial reporting framework considered to be acceptable. For example, the auditor may compare the accounting conventions to IFRSs. For an audit of a small entity, the auditor may decide to compare the accounting conventions to a financial reporting framework specifically developed for such entities by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization. When the auditor makes such a comparison and differences are identified, the decision as to whether the accounting conventions adopted in the preparation of the financial statements constitute an acceptable financial reporting framework includes considering the reasons for the differences and whether application of the accounting conventions, or the description of the financial reporting framework in the financial statements, could result in financial statements that are misleading.
 5. A conglomeration of accounting conventions devised to suit individual preferences is not an acceptable financial reporting framework for general purpose financial statements. Similarly, a compliance framework will not be an acceptable financial reporting framework, unless it is generally accepted in the particular jurisdictions by preparers and users.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 220 (REVISED)
QUALITY CONTROL FOR AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016
December 2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the specific responsibilities of the auditor regarding quality control procedures for an audit of financial statements. It also addresses, where applicable, the responsibilities of the engagement quality control reviewer. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is to be read in conjunction with relevant ethical requirements.

System of Quality Control and Role of Engagement Teams

2. Quality control systems, policies and procedures are the responsibility of the audit firm. Under ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 [\(Revised\)](#), the firm has an obligation to establish and maintain a system of quality control to provide it with reasonable assurance that:
 - (a) The firm and its personnel comply with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
 - (b) The reports issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances.¹

This ISA (UK and Ireland) is premised on the basis that the firm is subject to ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 [\(Revised\)](#) or to national requirements that are at least as demanding. (Ref: Para. A1)

3. Within the context of the firm's system of quality control, engagement teams have a responsibility to implement quality control procedures that are applicable to the audit engagement and provide the firm with relevant information to enable the functioning of that part of the firm's system of quality control relating to independence.
4. Engagement teams are entitled to rely on the firm's system of quality control, unless information provided by the firm or other parties suggests otherwise. (Ref: Para. A2)

Effective Date

5. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods [commencing on or after 17 June 2016](#)~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

6. The objective of the auditor is to implement quality control procedures at the engagement level that provide the auditor with reasonable assurance that:
 - (a) The audit complies with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
 - (b) The auditor's report issued is appropriate in the circumstances.

Definitions

7. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

¹ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 [\(Revised\)](#), "Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements," paragraph 11.

- (a) Engagement partner² – The partner or other person in the firm who is responsible for the audit engagement and its performance, and for the auditor’s report that is issued on behalf of the firm, and who, where required, has the appropriate authority from a professional, legal or regulatory body.
- (b) Engagement quality control review – A process designed to provide an objective evaluation, on or before the date of the auditor’s report, of the significant judgments the engagement team made and the conclusions it reached in formulating the auditor’s report. The engagement quality control review process is only for audits of financial statements of listed entities and those other audit engagements, if any, for which the firm has determined an engagement quality control review is required.
- (c) Engagement quality control reviewer – A partner, other person in the firm, suitably qualified external person, or a team made up of such individuals, none of whom is part of the engagement team, with sufficient and appropriate experience and authority to objectively evaluate the significant judgments the engagement team made and the conclusions it reached in formulating the auditor’s report.
- (d) Engagement team – All partners and staff performing the engagement, and any individuals engaged by the firm or a network firm who perform audit procedures on the engagement. This excludes an auditor’s external expert engaged by the firm or by a network firm.³ The term “engagement team” also excludes individuals within the client’s internal audit function who provide direct Assistance on an audit engagement when the external auditor complies with the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013).⁴
- (e) Firm – A sole practitioner, partnership or corporation or other entity of professional accountants.
- (f) Inspection – In relation to completed audit engagements, procedures designed to provide evidence of compliance by engagement teams with the firm’s quality control policies and procedures.
- (g) Listed entity – An entity whose shares, stock or debt are quoted or listed on a recognized stock exchange, or are marketed under the regulations of a recognized stock exchange or other equivalent body.
- (h) Monitoring – A process comprising an ongoing consideration and evaluation of the firm’s system of quality control, including a periodic inspection of a selection of completed engagements, designed to provide the firm with reasonable assurance that its system of quality control is operating effectively.

² “Engagement partner,” “partner,” and “firm” should be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 620 (Revised), “Using the Work of an Auditor’s Expert,” paragraph 6(a), defines the term “auditor’s expert.”

⁴ ISA 610 (Revised June 2013), “Using the Work of Internal Auditors”, establishes limits on the use of direct assistance. It also acknowledges that the external auditor may be prohibited by law or regulation from obtaining direct assistance from internal auditors. Therefore, the use of direct assistance is restricted to situations where it is permitted.

The use of internal auditors to provide direct assistance is prohibited in an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) – see ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), paragraph 5-1.

- (i) Network firm – A firm or entity that belongs to a network.
- (j) Network – A larger structure:
 - (i) That is aimed at cooperation, and
 - (ii) That is clearly aimed at profit or cost-sharing or shares common ownership, control or management, common quality control policies and procedures, common business strategy, the use of a common brand name, or a significant part of professional resources.
- (k) Partner – Any individual with authority to bind the firm with respect to the performance of a professional services engagement.
- (l) Personnel – Partners and staff.
- (m) Professional standards – International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISAs (UK and Ireland)) and relevant ethical requirements.
- (n) Relevant ethical requirements – Ethical requirements to which the engagement team and engagement quality control reviewer are subject, which ordinarily comprise Parts A and B of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code) related to an audit of financial statements together with national requirements that are more restrictive.

Auditors in the UK and Ireland are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: the ~~FRC’s APB Ethical Standards for Auditors~~ concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor, and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor’s relevant professional body. The ~~FRCAPB~~ is not aware of any significant instances where the relevant parts of the IESBA Code of Ethics are more restrictive than the ~~FRC’s APB Ethical Standards for Auditors~~.

- (o) Staff – Professionals, other than partners, including any experts the firm employs.
- (p) Suitably qualified external person – An individual outside the firm with the competence and capabilities to act as an engagement partner, for example a partner of another firm, or an employee (with appropriate experience) of either a professional accountancy body whose members may perform audits of historical financial information or of an organization that provides relevant quality control services.

7D-1. In the UK and Ireland, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

- (a) Audit Directive – refers to Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006.
- (b) Audit Regulation – refers to Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014.
- (c) Competent authority – is defined in the Audit Directive as “the authorities designated by law that are in charge of the regulation and/or oversight of statutory auditors and audit firms or of specific aspects thereof.”
- (d) Key audit partner – is defined in the Audit Directive as:

- (i) the statutory auditor(s) designated by an audit firm for a particular audit engagement as being primarily responsible for carrying out the statutory audit on behalf of the audit firm; or
- (ii) in the case of a group audit, at least the statutory auditor(s) designated by an audit firm as being primarily responsible for carrying out the statutory audit at the level of the group and the statutory auditor(s) designated as being primarily responsible at the level of material subsidiaries; or
- (iii) the statutory auditor(s) who sign(s) the audit report.
- (e) Public-interest entity – is as defined in Article 2(13) of the Audit Directive.
- (f) Statutory audit – is defined by the Audit Directive as an audit of financial statements or consolidated financial statements in so far as:
 - (i) required by Union law; or
 - (ii) required by national law as regards small undertakings; or
 - (iii) voluntarily carried out at the request of small undertakings which meets legal requirements that are equivalent to those for an audit under point (b), where national legislation defines such audits as statutory audits.
- (g) Statutory auditor^{4a} – is defined as either:
 - (i) a natural person who is approved in accordance with the Audit Directive by the competent authorities of a Member State to carry out statutory audits;
or
 - (ii) a legal person or any other entity, regardless of its legal form, that is approved in accordance with the Audit Directive by the competent authorities of a Member State to carry out statutory audits.

Requirements

Leadership Responsibilities for Quality on Audits

8. The engagement partner shall take responsibility for the overall quality on each audit engagement to which that partner is assigned. (Ref: Para. A3)

Relevant Ethical Requirements

9. Throughout the audit engagement, the engagement partner shall remain alert, through observation and making inquiries as necessary, for evidence of non-compliance with relevant ethical requirements by members of the engagement team. (Ref: Para. A4-A5)
10. If matters come to the engagement partner's attention through the firm's system of quality control or otherwise that indicate that members of the engagement team have not complied with relevant ethical requirements, the engagement partner, in consultation with others in the firm, shall determine the appropriate action. (Ref: Para. A5)

^{4a} In the Audit Directive and Regulation the term 'statutory auditor' is used in the context of a natural person. In the UK Companies Act 2006, the term 'statutory auditor' is used for both natural and legal persons.

Independence

11. The engagement partner shall form a conclusion on compliance with independence requirements that apply to the audit engagement. In doing so, the engagement partner shall: (Ref: Para. A5)
- (a) Obtain relevant information from the firm and, where applicable, network firms, to identify and evaluate circumstances and relationships that create threats to independence;
 - (b) Evaluate information on identified breaches, if any, of the firm’s independence policies and procedures to determine whether they create a threat to independence for the audit engagement; and
 - (c) Take appropriate action to eliminate such threats or reduce them to an acceptable level by applying safeguards, or, if considered appropriate, to withdraw from the audit engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation. The engagement partner shall promptly report to the firm any inability to resolve the matter for appropriate action. (Ref: Para. A6-A7)

Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Audit Engagements

12. The engagement partner shall be satisfied that appropriate procedures regarding the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and audit engagements have been followed, and shall determine that conclusions reached in this regard are appropriate. (Ref: Para. A8-A9)
13. If the engagement partner obtains information that would have caused the firm to decline the audit engagement had that information been available earlier, the engagement partner shall communicate that information promptly to the firm, so that the firm and the engagement partner can take the necessary action. (Ref: Para. A9)

Assignment of Engagement Teams

14. The engagement partner shall be satisfied that the engagement team, and any auditor’s experts who are not part of the engagement team, collectively have the appropriate competence and capabilities to:
- (a) Perform the audit engagement in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
 - (b) Enable an auditor’s report that is appropriate in the circumstances to be issued. (Ref: Para. A10-A12)

Engagement Performance*Direction, Supervision and Performance*

15. The engagement partner shall take responsibility for:
- (a) The direction, supervision and performance of the audit engagement in compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and (Ref: Para. A13-A15, A20)
 - (b) The auditor’s report being appropriate in the circumstances.

15D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the key audit partner(s) shall be actively involved in the carrying-out of the audit. [AD/Article 24b.1]

Reviews

16. The engagement partner shall take responsibility for reviews being performed in accordance with the firm's review policies and procedures. (Ref: Para. A16-A17, A20)
17. On or before the date of the auditor's report, the engagement partner shall, through a review of the audit documentation and discussion with the engagement team, be satisfied that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained to support the conclusions reached and for the auditor's report to be issued. (Ref: Para. A18-A20)

Consultation

18. The engagement partner shall:
 - (a) Take responsibility for the engagement team undertaking appropriate consultation on difficult or contentious matters;
 - (b) Be satisfied that members of the engagement team have undertaken appropriate consultation during the course of the engagement, both within the engagement team and between the engagement team and others at the appropriate level within or outside the firm;
 - (c) Be satisfied that the nature and scope of, and conclusions resulting from, such consultations are agreed with the party consulted; and
 - (d) Determine that conclusions resulting from such consultations have been implemented. (Ref: Para. A21-A22)

Engagement Quality Control Review

19. For audits of financial statements of listed entities, and those other audit engagements, if any, for which the firm has determined that an engagement quality control review is required, the engagement partner shall:
 - (a) Determine that an engagement quality control reviewer has been appointed;
 - (b) Discuss significant matters arising during the audit engagement, including those identified during the engagement quality control review, with the engagement quality control reviewer; and
 - (c) Not date the auditor's report until the completion of the engagement quality control review. (Ref: Para. A23-A25)
20. The engagement quality control reviewer shall perform an objective evaluation of the significant judgments made by the engagement team, and the conclusions reached in formulating the auditor's report. This evaluation shall involve:
 - (a) Discussion of significant matters with the engagement partner;
 - (b) Review of the financial statements and the proposed auditor's report;
 - (c) Review of selected audit documentation relating to the significant judgments the engagement team made and the conclusions it reached; and
 - (d) Evaluation of the conclusions reached in formulating the auditor's report and consideration of whether the proposed auditor's report is appropriate. (Ref: Para. A26-A27a, A29-A31)

21. For audits of financial statements of listed entities, the engagement quality control reviewer, on performing an engagement quality control review, shall also consider the following:
- (a) The engagement team’s evaluation of the firm’s independence in relation to the audit engagement;
 - (b) Whether appropriate consultation has taken place on matters involving differences of opinion or other difficult or contentious matters, and the conclusions arising from those consultations; and
 - (c) Whether audit documentation selected for review reflects the work performed in relation to the significant judgments and supports the conclusions reached. (Ref: Para. A28-A31)

21R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the engagement quality control reviewer, on performing an engagement quality control review required by ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised)^{4a}, shall at least assess the following elements:

- (a) The independence of the firm from the entity;
- (b) The significant risks which are relevant to the audit and which the key audit partner(s) has identified during the performance of the audit and the measures that the key audit partner(s) has taken to adequately manage those risks;
- (c) The reasoning of the key audit partner(s), in particular with regard to the level of materiality and the significant risks referred to in paragraph 21R-1(b);
- (d) Any request for advice to external experts and the implementation of such advice;
- (e) The nature and scope of the corrected and uncorrected misstatements in the financial statements that were identified during the carrying out of the audit;
- (f) The subjects discussed with the audit committee and the management and/or supervisory bodies of the entity;
- (g) The subjects discussed with competent authorities and, where applicable, with other third parties; and
- (h) Whether the documents and information selected from the file by the engagement quality control reviewer support the opinion of the key audit partner(s) as expressed in the draft of the auditor’s report^{4b} and the additional report to the audit committee^{4c}. [AR/Article 8.5]

21R-2. The engagement quality control reviewer shall discuss the results of the review, including the elements assessed in paragraph 21R-1, with the key audit partner(s). [AR/Article 8.6]

Differences of Opinion

22. If differences of opinion arise within the engagement team, with those consulted or, where applicable, between the engagement partner and the engagement quality control

^{4a} ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph 38R-1.

^{4b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements.”

^{4c} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance.” paragraph 16R-2.

reviewer, the engagement team shall follow the firm’s policies and procedures for dealing with and resolving differences of opinion.

Monitoring

23. An effective system of quality control includes a monitoring process designed to provide the firm with reasonable assurance that its policies and procedures relating to the system of quality control are relevant, adequate, and operating effectively. The engagement partner shall consider the results of the firm’s monitoring process as evidenced in the latest information circulated by the firm and, if applicable, other network firms and whether deficiencies noted in that information may affect the audit engagement. (Ref: Para A32-A34)

Documentation

24. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation:⁵
- (a) Issues identified with respect to compliance with relevant ethical requirements and how they were resolved.
 - (b) Conclusions on compliance with independence requirements that apply to the audit engagement, and any relevant discussions with the firm that support these conclusions.
 - (c) Conclusions reached regarding the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and audit engagements.
 - (d) The nature and scope of, and conclusions resulting from, consultations undertaken during the course of the audit engagement. (Ref: Para. A35)

24D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor shall include in the audit documentation:

- (a) All significant threats to the firm’s independence as well as the safeguards applied to mitigate those threats; and [AD/Article 22.3]
- (b) Those matters it is required to assess before accepting or continuing a statutory audit engagement in accordance with ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised). [AD/Article 24b.5]

24R-2. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the engagement quality control reviewer, when performing an engagement quality control review required by ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), shall:

- (a) Keep a record of the results of the review, together with the considerations underlying those results; and [AR/Article 8.7]
- (b) Record at least the following:
 - (i) The oral and written information provided by the key audit partner(s) to support the significant judgements as well as the main findings of the audit procedures carried out and the conclusions drawn from those findings, whether or not at the request of the engagement quality control reviewer; and [AR/Article 8.4(a)]

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

(ii) The opinions of the key audit partner(s), as expressed in the draft of the reports required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) and ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised). [AR/Article 8.4(b)]

24R-3. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor shall keep a record of the results of the engagement quality control review, together with the considerations underlying those results in the audit documentation. [AR/Article 8.7][AD/Article 24b.5]

25. The engagement quality control reviewer shall document, for the audit engagement reviewed, that:
- (a) The procedures required by the firm’s policies on engagement quality control review have been performed;
 - (b) The engagement quality control review has been completed on or before the date of the auditor’s report; and
 - (c) The reviewer is not aware of any unresolved matters that would cause the reviewer to believe that the significant judgments the engagement team made and the conclusions it reached were not appropriate.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

System of Quality Control and Role of Engagement Teams (Ref: Para. 2)

A1. ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), or national requirements that are at least as demanding, deals with the firm’s responsibilities to establish and maintain its system of quality control for audit engagements. The system of quality control includes policies and procedures that address each of the following elements:

- Leadership responsibilities for quality within the firm;
- Relevant ethical requirements;
- Acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements;
- Human resources;
- Engagement performance; and
- Monitoring.

National requirements that deal with the firm’s responsibilities to establish and maintain a system of quality control are at least as demanding as ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised) when they address all the elements referred to in this paragraph and impose obligations on the firm that achieve the aims of the requirements set out in ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised).

Reliance on the Firm’s System of Quality Control (Ref: Para. 4)

A2. Unless information provided by the firm or other parties suggest otherwise, the engagement team may rely on the firm’s system of quality control in relation to, for example:

- Competence of personnel through their recruitment and formal training.

- Independence through the accumulation and communication of relevant independence information.
- Maintenance of client relationships through acceptance and continuance systems.
- Adherence to applicable legal and regulatory requirements through the monitoring process.

Leadership Responsibilities for Quality on Audits (Ref: Para. 8)

A3. The actions of the engagement partner and appropriate messages to the other members of the engagement team, in taking responsibility for the overall quality on each audit engagement, emphasize:

- (a) The importance to audit quality of:
 - (i) Performing work that complies with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements;
 - (ii) Complying with the firm’s quality control policies and procedures as applicable;
 - (iii) Issuing auditor’s reports that are appropriate in the circumstances; and
 - (iv) The engagement team’s ability to raise concerns without fear of reprisals; and
- (b) The fact that quality is essential in performing audit engagements.

A3-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised)^{5a} sets out requirements to ensure that securing audit quality, independence and competence are the main criteria used by the firm to select the engagement partner or key audit partner(s).

Relevant Ethical Requirements

Compliance with Relevant Ethical Requirements (Ref: Para. 9)

A4. The IESBA Code^{5b} establishes the fundamental principles of professional ethics, which include:

- (a) Integrity;
- (b) Objectivity;
- (c) Professional competence and due care;
- (d) Confidentiality; and
- (e) Professional behavior.

^{5a} **ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph 30D-1.**

^{5b} Auditors in the UK and Ireland are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: the **FRC’s APB Ethical Standards for Auditors** concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor, and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor’s relevant professional body. The **FRCAPB** is not aware of any significant instances where the relevant parts of the IESBA Code of Ethics are more restrictive than the **FRC’s APB Ethical Standards for Auditors**.

Definition of “Firm,” “Network” and “Network Firm” (Ref: Para. 9-11)

A5. The definitions of “firm,” “network” or “network firm” in relevant ethical requirements may differ from those set out in this ISA (UK and Ireland). For example, the IESBA Code^{4a} defines the “firm” as:

- (a) A sole practitioner, partnership or corporation of professional accountants;
- (b) An entity that controls such parties through ownership, management or other means; and
- (c) An entity controlled by such parties through ownership, management or other means.

The IESBA Code also provides guidance in relation to the terms “network” and “network firm.”

In complying with the requirements in paragraphs 9-11, the definitions used in the relevant ethical requirements apply in so far as is necessary to interpret those ethical requirements.

Threats to Independence (Ref: Para. 11(c))

A6. The engagement partner may identify a threat to independence regarding the audit engagement that safeguards may not be able to eliminate or reduce to an acceptable level. In that case, as required by paragraph 11(c), the engagement partner reports to the relevant person(s) within the firm to determine appropriate action, which may include eliminating the activity or interest that creates the threat, or withdrawing from the audit engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A7. Statutory measures may provide safeguards for the independence of public sector auditors. However, public sector auditors or audit firms carrying out public sector audits on behalf of the statutory auditor may, depending on the terms of the mandate in a particular jurisdiction, need to adapt their approach in order to promote compliance with the spirit of paragraph 11. This may include, where the public sector auditor’s mandate does not permit withdrawal from the engagement, disclosure through a public report, of circumstances that have arisen that would, if they were in the private sector, lead the auditor to withdraw.

Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Audit Engagements (Ref: Para. 12)

A8. ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised) requires the firm to obtain information considered necessary in the circumstances before accepting an engagement with a new client, when deciding whether to continue an existing engagement, and when considering acceptance of a new engagement with an existing client.⁶ Information such as the following assists the engagement partner in determining whether the conclusions reached regarding the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and audit engagements are appropriate:

- The integrity of the principal owners, key management and those charged with governance of the entity;

⁶ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph 27(a).

- Whether the engagement team is competent to perform the audit engagement and has the necessary capabilities, including time and resources;
- Whether the firm and the engagement team can comply with relevant ethical requirements; and
- Significant matters that have arisen during the current or previous audit engagement, and their implications for continuing the relationship.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities (Ref: Para. 12-13)

A9. In the public sector, auditors may be appointed in accordance with statutory procedures. Accordingly, certain of the requirements and considerations regarding the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and audit engagements as set out in paragraphs 12, 13 and A8 may not be relevant. Nonetheless, information gathered as a result of the process described may be valuable to public sector auditors in performing risk assessments and in carrying out reporting responsibilities.

Assignment of Engagement Teams (Ref: Para. 14)

A10. An engagement team includes a person using expertise in a specialized area of accounting or auditing, whether engaged or employed by the firm, if any, who performs audit procedures on the engagement. However, a person with such expertise is not a member of the engagement team if that person’s involvement with the engagement is only consultation. Consultations are addressed in paragraph 18, and paragraph A21-A22.

A11. When considering the appropriate competence and capabilities expected of the engagement team as a whole, the engagement partner may take into consideration such matters as the team’s:

- Understanding of, and practical experience with, audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation.
- Understanding of professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.
- Technical expertise, including expertise with relevant information technology and specialized areas of accounting or auditing.
- Knowledge of relevant industries in which the client operates.
- Ability to apply professional judgment.
- Understanding of the firm’s quality control policies and procedures.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A12. In the public sector, additional appropriate competence may include skills that are necessary to discharge the terms of the audit mandate in a particular jurisdiction. Such competence may include an understanding of the applicable reporting arrangements, including reporting to the legislature or other governing body or in the public interest. The wider scope of a public sector audit may include, for example, some aspects of performance auditing or a comprehensive assessment of compliance with law, regulation or other authority and preventing and detecting fraud and corruption.

Engagement Performance

Direction, Supervision and Performance (Ref: Para. 15(a))

A13. Direction of the engagement team involves informing the members of the engagement team of matters such as:

- Their responsibilities, including the need to comply with relevant ethical requirements, and to plan and perform an audit with professional skepticism as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#).⁷
- Responsibilities of respective partners where more than one partner is involved in the conduct of an audit engagement.
- The objectives of the work to be performed.
- The nature of the entity’s business.
- Risk-related issues.
- Problems that may arise.
- The detailed approach to the performance of the engagement.

Discussion among members of the engagement team allows less experienced team members to raise questions with more experienced team members so that appropriate communication can occur within the engagement team.

A14. Appropriate teamwork and training assist less experienced members of the engagement team to clearly understand the objectives of the assigned work.

A15. Supervision includes matters such as:

- Tracking the progress of the audit engagement.
- Considering the competence and capabilities of individual members of the engagement team, including whether they have sufficient time to carry out their work, whether they understand their instructions, and whether the work is being carried out in accordance with the planned approach to the audit engagement.
- Addressing significant matters arising during the audit engagement, considering their significance and modifying the planned approach appropriately.
- Identifying matters for consultation or consideration by more experienced engagement team members during the audit engagement.

Reviews

Review Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 16)

A16. Under ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 [\(Revised\)](#), the firm’s review responsibility policies and procedures are determined on the basis that work of less experienced team members is reviewed by more experienced team members.⁸

A17. A review consists of consideration whether, for example:

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 15.

⁸ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 33.

- The work has been performed in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements;
- Significant matters have been raised for further consideration;
- Appropriate consultations have taken place and the resulting conclusions have been documented and implemented;
- There is a need to revise the nature, timing and extent of work performed;
- The work performed supports the conclusions reached and is appropriately documented;
- The evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support the auditor's report; and
- The objectives of the engagement procedures have been achieved.

The Engagement Partner's Review of Work Performed (Ref: Para. 17)

A18. Timely reviews of the following by the engagement partner at appropriate stages during the engagement allow significant matters to be resolved on a timely basis to the engagement partner's satisfaction on or before the date of the auditor's report:

- Critical areas of judgment, especially those relating to difficult or contentious matters identified during the course of the engagement;
- Significant risks; and
- Other areas the engagement partner considers important.

The engagement partner need not review all audit documentation, but may do so. However, as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), the partner documents the extent and timing of the reviews.⁹

A19. An engagement partner taking over an audit during the engagement may apply the review procedures as described in paragraphs A18 to review the work performed to the date of a change in order to assume the responsibilities of an engagement partner.

Considerations Relevant Where a Member of the Engagement Team with Expertise in a Specialized Area of Accounting or Auditing Is Used (Ref: Para. 15-17)

A20. Where a member of the engagement team with expertise in a specialized area of accounting or auditing is used, direction, supervision and review of that engagement team member's work may include matters such as:

- Agreeing with that member the nature, scope and objectives of that member's work; and the respective roles of, and the nature, timing and extent of communication between that member and other members of the engagement team.
- Evaluating the adequacy of that member's work including the relevance and reasonableness of that member's findings or conclusions and their consistency with other audit evidence.

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), paragraph 9(c).

Consultation (Ref: Para. 18)

- A21. Effective consultation on significant technical, ethical, and other matters within the firm or, where applicable, outside the firm can be achieved when those consulted:
- Are given all the relevant facts that will enable them to provide informed advice; and
 - Have appropriate knowledge, seniority and experience.
- A22. It may be appropriate for the engagement team to consult outside the firm, for example, where the firm lacks appropriate internal resources. They may take advantage of advisory services provided by other firms, professional and regulatory bodies, or commercial organizations that provide relevant quality control services.

Engagement Quality Control Review

Completion of the Engagement Quality Control Review before Dating of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 19(c))

- A23. ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) requires the auditor's report to be dated no earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate evidence on which to base the auditor's opinion on the financial statements.¹⁰ In cases of an audit of financial statements of listed entities or when an engagement meets the criteria for an engagement quality control review, such a review assists the auditor in determining whether sufficient appropriate evidence has been obtained.
- A24. Conducting the engagement quality control review in a timely manner at appropriate stages during the engagement allows significant matters to be promptly resolved to the engagement quality control reviewer's satisfaction on or before the date of the auditor's report.
- A25. Completion of the engagement quality control review means the completion by the engagement quality control reviewer of the requirements in paragraphs 20-21, and where applicable, compliance with paragraph 22. Documentation of the engagement quality control review may be completed after the date of the auditor's report as part of the assembly of the final audit file. ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) establishes requirements and provides guidance in this regard.¹¹

Nature, Extent and Timing of Engagement Quality Control Review (Ref: Para. 20)

- A26. Remaining alert for changes in circumstances allows the engagement partner to identify situations in which an engagement quality control review is necessary, even though at the start of the engagement, such a review was not required.
- A27. The extent of the engagement quality control review may depend, among other things, on the complexity of the audit engagement, whether the entity is a listed entity, and the risk that the auditor's report might not be appropriate in the circumstances. The

¹⁰ ISA 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements," paragraph 41.

~~The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, "The Auditor's Report on Financial Statements." Paragraphs 23 and 24 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 establish requirements regarding dating of the auditor's report.~~

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), paragraphs 14-16.

performance of an engagement quality control review does not reduce the responsibilities of the engagement partner for the audit engagement and its performance.

A27a. When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701¹² applies, the conclusions reached by the engagement team in formulating the auditor’s report include determining:

- The key audit matters to be included in the auditor’s report;
- The key audit matters that will not be communicated in the auditor’s report in accordance with paragraph 14 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, if any; and
- If applicable, depending on the facts and circumstances of the entity and the audit, that there are no key audit matters to communicate in the auditor’s report.

In addition, the review of the proposed auditor’s report in accordance with paragraph 20(b) includes consideration of the proposed wording to be included in the Key Audit Matters section. [IAASB/AR]

Engagement Quality Control Review of Listed Entities (Ref: Para. 21)

A28. Other matters relevant to evaluating the significant judgments made by the engagement team that may be considered in an engagement quality control review of a listed entity include:

- Significant risks identified during the engagement in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised),¹³ and the responses to those risks in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised),¹⁴ including the engagement team’s assessment of, and response to, the risk of fraud in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised).¹⁵
- Judgments made, particularly with respect to materiality and significant risks.
- The significance and disposition of corrected and uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit.
- The matters to be communicated to management and those charged with governance and, where applicable, other parties such as regulatory bodies.

These other matters, depending on the circumstances, may also be applicable for engagement quality control reviews for audits of financial statements of other entities.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities (Ref: Para. 20-21)

A29. In addition to the audits of financial statements of listed entities, an engagement quality control review is required for audit engagements that meet the criteria established by the firm that subjects engagements to an engagement quality control review. In some cases, none of the firm’s audit engagements may meet the criteria that would subject them to such a review.

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Auditor’s Report.”

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment.”

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks.”

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements.”

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities (Ref: Para. 20-21)

- A30. In the public sector, a statutorily appointed auditor (for example, an Auditor General, or other suitably qualified person appointed on behalf of the Auditor General), may act in a role equivalent to that of engagement partner with overall responsibility for public sector audits. In such circumstances, where applicable, the selection of the engagement quality control reviewer includes consideration of the need for independence from the audited entity and the ability of the engagement quality control reviewer to provide an objective evaluation.
- A31. Listed entities as referred to in paragraphs 21 and A28 are not common in the public sector. However, there may be other public sector entities that are significant due to size, complexity or public interest aspects, and which consequently have a wide range of stakeholders. Examples include state owned corporations and public utilities. Ongoing transformations within the public sector may also give rise to new types of significant entities. There are no fixed objective criteria on which the determination of significance is based. Nonetheless, public sector auditors evaluate which entities may be of sufficient significance to warrant performance of an engagement quality control review.

Monitoring (Ref: Para. 23)

- A32. ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised) requires the firm to establish a monitoring process designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that the policies and procedures relating to the system of quality control are relevant, adequate and operating effectively.¹⁶
- A33. In considering deficiencies that may affect the audit engagement, the engagement partner may have regard to measures the firm took to rectify the situation that the engagement partner considers are sufficient in the context of that audit.
- A34. A deficiency in the firm's system of quality control does not necessarily indicate that a particular audit engagement was not performed in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, or that the auditor's report was not appropriate.

Documentation*Documentation of Consultations* (Ref: Para. 24(d))

- A35. Documentation of consultations with other professionals that involve difficult or contentious matters that is sufficiently complete and detailed contributes to an understanding of:
- The issue on which consultation was sought; and
 - The results of the consultation, including any decisions taken, the basis for those decisions and how they were implemented.

¹⁶ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph 48.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 230 (REVISED)**

AUDIT DOCUMENTATION

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after 16 June 2016~~5
December 2010~~)

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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor’s responsibility to prepare audit documentation for an audit of financial statements. The Appendix lists other ISAs (UK and Ireland) that contain specific documentation requirements and guidance. The specific documentation requirements of other ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not limit the application of this ISA (UK and Ireland). Law or regulation may establish additional documentation requirements.

Nature and Purposes of Audit Documentation

2. Audit documentation that meets the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland) and the specific documentation requirements of other relevant ISAs (UK and Ireland) provides:
 - (a) Evidence of the auditor’s basis for a conclusion about the achievement of the overall objectives of the auditor;¹ and
 - (b) Evidence that the audit was planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.
3. Audit documentation serves a number of additional purposes, including the following:
 - Assisting the engagement team to plan and perform the audit.
 - Assisting members of the engagement team responsible for supervision to direct and supervise the audit work, and to discharge their review responsibilities in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised).²
 - Enabling the engagement team to be accountable for its work.
 - Retaining a record of matters of continuing significance to future audits.
 - Enabling the conduct of quality control reviews and inspections in accordance with ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised)³ or national requirements that are at least as demanding.⁴
 - Enabling the conduct of external inspections in accordance with applicable legal, regulatory or other requirements.

Effective Date

4. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing on or after 17 June 2016~~ ~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

5. The objective of the auditor is to prepare documentation that provides:

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 11.

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraphs 15-17.

³ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), “Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements,” paragraphs 32-33, 35-38, and 48.

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 2.

- (a) A sufficient and appropriate record of the basis for the auditor’s report; and
- (b) Evidence that the audit was planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Definitions

6. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
- (a) Audit documentation – The record of audit procedures performed, relevant audit evidence obtained, and conclusions the auditor reached (terms such as “working papers” or “workpapers” are also sometimes used).
 - (b) Audit file – One or more folders or other storage media, in physical or electronic form, containing the records that comprise the audit documentation for a specific engagement.
 - (c) Experienced auditor – An individual (whether internal or external to the firm) who has practical audit experience, and a reasonable understanding of:
 - (i) Audit processes;
 - (ii) ISAs and applicable legal and regulatory requirements;
 - (iii) The business environment in which the entity operates; and
 - (iv) Auditing and financial reporting issues relevant to the entity’s industry.

Requirements

Timely Preparation of Audit Documentation

7. The auditor shall prepare audit documentation on a timely basis. (Ref: Para. A1)

Documentation of the Audit Procedures Performed and Audit Evidence Obtained

Form, Content and Extent of Audit Documentation

8. The auditor shall prepare audit documentation that is sufficient to enable an experienced auditor, having no previous connection with the audit, to understand: (Ref: Para. A2-A5, A16-A17)
- (a) The nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed to comply with the ISAs (UK and Ireland) and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; (Ref: Para. A6-A7)
 - (b) The results of the audit procedures performed, and the audit evidence obtained; and
 - (c) Significant matters arising during the audit, the conclusions reached thereon, and significant professional judgments made in reaching those conclusions. (Ref: Para. A8-A11)

8D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor shall retain any other data and documents in the audit documentation that are of importance in support of the auditor’s report. [AD/Article 24b.5]

9. In documenting the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures performed, the auditor shall record:

- (a) The identifying characteristics of the specific items or matters tested; (Ref: Para. A12)
 - (b) Who performed the audit work and the date such work was completed; and
 - (c) Who reviewed the audit work performed and the date and extent of such review. (Ref: Para. A13)
10. The auditor shall document discussions of significant matters with management, those charged with governance, and others, including the nature of the significant matters discussed and when and with whom the discussions took place. (Ref: Para. A14)
11. If the auditor identified information that is inconsistent with the auditor’s final conclusion regarding a significant matter, the auditor shall document how the auditor addressed the inconsistency. (Ref: Para. A15)

Departure from a Relevant Requirement

12. If, in exceptional circumstances, the auditor judges it necessary to depart from a relevant requirement in an ISA (UK and Ireland), the auditor shall document how the alternative audit procedures performed achieve the aim of that requirement, and the reasons for the departure. (Ref: Para. A18-A19)

Matters Arising after the Date of the Auditor’s Report

13. If, in exceptional circumstances, the auditor performs new or additional audit procedures or draws new conclusions after the date of the auditor’s report, the auditor shall document: (Ref: Para. A20)
- (a) The circumstances encountered;
 - (b) The new or additional audit procedures performed, audit evidence obtained, and conclusions reached, and their effect on the auditor’s report; and
 - (c) When and by whom the resulting changes to audit documentation were made and reviewed.

Assembly of the Final Audit File

14. The auditor shall assemble the audit documentation in an audit file and complete the administrative process of assembling the final audit file on a timely basis after the date of the auditor’s report. (Ref: Para. A21-A22)

14D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor shall retain any other data and documents that are of importance for monitoring compliance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) and other applicable legal requirements. [AD/Article 24b.5]

14D-2. For statutory audits of financial statements, the audit file shall be closed no later than 60 days after the date of signature of the auditor’s report. [AD/Article 24b.5]

15. After the assembly of the final audit file has been completed, the auditor shall not delete or discard audit documentation of any nature before the end of its retention period. (Ref: Para. A23)
16. In circumstances other than those envisaged in paragraph 13 where the auditor finds it necessary to modify existing audit documentation or add new audit documentation after the assembly of the final audit file has been completed, the auditor shall, regardless of the nature of the modifications or additions, document: (Ref: Para. A24)
- (a) The specific reasons for making them; and

- (b) When and by whom they were made and reviewed.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Timely Preparation of Audit Documentation (Ref: Para. 7)

- A1. Preparing sufficient and appropriate audit documentation on a timely basis helps to enhance the quality of the audit and facilitates the effective review and evaluation of the audit evidence obtained and conclusions reached before the auditor's report is finalized. Documentation prepared after the audit work has been performed is likely to be less accurate than documentation prepared at the time such work is performed.

Documentation of the Audit Procedures Performed and Audit Evidence Obtained

Form, Content and Extent of Audit Documentation (Ref: Para. 8)

- A2. The form, content and extent of audit documentation depend on factors such as:
- The size and complexity of the entity.
 - The nature of the audit procedures to be performed.
 - The identified risks of material misstatement.
 - The significance of the audit evidence obtained.
 - The nature and extent of exceptions identified.
 - The need to document a conclusion or the basis for a conclusion not readily determinable from the documentation of the work performed or audit evidence obtained.
 - The audit methodology and tools used.
- A3. Audit documentation may be recorded on paper or on electronic or other media. Examples of audit documentation include:
- Audit programs.
 - Analyses.
 - Issues memoranda.
 - Summaries of significant matters.
 - Letters of confirmation and representation.
 - Checklists.
 - Correspondence (including e-mail) concerning significant matters.

The auditor may include abstracts or copies of the entity's records (for example, significant and specific contracts and agreements) as part of audit documentation. Audit documentation, however, is not a substitute for the entity's accounting records.

- A4. The auditor need not include in audit documentation superseded drafts of working papers and financial statements, notes that reflect incomplete or preliminary thinking, previous copies of documents corrected for typographical or other errors, and duplicates of documents.

- A5. Oral explanations by the auditor, on their own, do not represent adequate support for the work the auditor performed or conclusions the auditor reached, but may be used to explain or clarify information contained in the audit documentation.

Documentation of Compliance with ISAs (Ref: Para. 8(a))

- A6. In principle, compliance with the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland) will result in the audit documentation being sufficient and appropriate in the circumstances. Other ISAs (UK and Ireland) contain specific documentation requirements that are intended to clarify the application of this ISA (UK and Ireland) in the particular circumstances of those other ISAs (UK and Ireland). The specific documentation requirements of other ISAs do not limit the application of this ISA (UK and Ireland). Furthermore, the absence of a documentation requirement in any particular ISA (UK and Ireland) is not intended to suggest that there is no documentation that will be prepared as a result of complying with that ISA (UK and Ireland).
- A7. Audit documentation provides evidence that the audit complies with the ISAs (UK and Ireland). However, it is neither necessary nor practicable for the auditor to document every matter considered, or professional judgment made, in an audit. Further, it is unnecessary for the auditor to document separately (as in a checklist, for example) compliance with matters for which compliance is demonstrated by documents included within the audit file. For example:
- The existence of an adequately documented audit plan demonstrates that the auditor has planned the audit.
 - The existence of a signed engagement letter in the audit file demonstrates that the auditor has agreed the terms of the audit engagement with management or, where appropriate, those charged with governance.
 - An auditor's report containing an appropriately qualified opinion on the financial statements demonstrates that the auditor has complied with the requirement to express a qualified opinion under the circumstances specified in the ISAs (UK and Ireland).
 - In relation to requirements that apply generally throughout the audit, there may be a number of ways in which compliance with them may be demonstrated within the audit file:
 - For example, there may be no single way in which the auditor's professional skepticism is documented. But the audit documentation may nevertheless provide evidence of the auditor's exercise of professional skepticism in accordance with the ISAs (UK and Ireland). Such evidence may include specific procedures performed to corroborate management's responses to the auditor's inquiries.
 - Similarly, that the engagement partner has taken responsibility for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit in compliance with the ISAs (UK and Ireland) may be evidenced in a number of ways within the audit documentation. This may include documentation of the engagement

partner’s timely involvement in aspects of the audit, such as participation in the team discussions required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised).⁵

Documentation of Significant Matters and Related Significant Professional Judgments (Ref: Para. 8(c))

- A8. Judging the significance of a matter requires an objective analysis of the facts and circumstances. Examples of significant matters include:
- Matters that give rise to significant risks (as defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised)).⁶
 - Results of audit procedures indicating (a) that the financial statements could be materially misstated, or (b) a need to revise the auditor’s previous assessment of the risks of material misstatement and the auditor’s responses to those risks.
 - Circumstances that cause the auditor significant difficulty in applying necessary audit procedures.
 - Findings that could result in a modification to the audit opinion or the inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report.
 - Concerns about the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern.
- A9. An important factor in determining the form, content and extent of audit documentation of significant matters is the extent of professional judgment exercised in performing the work and evaluating the results. Documentation of the professional judgments made, where significant, serves to explain the auditor’s conclusions and to reinforce the quality of the judgment. Such matters are of particular interest to those responsible for reviewing audit documentation, including those carrying out subsequent audits when reviewing matters of continuing significance (for example, when performing a retrospective review of accounting estimates).
- A10. Some examples of circumstances in which, in accordance with paragraph 8, it is appropriate to prepare audit documentation relating to the use of professional judgment include, where the matters and judgments are significant:
- The rationale for the auditor’s conclusion when a requirement provides that the auditor “shall consider” certain information or factors, and that consideration is significant in the context of the particular engagement.
 - The basis for the auditor’s conclusion on the reasonableness of areas of subjective judgments (for example, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates).
 - The basis for the auditor’s conclusions about the authenticity of a document when further investigation (such as making appropriate use of an expert or of confirmation procedures) is undertaken in response to conditions identified during the audit that caused the auditor to believe that the document may not be authentic.

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment,” paragraph 10.

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 4(e).

- When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 applies,⁷ the auditor’s determination of the key audit matters or the determination that there are no key audit matters to be communicated. [IAASB/AR]

A11. The auditor may consider it helpful to prepare and retain as part of the audit documentation a summary (sometimes known as a completion memorandum) that describes the significant matters identified during the audit and how they were addressed, or that includes cross-references to other relevant supporting audit documentation that provides such information. Such a summary may facilitate effective and efficient reviews and inspections of the audit documentation, particularly for large and complex audits. Further, the preparation of such a summary may assist the auditor’s consideration of the significant matters. It may also help the auditor to consider whether, in light of the audit procedures performed and conclusions reached, there is any individual relevant ISA (UK and Ireland) objective that the auditor cannot achieve that would prevent the auditor from achieving the overall objectives of the auditor.

Identification of Specific Items or Matters Tested, and of the Preparer and Reviewer (Ref: Para. 9)

A12. Recording the identifying characteristics serves a number of purposes. For example, it enables the engagement team to be accountable for its work and facilitates the investigation of exceptions or inconsistencies. Identifying characteristics will vary with the nature of the audit procedure and the item or matter tested. For example:

- For a detailed test of entity-generated purchase orders, the auditor may identify the documents selected for testing by their dates and unique purchase order numbers.
- For a procedure requiring selection or review of all items over a specific amount from a given population, the auditor may record the scope of the procedure and identify the population (for example, all journal entries over a specified amount from the journal register).
- For a procedure requiring systematic sampling from a population of documents, the auditor may identify the documents selected by recording their source, the starting point and the sampling interval (for example, a systematic sample of shipping reports selected from the shipping log for the period from April 1 to September 30, starting with report number 12345 and selecting every 125th report).
- For a procedure requiring inquiries of specific entity personnel, the auditor may record the dates of the inquiries and the names and job designations of the entity personnel.
- For an observation procedure, the auditor may record the process or matter being observed, the relevant individuals, their respective responsibilities, and where and when the observation was carried out.

A13. ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) requires the auditor to review the audit work performed through review of the audit documentation.⁸ The requirement to document

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report”

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 17.

who reviewed the audit work performed does not imply a need for each specific working paper to include evidence of review. The requirement, however, means documenting what audit work was reviewed, who reviewed such work, and when it was reviewed.

Documentation of Discussions of Significant Matters with Management, Those Charged with Governance, and Others (Ref: Para. 10)

A14. The documentation is not limited to records prepared by the auditor but may include other appropriate records such as minutes of meetings prepared by the entity's personnel and agreed by the auditor. Others with whom the auditor may discuss significant matters may include other personnel within the entity, and external parties, such as persons providing professional advice to the entity.

Documentation of How Inconsistencies have been Addressed (Ref: Para. 11)

A15. The requirement to document how the auditor addressed inconsistencies in information does not imply that the auditor needs to retain documentation that is incorrect or superseded.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities (Ref: Para. 8)

A16. The audit documentation for the audit of a smaller entity is generally less extensive than that for the audit of a larger entity. Further, in the case of an audit where the engagement partner performs all the audit work, the documentation will not include matters that might have to be documented solely to inform or instruct members of an engagement team, or to provide evidence of review by other members of the team (for example, there will be no matters to document relating to team discussions or supervision). Nevertheless, the engagement partner complies with the overriding requirement in paragraph 8 to prepare audit documentation that can be understood by an experienced auditor, as the audit documentation may be subject to review by external parties for regulatory or other purposes.

A17. When preparing audit documentation, the auditor of a smaller entity may also find it helpful and efficient to record various aspects of the audit together in a single document, with cross-references to supporting working papers as appropriate. Examples of matters that may be documented together in the audit of a smaller entity include the understanding of the entity and its internal control, the overall audit strategy and audit plan, materiality determined in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised),⁹ assessed risks, significant matters noted during the audit, and conclusions reached.

***Departure from a Relevant Requirement* (Ref: Para. 12)**

A18. The requirements of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) are designed to enable the auditor to achieve the objectives specified in the ISAs (UK and Ireland), and thereby the overall objectives of the auditor. Accordingly, other than in exceptional circumstances, the ISAs (UK and Ireland) call for compliance with each requirement that is relevant in the circumstances of the audit.

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit."

- A19. The documentation requirement applies only to requirements that are relevant in the circumstances. A requirement is not relevant¹⁰ only in the cases where:
- (a) The entire ISA (UK and Ireland) is not relevant (for example, if an entity does not have an internal audit function, nothing in ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013)¹¹ is relevant); or
 - (b) The requirement is conditional and the condition does not exist (for example, the requirement to modify the auditor’s opinion where there is an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, and there is no such inability).

Matters Arising after the Date of the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 13)

- A20. Examples of exceptional circumstances include facts which become known to the auditor after the date of the auditor’s report but which existed at that date and which, if known at that date, might have caused the financial statements to be amended or the auditor to modify the opinion in the auditor’s report.¹² The resulting changes to the audit documentation are reviewed in accordance with the review responsibilities set out in ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised),¹³ with the engagement partner taking final responsibility for the changes.

Assembly of the Final Audit File (Ref: Para. 14-16)

- A21. ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised) (or national requirements that are at least as demanding) requires firms to establish policies and procedures for the timely completion of the assembly of audit files.¹⁴ An appropriate time limit within which to complete the assembly of the final audit file is ordinarily not more than 60 days after the date of the auditor’s report.¹⁵
- A22. The completion of the assembly of the final audit file after the date of the auditor’s report is an administrative process that does not involve the performance of new audit procedures or the drawing of new conclusions. Changes may, however, be made to the audit documentation during the final assembly process if they are administrative in nature. Examples of such changes include:
- Deleting or discarding superseded documentation.
 - Sorting, collating and cross-referencing working papers.
 - Signing off on completion checklists relating to the file assembly process.
 - Documenting audit evidence that the auditor has obtained, discussed and agreed with the relevant members of the engagement team before the date of the auditor’s report.
- A23. ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised) (or national requirements that are at least as demanding) requires firms to establish policies and procedures for the retention of

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 22.

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), “Using the Work of Internal Auditors,” paragraph 2.

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events,” paragraph 14.

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 16.

¹⁴ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph 45.

¹⁵ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph A54.

engagement documentation.¹⁶ The retention period for audit engagements ordinarily is no shorter than five years from the date of the auditor’s report, or, if later, the date of the group auditor’s report.¹⁷

- A24. An example of a circumstance in which the auditor may find it necessary to modify existing audit documentation or add new audit documentation after file assembly has been completed is the need to clarify existing audit documentation arising from comments received during monitoring inspections performed by internal or external parties.

¹⁶ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph 47.

¹⁷ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph A61.

In the UK and Ireland the auditor has regard to specific requirements of the auditor’s relevant professional body.

Appendix

(Ref: Para. 1)

Specific Audit Documentation Requirements in Other ISAs

This appendix identifies paragraphs in other ISAs (UK and Ireland) ~~in effect for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010~~ that contain specific documentation requirements. The list is not a substitute for considering the requirements and related application and other explanatory material in ISAs.

- ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements” – paragraphs 10-12
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements” – paragraphs 24-25
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements” – paragraphs 44-47
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised), Section A “Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements” – paragraph 29
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance” – paragraphs 23 and 23D-1
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised), “Planning an Audit of Financial Statements” – paragraph 12
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment” – paragraph 32
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit” – paragraph 14
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks” – paragraphs 28-30
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified During the Audit” – paragraph 15
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised), “Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures” – paragraph 23
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 550, “Related Parties” – paragraph 28
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised), “Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)” – paragraphs 50 and 50D-1
- ~~ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), “Using the Work of Internal Auditors” – paragraphs 36 and 37~~
- ~~ISA (UK and Ireland) 620 (Revised), “Using the Work of an Auditor’s Expert” – paragraph 15D-1~~
- ~~ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information” – paragraph 25~~
- ~~ISA (UK and Ireland) 720, Section B “The Auditor’s Statutory Reporting Responsibility in Relation to Directors’ reports” – paragraph 12~~

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 240 (REVISED)**

**THE AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO
FRAUD IN AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~15 December 2010)

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<p>International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”</p>

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor’s responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements. Specifically, it expands on how ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#)¹ and ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#)² are to be applied in relation to risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Characteristics of Fraud

2. Misstatements in the financial statements can arise from either fraud or error. The distinguishing factor between fraud and error is whether the underlying action that results in the misstatement of the financial statements is intentional or unintentional.
3. Although fraud is a broad legal concept, for the purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the auditor is concerned with fraud that causes a material misstatement in the financial statements. Two types of intentional misstatements are relevant to the auditor – misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting and misstatements resulting from misappropriation of assets. Although the auditor may suspect or, in rare cases, identify the occurrence of fraud, the auditor does not make legal determinations of whether fraud has actually occurred. (Ref: Para. A1-A6)

Responsibility for the Prevention and Detection of Fraud

4. The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management. It is important that management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, place a strong emphasis on fraud prevention, which may reduce opportunities for fraud to take place, and fraud deterrence, which could persuade individuals not to commit fraud because of the likelihood of detection and punishment. This involves a commitment to creating a culture of honesty and ethical behavior which can be reinforced by an active oversight by those charged with governance. Oversight by those charged with governance includes considering the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process, such as efforts by management to manage earnings in order to influence the perceptions of analysts as to the entity’s performance and profitability.

Responsibilities of the Auditor

5. An auditor conducting an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) is responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements taken as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements of the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK and Ireland).³

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment.”

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks.”

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph A51.

6. As described in ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised),⁴ the potential effects of inherent limitations are particularly significant in the case of misstatement resulting from fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error. This is because fraud may involve sophisticated and carefully organized schemes designed to conceal it, such as forgery, deliberate failure to record transactions, or intentional misrepresentations being made to the auditor. Such attempts at concealment may be even more difficult to detect when accompanied by collusion. Collusion may cause the auditor to believe that audit evidence is persuasive when it is, in fact, false. The auditor's ability to detect a fraud depends on factors such as the skillfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved. While the auditor may be able to identify potential opportunities for fraud to be perpetrated, it is difficult for the auditor to determine whether misstatements in judgment areas such as accounting estimates are caused by fraud or error.
7. Furthermore, the risk of the auditor not detecting a material misstatement resulting from management fraud is greater than for employee fraud, because management is frequently in a position to directly or indirectly manipulate accounting records, present fraudulent financial information or override control procedures designed to prevent similar frauds by other employees.
8. When obtaining reasonable assurance, the auditor is responsible for maintaining professional skepticism throughout the audit, considering the potential for management override of controls and recognizing the fact that audit procedures that are effective for detecting error may not be effective in detecting fraud. The requirements in this ISA (UK and Ireland) are designed to assist the auditor in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement due to fraud and in designing procedures to detect such misstatement.

Effective Date

9. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ on or after ~~15 December 2010~~ 17 June 2016.

Objectives

10. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud;
 - (b) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and
 - (c) To respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

Definitions

11. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph A51.

- (a) Fraud – An intentional act by one or more individuals among management, those charged with governance, employees, or third parties, involving the use of deception to obtain an unjust or illegal advantage.
- (b) Fraud risk factors – Events or conditions that indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud.

Requirements

Professional Skepticism

- 12. In accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#), the auditor shall maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit, recognizing the possibility that a material misstatement due to fraud could exist, notwithstanding the auditor’s past experience of the honesty and integrity of the entity’s management and those charged with governance. (Ref: Para. A7- A8)
- 13. Unless the auditor has reason to believe the contrary, the auditor may accept records and documents as genuine. If conditions identified during the audit cause the auditor to believe that a document may not be authentic or that terms in a document have been modified but not disclosed to the auditor, the auditor shall investigate further. (Ref: Para. A9)
- 14. Where responses to inquiries of management or those charged with governance are inconsistent, the auditor shall investigate the inconsistencies.

Discussion among the Engagement Team

- 15. ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#) requires a discussion among the engagement team members and a determination by the engagement partner of which matters are to be communicated to those team members not involved in the discussion.⁵ This discussion shall place particular emphasis on how and where the entity’s financial statements may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud, including how fraud might occur. The discussion shall occur setting aside beliefs that the engagement team members may have that management and those charged with governance are honest and have integrity. (Ref: Para. A10-A11)

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities

- 16. When performing risk assessment procedures and related activities to obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity’s internal control, required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#),⁶ the auditor shall perform the procedures in paragraphs 17-24 to obtain information for use in identifying the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Management and Others within the Entity

- 17. The auditor shall make inquiries of management regarding:
 - (a) Management’s assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud, including the nature, extent and frequency of such assessments; (Ref: Para. A12-A13)

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 10.

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraphs 5-24.

- (b) Management’s process for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity, including any specific risks of fraud that management has identified or that have been brought to its attention, or classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosures for which a risk of fraud is likely to exist; (Ref: Para. A14)
 - (c) Management’s communication, if any, to those charged with governance regarding its processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity; and
 - (d) Management’s communication, if any, to employees regarding its views on business practices and ethical behavior.
18. The auditor shall make inquiries of management, and others within the entity as appropriate, to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity. (Ref: Para. A15-A17)
19. For those entities that have an internal audit function, the auditor shall make inquiries of appropriate individuals within the function to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity, and to obtain its views about the risks of fraud. (Ref: Para. A18)

Those Charged with Governance

20. Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity,⁷ the auditor shall obtain an understanding of how those charged with governance exercise oversight of management’s processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity and the internal control that management has established to mitigate these risks. (Ref: Para. A19-A21)
21. Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, the auditor shall make inquiries of those charged with governance to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity. These inquiries are made in part to corroborate the responses to the inquiries of management.

Unusual or Unexpected Relationships Identified

22. The auditor shall evaluate whether unusual or unexpected relationships that have been identified in performing analytical procedures, including those related to revenue accounts, may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Other Information

23. The auditor shall consider whether other information obtained by the auditor indicates risks of material misstatement due to fraud. (Ref: Para. A22)

Evaluation of Fraud Risk Factors

24. The auditor shall evaluate whether the information obtained from the other risk assessment procedures and related activities performed indicates that one or more fraud risk factors are present. While fraud risk factors may not necessarily indicate the existence of fraud, they have often been present in circumstances where frauds have occurred and therefore may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud. (Ref:

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 13.

Para. A23-A27)

Identification and Assessment of the Risks of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud

25. In accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), the auditor shall identify and assess the risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the financial statement level, and at the assertion level for classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures.⁸
26. When identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement due to fraud, the auditor shall, based on a presumption that there are risks of fraud in revenue recognition, evaluate which types of revenue, revenue transactions or assertions give rise to such risks. Paragraph 47 specifies the documentation required where the auditor concludes that the presumption is not applicable in the circumstances of the engagement and, accordingly, has not identified revenue recognition as a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. (Ref: Para. A28-A30)
27. The auditor shall treat those assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud as significant risks and accordingly, to the extent not already done so, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of the entity's related controls, including control activities, relevant to such risks. (Ref: Para. A31-A32)

Responses to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud

Overall Responses

28. In accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), the auditor shall determine overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the financial statement level.⁹ (Ref: Para. A33)
29. In determining overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the financial statement level, the auditor shall:
 - (a) Assign and supervise personnel taking account of the knowledge, skill and ability of the individuals to be given significant engagement responsibilities and the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud for the engagement; (Ref: Para. A34-A35)
 - (b) Evaluate whether the selection and application of accounting policies by the entity, particularly those related to subjective measurements and complex transactions, may be indicative of fraudulent financial reporting resulting from management's effort to manage earnings; and
 - (c) Incorporate an element of unpredictability in the selection of the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures. (Ref: Para. A36)

Audit Procedures Responsive to Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud at the Assertion Level

30. In accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), the auditor shall design and perform further audit procedures whose nature, timing and extent are responsive to the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the assertion level.¹⁰ (Ref: Para. A37-A40)

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 25.

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph 5.

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph 6.

Audit Procedures Responsive to Risks Related to Management Override of Controls

31. Management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of management's ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Although the level of risk of management override of controls will vary from entity to entity, the risk is nevertheless present in all entities. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, it is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and thus a significant risk.
32. Irrespective of the auditor's assessment of the risks of management override of controls, the auditor shall design and perform audit procedures to:
 - (a) Test the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements. In designing and performing audit procedures for such tests, the auditor shall:
 - (i) Make inquiries of individuals involved in the financial reporting process about inappropriate or unusual activity relating to the processing of journal entries and other adjustments;
 - (ii) Select journal entries and other adjustments made at the end of a reporting period; and
 - (iii) Consider the need to test journal entries and other adjustments throughout the period. (Ref: Para. A41-A44)
 - (b) Review accounting estimates for biases and evaluate whether the circumstances producing the bias, if any, represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. In performing this review, the auditor shall:
 - (i) Evaluate whether the judgments and decisions made by management in making the accounting estimates included in the financial statements, even if they are individually reasonable, indicate a possible bias on the part of the entity's management that may represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. If so, the auditor shall reevaluate the accounting estimates taken as a whole; and
 - (ii) Perform a retrospective review of management judgments and assumptions related to significant accounting estimates reflected in the financial statements of the prior year. (Ref: Para. A45-A47)
 - (c) For significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appear to be unusual given the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment and other information obtained during the audit, the auditor shall evaluate whether the business rationale (or the lack thereof) of the transactions suggests that they may have been entered into to engage in fraudulent financial reporting or to conceal misappropriation of assets. (Ref: Para. A48)
33. The auditor shall determine whether, in order to respond to the identified risks of management override of controls, the auditor needs to perform other audit procedures in addition to those specifically referred to above (that is, where there are specific additional risks of management override that are not covered as part of the procedures performed to address the requirements in paragraph 32).

Evaluation of Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. A49)

34. The auditor shall evaluate whether analytical procedures that are performed near the

- end of the audit, when forming an overall conclusion as to whether the financial statements are consistent with the auditor's understanding of the entity, indicate a previously unrecognized risk of material misstatement due to fraud. (Ref: Para. A50)
35. If the auditor identifies a misstatement, the auditor shall evaluate whether such a misstatement is indicative of fraud. If there is such an indication, the auditor shall evaluate the implications of the misstatement in relation to other aspects of the audit, particularly the reliability of management representations, recognizing that an instance of fraud is unlikely to be an isolated occurrence. (Ref: Para. A51)
 36. If the auditor identifies a misstatement, whether material or not, and the auditor has reason to believe that it is or may be the result of fraud and that management (in particular, senior management) is involved, the auditor shall reevaluate the assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud and its resulting impact on the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures to respond to the assessed risks. The auditor shall also consider whether circumstances or conditions indicate possible collusion involving employees, management or third parties when reconsidering the reliability of evidence previously obtained. (Ref: Para. A52)
 37. If the auditor confirms that, or is unable to conclude whether, the financial statements are materially misstated as a result of fraud the auditor shall evaluate the implications for the audit. (Ref: Para. A53)

Auditor Unable to Continue the Engagement

38. If, as a result of a misstatement resulting from fraud or suspected fraud, the auditor encounters exceptional circumstances that bring into question the auditor's ability to continue performing the audit, the auditor shall:
 - (a) Determine the professional and legal responsibilities applicable in the circumstances, including whether there is a requirement for the auditor to report to the person or persons who made the audit appointment or, in some cases, to regulatory authorities;
 - (b) Consider whether it is appropriate to withdraw from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation; and
 - (c) If the auditor withdraws:
 - (i) Discuss with the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance the auditor's withdrawal from the engagement and the reasons for the withdrawal; and
 - (ii) Determine whether there is a professional or legal requirement to report to the person or persons who made the audit appointment or, in some cases, to regulatory authorities, the auditor's withdrawal from the engagement and the reasons for the withdrawal. (Ref: Para. A54-A57)

Written Representations

39. The auditor shall obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance that:
 - (a) They acknowledge their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud;
 - (b) They have disclosed to the auditor the results of management's assessment of the

- risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- (c) They have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:
 - (i) Management;
 - (ii) Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - (iii) Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; and
 - (d) They have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others. (Ref: Para. A58-A59)

Communications to Management and with Those Charged with Governance

- 40. If the auditor has identified a fraud or has obtained information that indicates that a fraud may exist, the auditor shall communicate these matters on a timely basis to the appropriate level of management in order to inform those with primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud of matters relevant to their responsibilities. (Ref: Para. A60)
- 41. Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, if the auditor has identified or suspects fraud involving:
 - (a) management;
 - (b) employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - (c) others where the fraud results in a material misstatement in the financial statements,

the auditor shall communicate these matters to those charged with governance on a timely basis. If the auditor suspects fraud involving management, the auditor shall communicate these suspicions to those charged with governance and discuss with them the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures necessary to complete the audit. (Ref: Para. A61-A63)
- 42. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance any other matters related to fraud that are, in the auditor's judgment, relevant to their responsibilities. (Ref: Para. A64)

42R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, when an auditor suspects or has reasonable grounds to suspect that irregularities, including fraud with regard to the financial statements of the entity, may occur or has occurred, the auditor shall inform the entity and invite it to investigate the matter and take appropriate measures to deal with such irregularities and to prevent any recurrence of such irregularities in the future. [AR/Article 7]

Communications to Regulatory and Enforcement Authorities

- 43. If the auditor has identified or suspects a fraud, the auditor shall determine whether there is a responsibility to report the occurrence or suspicion to a party outside the entity. Although the auditor's professional duty to maintain the confidentiality of client information may preclude such reporting, the auditor's legal responsibilities may override the duty of confidentiality in some circumstances. (Ref: Para. A65-A67)

43R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, where the entity does not investigate the matter referred to in paragraph 42R-1, the statutory auditor or the audit firm shall inform the authorities responsible for investigating such irregularities. (Ref: Para. A65-1-A65-2) [AR/Article 7]

Documentation

44. The auditor shall include the following in the audit documentation¹¹ of the auditor’s understanding of the entity and its environment and the assessment of the risks of material misstatement required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised):¹²
- (a) The significant decisions reached during the discussion among the engagement team regarding the susceptibility of the entity’s financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud; and
 - (b) The identified and assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the financial statement level and at the assertion level.
45. The auditor shall include the following in the audit documentation of the auditor’s responses to the assessed risks of material misstatement required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised):¹³
- (a) The overall responses to the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the financial statement level and the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures, and the linkage of those procedures with the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the assertion level; and
 - (b) The results of the audit procedures, including those designed to address the risk of management override of controls.
46. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation communications about fraud made to management, those charged with governance, regulators and others.
47. If the auditor has concluded that the presumption that there is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud related to revenue recognition is not applicable in the circumstances of the engagement, the auditor shall include in the audit documentation the reasons for that conclusion.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Characteristics of Fraud (Ref: Para. 3)

- A1. Fraud, whether fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets, involves incentive or pressure to commit fraud, a perceived opportunity to do so and some rationalization of the act. For example:
- Incentive or pressure to commit fraudulent financial reporting may exist when management is under pressure, from sources outside or inside the entity, to achieve an expected (and perhaps unrealistic) earnings target or financial outcome – particularly since the consequences to management for failing to meet financial goals can be significant. Similarly, individuals may have an incentive to

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 32.

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph 28.

misappropriate assets, for example, because the individuals are living beyond their means.

- A perceived opportunity to commit fraud may exist when an individual believes internal control can be overridden, for example, because the individual is in a position of trust or has knowledge of specific deficiencies in internal control.
- Individuals may be able to rationalize committing a fraudulent act. Some individuals possess an attitude, character or set of ethical values that allow them knowingly and intentionally to commit a dishonest act. However, even otherwise honest individuals can commit fraud in an environment that imposes sufficient pressure on them.

A2. Fraudulent financial reporting involves intentional misstatements including omissions of amounts or disclosures in financial statements to deceive financial statement users. It can be caused by the efforts of management to manage earnings in order to deceive financial statement users by influencing their perceptions as to the entity's performance and profitability. Such earnings management may start out with small actions or inappropriate adjustment of assumptions and changes in judgments by management. Pressures and incentives may lead these actions to increase to the extent that they result in fraudulent financial reporting. Such a situation could occur when, due to pressures to meet market expectations or a desire to maximize compensation based on performance, management intentionally takes positions that lead to fraudulent financial reporting by materially misstating the financial statements. In some entities, management may be motivated to reduce earnings by a material amount to minimize tax or to inflate earnings to secure bank financing.

A3. Fraudulent financial reporting may be accomplished by the following:

- Manipulation, falsification (including forgery), or alteration of accounting records or supporting documentation from which the financial statements are prepared.
- Misrepresentation in, or intentional omission from, the financial statements of events, transactions or other significant information.
- Intentional misapplication of accounting principles relating to amounts, classification, manner of presentation, or disclosure.

A4. Fraudulent financial reporting often involves management override of controls that otherwise may appear to be operating effectively. Fraud can be committed by management overriding controls using such techniques as intentionally:

- Recording fictitious journal entries, particularly close to the end of an accounting period, to manipulate operating results or achieve other objectives.
- Inappropriately adjusting assumptions and changing judgments used to estimate account balances.
- Omitting, advancing or delaying recognition in the financial statements of events and transactions that have occurred during the reporting period.
- Omitting, obscuring or misstating disclosures required by the applicable financial reporting framework, or disclosures that are necessary to achieve fair presentation.
- ~~Concealing, or not disclosing,~~ facts that could affect the amounts recorded in the financial statements.

- Engaging in complex transactions that are structured to misrepresent the financial position or financial performance of the entity.
- Altering records and terms related to significant and unusual transactions. [\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)

A5. Misappropriation of assets involves the theft of an entity's assets and is often perpetrated by employees in relatively small and immaterial amounts. However, it can also involve management who are usually more able to disguise or conceal misappropriations in ways that are difficult to detect. Misappropriation of assets can be accomplished in a variety of ways including:

- Embezzling receipts (for example, misappropriating collections on accounts receivable or diverting receipts in respect of written-off accounts to personal bank accounts).
- Stealing physical assets or intellectual property (for example, stealing inventory for personal use or for sale, stealing scrap for resale, colluding with a competitor by disclosing technological data in return for payment).
- Causing an entity to pay for goods and services not received (for example, payments to fictitious vendors, kickbacks paid by vendors to the entity's purchasing agents in return for inflating prices, payments to fictitious employees).
- Using an entity's assets for personal use (for example, using the entity's assets as collateral for a personal loan or a loan to a related party).

Misappropriation of assets is often accompanied by false or misleading records or documents in order to conceal the fact that the assets are missing or have been pledged without proper authorization.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A6. The public sector auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud may be a result of law, regulation or other authority applicable to public sector entities or separately covered by the auditor's mandate. Consequently, the public sector auditor's responsibilities may not be limited to consideration of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, but may also include a broader responsibility to consider risks of fraud.

Professional Skepticism (Ref: Para. 12-14)

- A7. Maintaining professional skepticism requires an ongoing questioning of whether the information and audit evidence obtained suggests that a material misstatement due to fraud may exist. It includes considering the reliability of the information to be used as audit evidence and the controls over its preparation and maintenance where relevant. Due to the characteristics of fraud, the auditor's professional skepticism is particularly important when considering the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- A8. Although the auditor cannot be expected to disregard past experience of the honesty and integrity of the entity's management and those charged with governance, the auditor's professional skepticism is particularly important in considering the risks of material misstatement due to fraud because there may have been changes in circumstances.
- A9. An audit performed in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) rarely involves the authentication of documents, nor is the auditor trained as or expected to be an expert in

such authentication.¹⁴ However, when the auditor identifies conditions that cause the auditor to believe that a document may not be authentic or that terms in a document have been modified but not disclosed to the auditor, possible procedures to investigate further may include:

- Confirming directly with the third party.
- Using the work of an expert to assess the document’s authenticity.

Discussion among the Engagement Team (Ref: Para. 15)

A10. Discussing the susceptibility of the entity’s financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud with the engagement team:

- Provides an opportunity for more experienced engagement team members to share their insights about how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud.
- Enables the auditor to consider an appropriate response to such susceptibility and to determine which members of the engagement team will conduct certain audit procedures.
- Permits the auditor to determine how the results of audit procedures will be shared among the engagement team and how to deal with any allegations of fraud that may come to the auditor’s attention.

A11. The discussion may include such matters as:

- An exchange of ideas among engagement team members about how and where they believe the entity’s financial statements (including the individual financial statements and the disclosures) may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud, how management could perpetrate and conceal fraudulent financial reporting, and how assets of the entity could be misappropriated.
- A consideration of circumstances that might be indicative of earnings management and the practices that might be followed by management to manage earnings that could lead to fraudulent financial reporting.
- A consideration of the risk that management may attempt to present disclosures in a manner that may obscure a proper understanding of the matters disclosed (for example, by including too much immaterial information or by using unclear or ambiguous language).
- A consideration of the known external and internal factors affecting the entity that may create an incentive or pressure for management or others to commit fraud, provide the opportunity for fraud to be perpetrated, and indicate a culture or environment that enables management or others to rationalize committing fraud.
- A consideration of management’s involvement in overseeing employees with access to cash or other assets susceptible to misappropriation.
- A consideration of any unusual or unexplained changes in behavior or lifestyle of management or employees which have come to the attention of the engagement team.

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph A47.

- An emphasis on the importance of maintaining a proper state of mind throughout the audit regarding the potential for material misstatement due to fraud.
- A consideration of the types of circumstances that, if encountered, might indicate the possibility of fraud.
- A consideration of how an element of unpredictability will be incorporated into the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures to be performed.
- A consideration of the audit procedures that might be selected to respond to the susceptibility of the entity’s financial statement to material misstatement due to fraud and whether certain types of audit procedures are more effective than others.
- A consideration of any allegations of fraud that have come to the auditor’s attention.
- A consideration of the risk of management override of controls.
[\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities

Inquiries of Management

Management’s Assessment of the Risk of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud (Ref: Para. 17(a))

A12. Management^{14a} accepts responsibility for the entity’s internal control and for the preparation of the entity’s financial statements. Accordingly, it is appropriate for the auditor to make inquiries of management regarding management’s own assessment of the risk of fraud and the controls in place to prevent and detect it. The nature, extent and frequency of management’s assessment of such risk and controls may vary from entity to entity. In some entities, management may make detailed assessments on an annual basis or as part of continuous monitoring. In other entities, management’s assessment may be less structured and less frequent. The nature, extent and frequency of management’s assessment are relevant to the auditor’s understanding of the entity’s control environment. For example, the fact that management has not made an assessment of the risk of fraud may in some circumstances be indicative of the lack of importance that management places on internal control.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

A13. In some entities, particularly smaller entities, the focus of management’s assessment may be on the risks of employee fraud or misappropriation of assets.

Management’s Process for Identifying and Responding to the Risks of Fraud (Ref: Para. 17(b))

A14. In the case of entities with multiple locations management’s processes may include different levels of monitoring of operating locations, or business segments. Management may also have identified particular operating locations or business segments for which a risk of fraud may be more likely to exist.

Inquiry of Management and Others within the Entity (Ref: Para. 18)

A15. The auditor’s inquiries of management may provide useful information concerning the risks of material misstatements in the financial statements resulting from employee fraud. However, such inquiries are unlikely to provide useful information regarding the

^{14a} In the UK and Ireland those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

risks of material misstatement in the financial statements resulting from management fraud. Making inquiries of others within the entity may provide individuals with an opportunity to convey information to the auditor that may not otherwise be communicated.

- A16. Examples of others within the entity to whom the auditor may direct inquiries about the existence or suspicion of fraud include:
- Operating personnel not directly involved in the financial reporting process.
 - Employees with different levels of authority.
 - Employees involved in initiating, processing or recording complex or unusual transactions and those who supervise or monitor such employees.
 - In-house legal counsel.
 - Chief ethics officer or equivalent person.
 - The person or persons charged with dealing with allegations of fraud.
- A17. Management is often in the best position to perpetrate fraud. Accordingly, when evaluating management’s responses to inquiries with an attitude of professional skepticism, the auditor may judge it necessary to corroborate responses to inquiries with other information.

Inquiries of the Internal Audit Function (Ref: Para. 19)

- A18. ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised June 2013) and ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013) establish requirements and provide guidance relevant to audits of those entities that have an internal audit function.¹⁵ In carrying out the requirements of those ISAs (UK and Ireland) in the context of fraud, the auditor may inquire about specific activities of the function including, for example:
- The procedures performed, if any, by the internal audit function during the year to detect fraud.
 - Whether management has satisfactorily responded to any findings resulting from those procedures.

Obtaining an Understanding of Oversight Exercised by Those Charged with Governance
(Ref: Para. 20)

- A19. Those charged with governance of an entity oversee the entity’s systems for monitoring risk, financial control and compliance with the law. In many countries, corporate governance practices are well developed and those charged with governance play an active role in oversight of the entity’s assessment of the risks of fraud and of the relevant internal control. Since the responsibilities of those charged with governance and management may vary by entity and by country, it is important that the auditor understands their respective responsibilities to enable the auditor to obtain an understanding of the oversight exercised by the appropriate individuals.¹⁶
- A20. An understanding of the oversight exercised by those charged with governance may

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised June 2013), paragraphs 6(a) and 23, and ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), “Using the Work of Internal Auditors.”

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraphs A1-A8, discuss with whom the auditor communicates when the entity’s governance structure is not well defined.

provide insights regarding the susceptibility of the entity to management fraud, the adequacy of internal control over risks of fraud, and the competency and integrity of management. The auditor may obtain this understanding in a number of ways, such as by attending meetings where such discussions take place, reading the minutes from such meetings or making inquiries of those charged with governance.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A21. In some cases, all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity. This may be the case in a small entity where a single owner manages the entity and no one else has a governance role. In these cases, there is ordinarily no action on the part of the auditor because there is no oversight separate from management.

Consideration of Other Information (Ref: Para. 23)

A22. In addition to information obtained from applying analytical procedures, other information obtained about the entity and its environment may be helpful in identifying the risks of material misstatement due to fraud. The discussion among team members may provide information that is helpful in identifying such risks. In addition, information obtained from the auditor's client acceptance and retention processes, and experience gained on other engagements performed for the entity, for example engagements to review interim financial information, may be relevant in the identification of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Evaluation of Fraud Risk Factors (Ref: Para. 24)

A23. The fact that fraud is usually concealed can make it very difficult to detect. Nevertheless, the auditor may identify events or conditions that indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud (fraud risk factors). For example:

- The need to meet expectations of third parties to obtain additional equity financing may create pressure to commit fraud;
- The granting of significant bonuses if unrealistic profit targets are met may create an incentive to commit fraud; and
- A control environment that is not effective may create an opportunity to commit fraud.

A24. Fraud risk factors cannot easily be ranked in order of importance. The significance of fraud risk factors varies widely. Some of these factors will be present in entities where the specific conditions do not present risks of material misstatement. Accordingly, the determination of whether a fraud risk factor is present and whether it is to be considered in assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud requires the exercise of professional judgment.

A25. Examples of fraud risk factors related to fraudulent financial reporting and misappropriation of assets are presented in Appendix 1. These illustrative risk factors are classified based on the three conditions that are generally present when fraud exists:

- An incentive or pressure to commit fraud;
- A perceived opportunity to commit fraud; and
- An ability to rationalize the fraudulent action.

Risk factors reflective of an attitude that permits rationalization of the fraudulent action

may not be susceptible to observation by the auditor. Nevertheless, the auditor may become aware of the existence of such information. Although the fraud risk factors described in Appendix 1 cover a broad range of situations that may be faced by auditors, they are only examples and other risk factors may exist.

A26. The size, complexity, and ownership characteristics of the entity have a significant influence on the consideration of relevant fraud risk factors. For example, in the case of a large entity, there may be factors that generally constrain improper conduct by management, such as:

- Effective oversight by those charged with governance.
- An effective internal audit function.
- The existence and enforcement of a written code of conduct.

Furthermore, fraud risk factors considered at a business segment operating level may provide different insights when compared with those obtained when considered at an entity-wide level.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A27. In the case of a small entity, some or all of these considerations may be inapplicable or less relevant. For example, a smaller entity may not have a written code of conduct but, instead, may have developed a culture that emphasizes the importance of integrity and ethical behavior through oral communication and by management example. Domination of management by a single individual in a small entity does not generally, in and of itself, indicate a failure by management to display and communicate an appropriate attitude regarding internal control and the financial reporting process. In some entities, the need for management authorization can compensate for otherwise deficient controls and reduce the risk of employee fraud. However, domination of management by a single individual can be a potential deficiency in internal control since there is an opportunity for management override of controls.

Identification and Assessment of the Risks of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud

Risks of Fraud in Revenue Recognition (Ref: Para. 26)

A28. Material misstatement due to fraudulent financial reporting relating to revenue recognition often results from an overstatement of revenues through, for example, premature revenue recognition or recording fictitious revenues. It may result also from an understatement of revenues through, for example, improperly shifting revenues to a later period.

A29. The risks of fraud in revenue recognition may be greater in some entities than others. For example, there may be pressures or incentives on management to commit fraudulent financial reporting through inappropriate revenue recognition in the case of listed entities when, for example, performance is measured in terms of year-over-year revenue growth or profit. Similarly, for example, there may be greater risks of fraud in revenue recognition in the case of entities that generate a substantial portion of revenues through cash sales.

A30. The presumption that there are risks of fraud in revenue recognition may be rebutted. For example, the auditor may conclude that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue recognition in the case where there is a single type of simple revenue transaction, for example, leasehold revenue from a single unit rental

property.

Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud and Understanding the Entity's Related Controls (Ref: Para. 27)

- A31. Management may make judgments on the nature and extent of the controls it chooses to implement, and the nature and extent of the risks it chooses to assume.¹⁷ In determining which controls to implement to prevent and detect fraud, management considers the risks that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. As part of this consideration, management may conclude that it is not cost effective to implement and maintain a particular control in relation to the reduction in the risks of material misstatement due to fraud to be achieved.
- A32. It is therefore important for the auditor to obtain an understanding of the controls that management has designed, implemented and maintained to prevent and detect fraud. In doing so, the auditor may learn, for example, that management has consciously chosen to accept the risks associated with a lack of segregation of duties. Information from obtaining this understanding may also be useful in identifying fraud risks factors that may affect the auditor's assessment of the risks that the financial statements may contain material misstatement due to fraud.

Responses to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud

Overall Responses (Ref: Para. 28)

- A33. Determining overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud generally includes the consideration of how the overall conduct of the audit can reflect increased professional skepticism, for example, through:
- Increased sensitivity in the selection of the nature and extent of documentation to be examined in support of material transactions.
 - Increased recognition of the need to corroborate management explanations or representations concerning material matters.

It also involves more general considerations apart from the specific procedures otherwise planned; these considerations include the matters listed in paragraph 29, which are discussed below.

Assignment and Supervision of Personnel (Ref: Para. 29(a))

- A34. The auditor may respond to identified risks of material misstatement due to fraud by, for example, assigning additional individuals with specialized skill and knowledge, such as forensic and IT experts, or by assigning more experienced individuals to the engagement.
- A35. The extent of supervision reflects the auditor's assessment of risks of material misstatement due to fraud and the competencies of the engagement team members performing the work.

Unpredictability in the Selection of Audit Procedures (Ref: Para. 29(c))

- A36. Incorporating an element of unpredictability in the selection of the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures to be performed is important as individuals within the entity who are familiar with the audit procedures normally performed on engagements may

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph A48.

be more able to conceal fraudulent financial reporting. This can be achieved by, for example:

- Performing substantive procedures on selected account balances and assertions not otherwise tested due to their materiality or risk.
- Adjusting the timing of audit procedures from that otherwise expected.
- Using different sampling methods.
- Performing audit procedures at different locations or at locations on an unannounced basis.

Audit Procedures Responsive to Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud at the Assertion Level (Ref: Para. 30)

A37. The auditor's responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the assertion level may include changing the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures in the following ways:

- The nature of audit procedures to be performed may need to be changed to obtain audit evidence that is more reliable and relevant or to obtain additional corroborative information. This may affect both the type of audit procedures to be performed and their combination. For example:
 - Physical observation or inspection of certain assets may become more important or the auditor may choose to use computer-assisted audit techniques to gather more evidence about data contained in significant accounts or electronic transaction files.
 - The auditor may design procedures to obtain additional corroborative information. For example, if the auditor identifies that management is under pressure to meet earnings expectations, there may be a related risk that management is inflating sales by entering into sales agreements that include terms that preclude revenue recognition or by invoicing sales before delivery. In these circumstances, the auditor may, for example, design external confirmations not only to confirm outstanding amounts, but also to confirm the details of the sales agreements, including date, any rights of return and delivery terms. In addition, the auditor might find it effective to supplement such external confirmations with inquiries of non-financial personnel in the entity regarding any changes in sales agreements and delivery terms.
- The timing of substantive procedures may need to be modified. The auditor may conclude that performing substantive testing at or near the period end better addresses an assessed risk of material misstatement due to fraud. The auditor may conclude that, given the assessed risks of intentional misstatement or manipulation, audit procedures to extend audit conclusions from an interim date to the period end would not be effective. In contrast, because an intentional misstatement – for example, a misstatement involving improper revenue recognition – may have been initiated in an interim period, the auditor may elect to apply substantive procedures to transactions occurring earlier in or throughout the reporting period.
- The extent of the procedures applied reflects the assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud. For example, increasing sample sizes or performing analytical procedures at a more detailed level may be appropriate.

Also, computer-assisted audit techniques may enable more extensive testing of electronic transactions and account files. Such techniques can be used to select sample transactions from key electronic files, to sort transactions with specific characteristics, or to test an entire population instead of a sample.

- A38. If the auditor identifies a risk of material misstatement due to fraud that affects inventory quantities, examining the entity's inventory records may help to identify locations or items that require specific attention during or after the physical inventory count. Such a review may lead to a decision to observe inventory counts at certain locations on an unannounced basis or to conduct inventory counts at all locations on the same date.
- A39. The auditor may identify a risk of material misstatement due to fraud affecting a number of accounts and assertions. These may include asset valuation, estimates relating to specific transactions (such as acquisitions, restructurings, or disposals of a segment of the business), and other significant accrued liabilities (such as pension and other post-employment benefit obligations, or environmental remediation liabilities). The risk may also relate to significant changes in assumptions relating to recurring estimates. Information gathered through obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment may assist the auditor in evaluating the reasonableness of such management estimates and underlying judgments and assumptions. A retrospective review of similar management judgments and assumptions applied in prior periods may also provide insight about the reasonableness of judgments and assumptions supporting management estimates.
- A40. Examples of possible audit procedures to address the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, including those that illustrate the incorporation of an element of unpredictability, are presented in Appendix 2. The appendix includes examples of responses to the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement resulting from both fraudulent financial reporting, including fraudulent financial reporting resulting from revenue recognition, and misappropriation of assets.

Audit Procedures Responsive to Risks Related to Management Override of Controls

Journal Entries and Other Adjustments (Ref: Para. 32(a))

- A41. Material misstatement of financial statements due to fraud often involve the manipulation of the financial reporting process by recording inappropriate or unauthorized journal entries. This may occur throughout the year or at period end, or by management making adjustments to amounts reported in the financial statements that are not reflected in journal entries, such as through consolidating adjustments and reclassifications.
- A42. Further, the auditor's consideration of the risks of material misstatement associated with inappropriate override of controls over journal entries is important since automated processes and controls may reduce the risk of inadvertent error but do not overcome the risk that individuals may inappropriately override such automated processes, for example, by changing the amounts being automatically passed to the general ledger or to the financial reporting system. Furthermore, where IT is used to transfer information automatically, there may be little or no visible evidence of such intervention in the information systems.
- A43. When identifying and selecting journal entries and other adjustments for testing and determining the appropriate method of examining the underlying support for the items

selected, the following matters are of relevance:

- *The assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud* – the presence of fraud risk factors and other information obtained during the auditor’s assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud may assist the auditor to identify specific classes of journal entries and other adjustments for testing.
- *Controls that have been implemented over journal entries and other adjustments* – effective controls over the preparation and posting of journal entries and other adjustments may reduce the extent of substantive testing necessary, provided that the auditor has tested the operating effectiveness of the controls.
- *The entity’s financial reporting process and the nature of evidence that can be obtained* – for many entities routine processing of transactions involves a combination of manual and automated steps and procedures. Similarly, the processing of journal entries and other adjustments may involve both manual and automated procedures and controls. Where information technology is used in the financial reporting process, journal entries and other adjustments may exist only in electronic form.
- *The characteristics of fraudulent journal entries or other adjustments* – inappropriate journal entries or other adjustments often have unique identifying characteristics. Such characteristics may include entries (a) made to unrelated, unusual, or seldom-used accounts, (b) made by individuals who typically do not make journal entries, (c) recorded at the end of the period or as post-closing entries that have little or no explanation or description, (d) made either before or during the preparation of the financial statements that do not have account numbers, or (e) containing round numbers or consistent ending numbers.
- *The nature and complexity of the accounts* – inappropriate journal entries or adjustments may be applied to accounts that (a) contain transactions that are complex or unusual in nature, (b) contain significant estimates and period-end adjustments, (c) have been prone to misstatements in the past, (d) have not been reconciled on a timely basis or contain unreconciled differences, (e) contain inter-company transactions, or (f) are otherwise associated with an identified risk of material misstatement due to fraud. In audits of entities that have several locations or components, consideration is given to the need to select journal entries from multiple locations.
- *Journal entries or other adjustments processed outside the normal course of business* – non standard journal entries may not be subject to the same level of internal control as those journal entries used on a recurring basis to record transactions such as monthly sales, purchases and cash disbursements.

A44. The auditor uses professional judgment in determining the nature, timing and extent of testing of journal entries and other adjustments. However, because fraudulent journal entries and other adjustments are often made at the end of a reporting period, paragraph 32(a)(ii) requires the auditor to select the journal entries and other adjustments made at that time. Further, because material misstatements in financial statements due to fraud can occur throughout the period and may involve extensive efforts to conceal how the fraud is accomplished, paragraph 32(a)(iii) requires the auditor to consider whether there is also a need to test journal entries and other adjustments throughout the period.

Accounting Estimates (Ref: Para. 32(b))

- A45. The preparation of the financial statements requires management^{14a} to make a number of judgments or assumptions that affect significant accounting estimates and to monitor the reasonableness of such estimates on an ongoing basis. Fraudulent financial reporting is often accomplished through intentional misstatement of accounting estimates. This may be achieved by, for example, understating or overstating all provisions or reserves in the same fashion so as to be designed either to smooth earnings over two or more accounting periods, or to achieve a designated earnings level in order to deceive financial statement users by influencing their perceptions as to the entity's performance and profitability.
- A46. The purpose of performing a retrospective review of management judgments and assumptions related to significant accounting estimates reflected in the financial statements of the prior year is to determine whether there is an indication of a possible bias on the part of management. It is not intended to call into question the auditor's professional judgments made in the prior year that were based on information available at the time.
- A47. A retrospective review is also required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised).¹⁸ That review is conducted as a risk assessment procedure to obtain information regarding the effectiveness of management's prior period estimation process, audit evidence about the outcome, or where applicable, the subsequent re-estimation of prior period accounting estimates that is pertinent to making current period accounting estimates, and audit evidence of matters, such as estimation uncertainty, that may be required to be disclosed in the financial statements. As a practical matter, the auditor's review of management judgments and assumptions for biases that could represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud in accordance with this ISA (UK and Ireland) may be carried out in conjunction with the review required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised).

Business Rationale for Significant Transactions (Ref: Para. 32(c))

- A48. Indicators that may suggest that significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appear to be unusual, may have been entered into to engage in fraudulent financial reporting or to conceal misappropriation of assets include:
- The form of such transactions appears overly complex (for example, the transaction involves multiple entities within a consolidated group or multiple unrelated third parties).
 - Management has not discussed the nature of and accounting for such transactions with those charged with governance of the entity, and there is inadequate documentation.
 - Management is placing more emphasis on the need for a particular accounting treatment than on the underlying economics of the transaction.

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised), "Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures," paragraph 9.

- Transactions that involve non-consolidated related parties, including special purpose entities, have not been properly reviewed or approved by those charged with governance of the entity.
- The transactions involve previously unidentified related parties or parties that do not have the substance or the financial strength to support the transaction without assistance from the entity under audit.

Evaluation of Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 34-37)

A49. ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised) requires the auditor, based on the audit procedures performed and the audit evidence obtained, to evaluate whether the assessments of the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level remain appropriate.¹⁹ This evaluation is primarily a qualitative matter based on the auditor’s judgment. Such an evaluation may provide further insight about the risks of material misstatement due to fraud and whether there is a need to perform additional or different audit procedures. Appendix 3 contains examples of circumstances that may indicate the possibility of fraud.

Analytical Procedures Performed Near the End of the Audit in Forming an Overall Conclusion (Ref: Para. 34)

A50. Determining which particular trends and relationships may indicate a risk of material misstatement due to fraud requires professional judgment. Unusual relationships involving year-end revenue and income are particularly relevant. These might include, for example: uncharacteristically large amounts of income being reported in the last few weeks of the reporting period or unusual transactions; or income that is inconsistent with trends in cash flow from operations.

Consideration of Identified Misstatements (Ref: Para. 35-37)

A51. Since fraud involves incentive or pressure to commit fraud, a perceived opportunity to do so or some rationalization of the act, an instance of fraud is unlikely to be an isolated occurrence. Accordingly, misstatements, such as numerous misstatements at a specific location even though the cumulative effect is not material, may be indicative of a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

A52. The implications of identified fraud depend on the circumstances. For example, an otherwise insignificant fraud may be significant if it involves senior management. In such circumstances, the reliability of evidence previously obtained may be called into question, since there may be doubts about the completeness and truthfulness of representations made and about the genuineness of accounting records and documentation. There may also be a possibility of collusion involving employees, management or third parties.

A53. ISA (UK and Ireland) 450²⁰ and ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised)²¹ establish

¹⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph 25.

²⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450, “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit.”

²¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements.”

~~—The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraph 8(b) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 requires evaluation of whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate.~~

requirements and provide guidance on the evaluation and disposition of misstatements and the effect on the auditor’s opinion in the auditor’s report.

Auditor Unable to Continue the Engagement (Ref: Para. 38)

- A54. Examples of exceptional circumstances that may arise and that may bring into question the auditor’s ability to continue performing the audit include:
- The entity does not take the appropriate action regarding fraud that the auditor considers necessary in the circumstances, even where the fraud is not material to the financial statements;
 - The auditor’s consideration of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud and the results of audit tests indicate a significant risk of material and pervasive fraud; or
 - The auditor has significant concern about the competence or integrity of management or those charged with governance.
- A55. Because of the variety of the circumstances that may arise, it is not possible to describe definitively when withdrawal from an engagement is appropriate. Factors that affect the auditor’s conclusion include the implications of the involvement of a member of management or of those charged with governance (which may affect the reliability of management representations) and the effects on the auditor of a continuing association with the entity.
- A56. The auditor has professional and legal responsibilities in such circumstances and these responsibilities may vary by country. In some countries, for example, the auditor may be entitled to, or required to, make a statement or report to the person or persons who made the audit appointment or, in some cases, to regulatory authorities. Given the exceptional nature of the circumstances and the need to consider the legal requirements, the auditor may consider it appropriate to seek legal advice when deciding whether to withdraw from an engagement and in determining an appropriate course of action, including the possibility of reporting to shareholders, regulators or others.²²

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A57. In many cases in the public sector, the option of withdrawing from the engagement may not be available to the auditor due to the nature of the mandate or public interest considerations.

Written Representations (Ref: Para. 39)

- A58. ISA (UK and Ireland) 580²³ establishes requirements and provides guidance on obtaining appropriate representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in the audit. In addition to acknowledging that they have fulfilled their responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements, it is important that, irrespective of the size of the entity, management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge their responsibility for

²² The IESBA *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* provides guidance on communications with an auditor replacing the existing auditor.

In the UK and Ireland the relevant ethical guidance on proposed communications with a successor auditor is provided by the ethical pronouncements relating to the work of auditors issued by the auditor’s relevant professional body.

²³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, “Written Representations.”

internal control designed, implemented and maintained to prevent and detect fraud.

- A59. Because of the nature of fraud and the difficulties encountered by auditors in detecting material misstatements in the financial statements resulting from fraud, it is important that the auditor obtain a written representation from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance confirming that they have disclosed to the auditor:
- (a) The results of management’s assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud; and
 - (b) Their knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity.

Communications to Management and with Those Charged with Governance

Communication to Management (Ref: Para. 40)

- A60. When the auditor has obtained evidence that fraud exists or may exist, it is important that the matter be brought to the attention of the appropriate level of management as soon as practicable. This is so even if the matter might be considered inconsequential (for example, a minor defalcation by an employee at a low level in the entity’s organization). The determination of which level of management is the appropriate one is a matter of professional judgment and is affected by such factors as the likelihood of collusion and the nature and magnitude of the suspected fraud. Ordinarily, the appropriate level of management is at least one level above the persons who appear to be involved with the suspected fraud.

Communication with Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 41)

- A61. The auditor’s communication with those charged with governance may be made orally or in writing. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) identifies factors the auditor considers in determining whether to communicate orally or in writing.²⁴ Due to the nature and sensitivity of fraud involving senior management, or fraud that results in a material misstatement in the financial statements, the auditor reports such matters on a timely basis and may consider it necessary to also report such matters in writing.

A61-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{24a} requires the auditor to communicate in the additional report to the audit committee any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, including from fraud or suspected fraud, which were identified in the course of the audit.

A61-2. In the UK and Ireland, laws or regulations may prohibit alerting (“tipping off”) the entity when, for example, the auditor is required to report the non-compliance to an appropriate authority pursuant to anti-money laundering legislation.

- A62. In some cases, the auditor may consider it appropriate to communicate with those charged with governance when the auditor becomes aware of fraud involving employees other than management that does not result in a material misstatement. Similarly, those charged with governance may wish to be informed of such circumstances. The communication process is assisted if the auditor and those charged with governance agree at an early stage in the audit about the nature and extent of the

²⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph A38.

^{24a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance”, paragraph 16R-2(k).

auditor’s communications in this regard.

A63. In the exceptional circumstances where the auditor has doubts about the integrity or honesty of management or those charged with governance, the auditor may consider it appropriate to obtain legal advice to assist in determining the appropriate course of action.

Other Matters Related to Fraud (Ref: Para. 42)

A64. Other matters related to fraud to be discussed with those charged with governance of the entity may include, for example:

- Concerns about the nature, extent and frequency of management’s assessments of the controls in place to prevent and detect fraud and of the risk that the financial statements may be misstated.
- A failure by management to appropriately address identified significant deficiencies in internal control, or to appropriately respond to an identified fraud.
- The auditor’s evaluation of the entity’s control environment, including questions regarding the competence and integrity of management.
- Actions by management that may be indicative of fraudulent financial reporting, such as management’s selection and application of accounting policies that may be indicative of management’s effort to manage earnings in order to deceive financial statement users by influencing their perceptions as to the entity’s performance and profitability.
- Concerns about the adequacy and completeness of the authorization of transactions that appear to be outside the normal course of business.

Communications to Regulatory and Enforcement Authorities (Ref: Para. 43)

A65. The auditor’s professional duty to maintain the confidentiality of client information may preclude reporting fraud to a party outside the client entity. However, the auditor’s legal responsibilities vary by country^{24a} and, in certain circumstances, the duty of confidentiality may be overridden by statute, the law or courts of law. In some countries, the auditor of a financial institution has a statutory duty to report the occurrence of fraud to supervisory authorities. Also, in some countries the auditor has a duty to report misstatements to authorities in those cases where management and those charged with governance fail to take corrective action.

Reporting to Authorities of Public-Interest Entities (Ref: Para. 43R-1)

A65-1. The disclosure in good faith to the authorities responsible for investigating such irregularities, by the auditor, of any irregularities referred to in paragraph 43R-1 shall not constitute a breach of any contractual or legal restriction on disclosure of information in accordance with the Audit Regulation.^{24b}

A65-2. The auditor considers whether to take further action when the entity investigates the matter referred to in paragraph 42R-1 but where the measures taken by management

^{24a} In the UK and Ireland, anti-money laundering legislation imposes a duty on auditors to report suspected money laundering activity. Suspicions relating to fraud are likely to be required to be reported under this legislation (see paragraph A11-1 in ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised) Section A, “Consideration of Laws and Regulations”).

^{24b} Article 7 of the Audit Regulation.

or those charged with governance, in the auditor’s professional judgement, were not appropriate to deal with the actual or potential risks of fraud identified or would fail to prevent future occurrences of fraud.

- A66. The auditor may consider it appropriate to obtain legal advice to determine the appropriate course of action in the circumstances, the purpose of which is to ascertain the steps necessary in considering the public interest aspects of identified fraud.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A67. In the public sector, requirements for reporting fraud, whether or not discovered through the audit process, may be subject to specific provisions of the audit mandate or related law, regulation or other authority.

Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. A25)

Examples of Fraud Risk Factors

The fraud risk factors identified in this Appendix are examples of such factors that may be faced by auditors in a broad range of situations. Separately presented are examples relating to the two types of fraud relevant to the auditor's consideration – that is, fraudulent financial reporting and misappropriation of assets. For each of these types of fraud, the risk factors are further classified based on the three conditions generally present when material misstatements due to fraud occur: (a) incentives/pressures, (b) opportunities, and (c) attitudes/rationalizations. Although the risk factors cover a broad range of situations, they are only examples and, accordingly, the auditor may identify additional or different risk factors. Not all of these examples are relevant in all circumstances, and some may be of greater or lesser significance in entities of different size or with different ownership characteristics or circumstances. Also, the order of the examples of risk factors provided is not intended to reflect their relative importance or frequency of occurrence.

Risk Factors Relating to Misstatements Arising from Fraudulent Financial Reporting

The following are examples of risk factors relating to misstatements arising from fraudulent financial reporting.

Incentives/Pressures

Financial stability or profitability is threatened by economic, industry, or entity operating conditions, such as (or as indicated by):

- High degree of competition or market saturation, accompanied by declining margins.
- High vulnerability to rapid changes, such as changes in technology, product obsolescence, or interest rates.
- Significant declines in customer demand and increasing business failures in either the industry or overall economy.
- Operating losses making the threat of bankruptcy, foreclosure, or hostile takeover imminent.
- Recurring negative cash flows from operations or an inability to generate cash flows from operations while reporting earnings and earnings growth.
- Rapid growth or unusual profitability especially compared to that of other companies in the same industry.
- New accounting, statutory, or regulatory requirements.

Excessive pressure exists for management to meet the requirements or expectations of third parties due to the following:

- Profitability or trend level expectations of investment analysts, institutional investors, significant creditors, or other external parties (particularly expectations that are unduly aggressive or unrealistic), including expectations created by management in, for example, overly optimistic press releases or annual report messages.
- Need to obtain additional debt or equity financing to stay competitive – including financing of major research and development or capital expenditures.

- Marginal ability to meet exchange listing requirements or debt repayment or other debt covenant requirements.
- Perceived or real adverse effects of reporting poor financial results on significant pending transactions, such as business combinations or contract awards.

Information available indicates that the personal financial situation of management or those charged with governance is threatened by the entity's financial performance arising from the following:

- Significant financial interests in the entity.
- Significant portions of their compensation (for example, bonuses, stock options, and earn-out arrangements) being contingent upon achieving aggressive targets for stock price, operating results, financial position, or cash flow.²⁵
- Personal guarantees of debts of the entity.

There is excessive pressure on management or operating personnel to meet financial targets established by those charged with governance, including sales or profitability incentive goals.

Opportunities

The nature of the industry or the entity's operations provides opportunities to engage in fraudulent financial reporting that can arise from the following:

- Significant related-party transactions not in the ordinary course of business or with related entities not audited or audited by another firm.
- A strong financial presence or ability to dominate a certain industry sector that allows the entity to dictate terms or conditions to suppliers or customers that may result in inappropriate or non-arm's-length transactions.
- Assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenses based on significant estimates that involve subjective judgments or uncertainties that are difficult to corroborate.
- Significant, unusual, or highly complex transactions, especially those close to period end that pose difficult "substance over form" questions.
- Significant operations located or conducted across international borders in jurisdictions where differing business environments and cultures exist.
- Use of business intermediaries for which there appears to be no clear business justification.
- Significant bank accounts or subsidiary or branch operations in tax-haven jurisdictions for which there appears to be no clear business justification.

The monitoring of management is not effective as a result of the following:

- Domination of management by a single person or small group (in a non owner-managed business) without compensating controls.
- Oversight by those charged with governance over the financial reporting process and internal control is not effective.

²⁵ Management incentive plans may be contingent upon achieving targets relating only to certain accounts or selected activities of the entity, even though the related accounts or activities may not be material to the entity as a whole.

There is a complex or unstable organizational structure, as evidenced by the following:

- Difficulty in determining the organization or individuals that have controlling interest in the entity.
- Overly complex organizational structure involving unusual legal entities or managerial lines of authority.
- High turnover of senior management, legal counsel, or those charged with governance.

Internal control components are deficient as a result of the following:

- Inadequate monitoring of controls, including automated controls and controls over interim financial reporting (where external reporting is required).
- High turnover rates or employment of staff in accounting, information technology, or the internal audit function that are not effective.
- Accounting and information systems that are not effective, including situations involving significant deficiencies in internal control.

Attitudes/Rationalizations

- Communication, implementation, support, or enforcement of the entity's values or ethical standards by management, or the communication of inappropriate values or ethical standards, that are not effective.
- Nonfinancial management's excessive participation in or preoccupation with the selection of accounting policies or the determination of significant estimates.
- Known history of violations of securities laws or other laws and regulations, or claims against the entity, its senior management, or those charged with governance alleging fraud or violations of laws and regulations.
- Excessive interest by management in maintaining or increasing the entity's stock price or earnings trend.
- The practice by management of committing to analysts, creditors, and other third parties to achieve aggressive or unrealistic forecasts.
- Management failing to remedy known significant deficiencies in internal control on a timely basis.
- An interest by management in employing inappropriate means to minimize reported earnings for tax-motivated reasons.
- Low morale among senior management.
- The owner-manager makes no distinction between personal and business transactions.
- Dispute between shareholders in a closely held entity.
- Recurring attempts by management to justify marginal or inappropriate accounting on the basis of materiality.
- The relationship between management and the current or predecessor auditor is strained, as exhibited by the following:
 - Frequent disputes with the current or predecessor auditor on accounting, auditing, or reporting matters.

- Unreasonable demands on the auditor, such as unrealistic time constraints regarding the completion of the audit or the issuance of the auditor’s report.
- Restrictions on the auditor that inappropriately limit access to people or information or the ability to communicate effectively with those charged with governance.
- Domineering management behavior in dealing with the auditor, especially involving attempts to influence the scope of the auditor’s work or the selection or continuance of personnel assigned to or consulted on the audit engagement.

Risk Factors Arising from Misstatements Arising from Misappropriation of Assets

Risk factors that relate to misstatements arising from misappropriation of assets are also classified according to the three conditions generally present when fraud exists: incentives/pressures, opportunities, and attitudes/rationalization. Some of the risk factors related to misstatements arising from fraudulent financial reporting also may be present when misstatements arising from misappropriation of assets occur. For example, ineffective monitoring of management and other deficiencies in internal control may be present when misstatements due to either fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets exist. The following are examples of risk factors related to misstatements arising from misappropriation of assets.

Incentives/Pressures

Personal financial obligations may create pressure on management or employees with access to cash or other assets susceptible to theft to misappropriate those assets.

Adverse relationships between the entity and employees with access to cash or other assets susceptible to theft may motivate those employees to misappropriate those assets. For example, adverse relationships may be created by the following:

- Known or anticipated future employee layoffs.
- Recent or anticipated changes to employee compensation or benefit plans.
- Promotions, compensation, or other rewards inconsistent with expectations.

Opportunities

Certain characteristics or circumstances may increase the susceptibility of assets to misappropriation. For example, opportunities to misappropriate assets increase when there are the following:

- Large amounts of cash on hand or processed.
- Inventory items that are small in size, of high value, or in high demand.
- Easily convertible assets, such as bearer bonds, diamonds, or computer chips.
- Fixed assets which are small in size, marketable, or lacking observable identification of ownership.

Inadequate internal control over assets may increase the susceptibility of misappropriation of those assets. For example, misappropriation of assets may occur because there is the following:

- Inadequate segregation of duties or independent checks.
- Inadequate oversight of senior management expenditures, such as travel and other reimbursements.

- Inadequate management oversight of employees responsible for assets, for example, inadequate supervision or monitoring of remote locations.
- Inadequate job applicant screening of employees with access to assets.
- Inadequate record keeping with respect to assets.
- Inadequate system of authorization and approval of transactions (for example, in purchasing).
- Inadequate physical safeguards over cash, investments, inventory, or fixed assets.
- Lack of complete and timely reconciliations of assets.
- Lack of timely and appropriate documentation of transactions, for example, credits for merchandise returns.
- Lack of mandatory vacations for employees performing key control functions.
- Inadequate management understanding of information technology, which enables information technology employees to perpetrate a misappropriation.
- Inadequate access controls over automated records, including controls over and review of computer systems event logs.

Attitudes/Rationalizations

- Disregard for the need for monitoring or reducing risks related to misappropriations of assets.
- Disregard for internal control over misappropriation of assets by overriding existing controls or by failing to take appropriate remedial action on known deficiencies in internal control.
- Behavior indicating displeasure or dissatisfaction with the entity or its treatment of the employee.
- Changes in behavior or lifestyle that may indicate assets have been misappropriated.
- Tolerance of petty theft.

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. A40)

Examples of Possible Audit Procedures to Address the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement Due to Fraud

The following are examples of possible audit procedures to address the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud resulting from both fraudulent financial reporting and misappropriation of assets. Although these procedures cover a broad range of situations, they are only examples and, accordingly they may not be the most appropriate nor necessary in each circumstance. Also the order of the procedures provided is not intended to reflect their relative importance.

Consideration at the Assertion Level

Specific responses to the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud will vary depending upon the types or combinations of fraud risk factors or conditions identified, and the classes of transactions, account balances, disclosures and assertions they may affect.

The following are specific examples of responses:

- Visiting locations or performing certain tests on a surprise or unannounced basis. For example, observing inventory at locations where auditor attendance has not been previously announced or counting cash at a particular date on a surprise basis.
- Requesting that inventories be counted at the end of the reporting period or on a date closer to period end to minimize the risk of manipulation of balances in the period between the date of completion of the count and the end of the reporting period.
- Altering the audit approach in the current year. For example, contacting major customers and suppliers orally in addition to sending written confirmation, sending confirmation requests to a specific party within an organization, or seeking more or different information.
- Performing a detailed review of the entity's quarter-end or year-end adjusting entries and investigating any that appear unusual as to nature or amount.
- For significant and unusual transactions, particularly those occurring at or near year-end, investigating the possibility of related parties and the sources of financial resources supporting the transactions.
- Performing substantive analytical procedures using disaggregated data. For example, comparing sales and cost of sales by location, line of business or month to expectations developed by the auditor.
- Conducting interviews of personnel involved in areas where a risk of material misstatement due to fraud has been identified, to obtain their insights about the risk and whether, or how, controls address the risk.
- When other independent auditors are auditing the financial statements of one or more subsidiaries, divisions or branches, discussing with them the extent of work necessary to be performed to address the assessed risk of material misstatement due to fraud resulting from transactions and activities among these components.
- If the work of an expert becomes particularly significant with respect to a financial statement item for which the assessed risk of misstatement due to fraud is high,

performing additional procedures relating to some or all of the expert's assumptions, methods or findings to determine that the findings are not unreasonable, or engaging another expert for that purpose.

- Performing audit procedures to analyze selected opening balance sheet accounts of previously audited financial statements to assess how certain issues involving accounting estimates and judgments, for example, an allowance for sales returns, were resolved with the benefit of hindsight.
- Performing procedures on account or other reconciliations prepared by the entity, including considering reconciliations performed at interim periods.
- Performing computer-assisted techniques, such as data mining to test for anomalies in a population.
- Testing the integrity of computer-produced records and transactions.
- Seeking additional audit evidence from sources outside of the entity being audited.

Specific Responses—Misstatement Resulting from Fraudulent Financial Reporting

Examples of responses to the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraudulent financial reporting are as follows:

Revenue Recognition

- Performing substantive analytical procedures relating to revenue using disaggregated data, for example, comparing revenue reported by month and by product line or business segment during the current reporting period with comparable prior periods. Computer-assisted audit techniques may be useful in identifying unusual or unexpected revenue relationships or transactions.
- Confirming with customers certain relevant contract terms and the absence of side agreements, because the appropriate accounting often is influenced by such terms or agreements and basis for rebates or the period to which they relate are often poorly documented. For example, acceptance criteria, delivery and payment terms, the absence of future or continuing vendor obligations, the right to return the product, guaranteed resale amounts, and cancellation or refund provisions often are relevant in such circumstances.
- Inquiring of the entity's sales and marketing personnel or in-house legal counsel regarding sales or shipments near the end of the period and their knowledge of any unusual terms or conditions associated with these transactions.
- Being physically present at one or more locations at period end to observe goods being shipped or being readied for shipment (or returns awaiting processing) and performing other appropriate sales and inventory cutoff procedures.
- For those situations for which revenue transactions are electronically initiated, processed, and recorded, testing controls to determine whether they provide assurance that recorded revenue transactions occurred and are properly recorded.

Inventory Quantities

- Examining the entity's inventory records to identify locations or items that require specific attention during or after the physical inventory count.
- Observing inventory counts at certain locations on an unannounced basis or conducting inventory counts at all locations on the same date.

- Conducting inventory counts at or near the end of the reporting period to minimize the risk of inappropriate manipulation during the period between the count and the end of the reporting period.
- Performing additional procedures during the observation of the count, for example, more rigorously examining the contents of boxed items, the manner in which the goods are stacked (for example, hollow squares) or labeled, and the quality (that is, purity, grade, or concentration) of liquid substances such as perfumes or specialty chemicals. Using the work of an expert may be helpful in this regard.
- Comparing the quantities for the current period with prior periods by class or category of inventory, location or other criteria, or comparison of quantities counted with perpetual records.
- Using computer-assisted audit techniques to further test the compilation of the physical inventory counts – for example, sorting by tag number to test tag controls or by item serial number to test the possibility of item omission or duplication.

Management Estimates

- Using an expert to develop an independent estimate for comparison to management's estimate.
- Extending inquiries to individuals outside of management and the accounting department to corroborate management's ability and intent to carry out plans that are relevant to developing the estimate.

Specific Responses—Misstatements Due to Misappropriation of Assets

Differing circumstances would necessarily dictate different responses. Ordinarily, the audit response to an assessed risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to misappropriation of assets will be directed toward certain account balances and classes of transactions. Although some of the audit responses noted in the two categories above may apply in such circumstances, the scope of the work is to be linked to the specific information about the misappropriation risk that has been identified.

Examples of responses to the auditor's assessment of the risk of material misstatements due to misappropriation of assets are as follows:

- Counting cash or securities at or near year-end.
- Confirming directly with customers the account activity (including credit memo and sales return activity as well as dates payments were made) for the period under audit.
- Analyzing recoveries of written-off accounts.
- Analyzing inventory shortages by location or product type.
- Comparing key inventory ratios to industry norm.
- Reviewing supporting documentation for reductions to the perpetual inventory records.
- Performing a computerized match of the vendor list with a list of employees to identify matches of addresses or phone numbers.
- Performing a computerized search of payroll records to identify duplicate addresses, employee identification or taxing authority numbers or bank accounts.
- Reviewing personnel files for those that contain little or no evidence of activity, for example, lack of performance evaluations.

- Analyzing sales discounts and returns for unusual patterns or trends.
- Confirming specific terms of contracts with third parties.
- Obtaining evidence that contracts are being carried out in accordance with their terms.
- Reviewing the propriety of large and unusual expenses.
- Reviewing the authorization and carrying value of senior management and related party loans.
- Reviewing the level and propriety of expense reports submitted by senior management.

Appendix 3

(Ref: Para. A49)

Examples of Circumstances that Indicate the Possibility of Fraud

The following are examples of circumstances that may indicate the possibility that the financial statements may contain a material misstatement resulting from fraud.

Discrepancies in the accounting records, including:

- Transactions that are not recorded in a complete or timely manner or are improperly recorded as to amount, accounting period, classification, or entity policy.
- Unsupported or unauthorized balances or transactions.
- Last-minute adjustments that significantly affect financial results.
- Evidence of employees' access to systems and records inconsistent with that necessary to perform their authorized duties.
- Tips or complaints to the auditor about alleged fraud.

Conflicting or missing evidence, including:

- Missing documents.
- Documents that appear to have been altered.
- Unavailability of other than photocopied or electronically transmitted documents when documents in original form are expected to exist.
- Significant unexplained items on reconciliations.
- Unusual balance sheet changes, or changes in trends or important financial statement ratios or relationships – for example, receivables growing faster than revenues.
- Inconsistent, vague, or implausible responses from management or employees arising from inquiries or analytical procedures.
- Unusual discrepancies between the entity's records and confirmation replies.
- Large numbers of credit entries and other adjustments made to accounts receivable records.
- Unexplained or inadequately explained differences between the accounts receivable sub-ledger and the control account, or between the customer statements and the accounts receivable sub-ledger.
- Missing or non-existent cancelled checks in circumstances where cancelled checks are ordinarily returned to the entity with the bank statement.
- Missing inventory or physical assets of significant magnitude.
- Unavailable or missing electronic evidence, inconsistent with the entity's record retention practices or policies.
- Fewer responses to confirmations than anticipated or a greater number of responses than anticipated.
- Inability to produce evidence of key systems development and program change testing and implementation activities for current-year system changes and deployments.

Problematic or unusual relationships between the auditor and management, including:

- Denial of access to records, facilities, certain employees, customers, vendors, or others from whom audit evidence might be sought.
- Undue time pressures imposed by management to resolve complex or contentious issues.
- Complaints by management about the conduct of the audit or management intimidation of engagement team members, particularly in connection with the auditor's critical assessment of audit evidence or in the resolution of potential disagreements with management.
- Unusual delays by the entity in providing requested information.
- Unwillingness to facilitate auditor access to key electronic files for testing through the use of computer-assisted audit techniques.
- Denial of access to key IT operations staff and facilities, including security, operations, and systems development personnel.
- An unwillingness to add or revise disclosures in the financial statements to make them more complete and understandable.
- An unwillingness to address identified deficiencies in internal control on a timely basis.

Other

- Unwillingness by management to permit the auditor to meet privately with those charged with governance.
- Accounting policies that appear to be at variance with industry norms.
- Frequent changes in accounting estimates that do not appear to result from changed circumstances.
- Tolerance of violations of the entity's code of conduct.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 250 (REVISED)**

**SECTION A - CONSIDERATION OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS
IN AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~15 December
2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 250 (Revised), “Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to consider laws and regulations in an audit of financial statements. This ISA (UK and Ireland) does not apply to other assurance engagements in which the auditor is specifically engaged to test and report separately on compliance with specific laws or regulations.

1-1. Guidance on the auditor's responsibility to report direct to financial regulators ~~in the financial sector~~ is provided in Section B of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Effect of Laws and Regulations

2. The effect on financial statements of laws and regulations varies considerably. Those laws and regulations to which an entity is subject constitute the legal and regulatory framework. The provisions of some laws or regulations have a direct effect on the financial statements in that they determine the reported amounts and disclosures in an entity's financial statements. Other laws or regulations are to be complied with by management or set the provisions under which the entity is allowed to conduct its business but do not have a direct effect on an entity's financial statements. Some entities operate in heavily regulated industries (such as banks and chemical companies). Others are subject only to the many laws and regulations that relate generally to the operating aspects of the business (such as those related to occupational safety and health, and equal employment opportunity). Non-compliance with laws and regulations may result in fines, litigation or other consequences for the entity that may have a material effect on the financial statements.

Responsibility for Compliance with Laws and Regulations (Ref: Para. A1-A6)

3. It is the responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, including compliance with the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in an entity's financial statements.^{1a}

Responsibility of the Auditor

4. The requirements in this ISA (UK and Ireland) are designed to assist the auditor in identifying material misstatement of the financial statements due to non-compliance with laws and regulations. However, the auditor is not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.
5. The auditor is responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.¹ In conducting an audit of financial statements, the auditor takes into account the applicable

^{1a} In the UK and Ireland those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), "Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland)," paragraph 5.

legal and regulatory framework. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK and Ireland).² In the context of laws and regulations, the potential effects of inherent limitations on the auditor's ability to detect material misstatements are greater for such reasons as the following:

- There are many laws and regulations, relating principally to the operating aspects of an entity, that typically do not affect the financial statements and are not captured by the entity's information systems relevant to financial reporting.
- Non-compliance may involve conduct designed to conceal it, such as collusion, forgery, deliberate failure to record transactions, management override of controls or intentional misrepresentations being made to the auditor.
- Whether an act constitutes non-compliance is ultimately a matter for legal determination by a court of law.

Ordinarily, the further removed non-compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognize the non-compliance.

6. This ISA (UK and Ireland) distinguishes the auditor's responsibilities in relation to compliance with two different categories of laws and regulations as follows:
 - (a) The provisions of those laws and regulations generally recognized to have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements such as tax and pension laws and regulations (see paragraph 13); and
 - (b) Other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the determination of the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, but compliance with which may be fundamental to the operating aspects of the business, to an entity's ability to continue its business, or to avoid material penalties (for example, compliance with the terms of an operating license, compliance with regulatory solvency requirements, or compliance with environmental regulations); non-compliance with such laws and regulations may therefore have a material effect on the financial statements (see paragraph 14).
7. In this ISA (UK and Ireland), differing requirements are specified for each of the above categories of laws and regulations. For the category referred to in paragraph 6(a), the auditor's responsibility is to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with the provisions of those laws and regulations. For the category referred to in paragraph 6(b), the auditor's responsibility is limited to undertaking specified audit procedures to help identify non-compliance with those laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements.
8. The auditor is required by this ISA (UK and Ireland) to remain alert to the possibility that other audit procedures applied for the purpose of forming an opinion on financial

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph A51.

statements may bring instances of identified or suspected non-compliance to the auditor's attention. Maintaining professional skepticism throughout the audit, as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised),³ is important in this context, given the extent of laws and regulations that affect the entity.

Effective Date

9. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ 15 December 2010.

Objectives

10. The objectives of the auditor are:
- (a) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with the provisions of those laws and regulations generally recognized to have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
 - (b) To perform specified audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements; and
 - (c) To respond appropriately to non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

Definition

11. For the purposes of this ISA (UK and Ireland), the following term has the meaning attributed below:

Non-compliance – Acts of omission or commission by the entity, either intentional or unintentional, which are contrary to the prevailing laws or regulations. Such acts include transactions entered into by, or in the name of, the entity, or on its behalf, by those charged with governance, management or employees. Non-compliance does not include personal misconduct (unrelated to the business activities of the entity) by those charged with governance, management or employees of the entity.

- 11-1. This ISA (UK and Ireland) also refers to 'money laundering'. 'Money laundering' is defined in legislation^{3a} and in general terms involves an act which conceals, disguises, converts, transfers, removes, uses, acquires or possesses property resulting from criminal conduct.

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 15.

^{3a} In the UK, the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 and the requirements of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) bring auditors within the regulated sector, requiring them to report suspected money laundering activity and adopt rigorous client identification procedures and appropriate anti-money laundering procedures.

In Ireland, the Criminal Justice Act 1994 (Section 32) Regulations 2003 designate accountants, auditors, and tax advisors and others for the purposes of the anti-money laundering provisions of the Criminal Justice Act, 1994, as amended.

Requirements

The Auditor's Consideration of Compliance with Laws and Regulations

12. As part of obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised),⁴ the auditor shall obtain a general understanding of:
 - (a) The legal and regulatory framework applicable to the entity and the industry or sector in which the entity operates; and
 - (b) How the entity is complying with that framework. (Ref: Para. A7)
13. The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with the provisions of those laws and regulations generally recognized to have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A8 – A8-1)
14. The auditor shall perform the following audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements: (Ref: Para. A9 – A10-1)
 - (a) Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the entity is in compliance with such laws and regulations; and
 - (b) Inspecting correspondence, if any, with the relevant licensing or regulatory authorities.
15. During the audit, the auditor shall remain alert to the possibility that other audit procedures applied may bring instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to the auditor's attention. (Ref: Para. A11 – A11-2)
16. The auditor shall request management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance to provide written representations that all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor. (Ref: Para. A12)
17. In the absence of identified or suspected non-compliance, the auditor is not required to perform audit procedures regarding the entity's compliance with laws and regulations, other than those set out in paragraphs 12-16.

Audit Procedures When Non-Compliance Is Identified or Suspected

18. If the auditor becomes aware of information concerning an instance of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, the auditor shall obtain: (Ref: Para. A13)
 - (a) An understanding of the nature of the act and the circumstances in which it has occurred; and

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment," paragraph 11.

- (b) Further information to evaluate the possible effect on the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A14)
19. If the auditor suspects there may be non-compliance, the auditor shall^{4a} discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance. If management or, as appropriate, those charged with governance do not provide sufficient information that supports that the entity is in compliance with laws and regulations and, in the auditor’s judgment, the effect of the suspected non-compliance may be material to the financial statements, the auditor shall consider the need to obtain legal advice. (Ref: Para. A15-A16)
20. If sufficient information about suspected non-compliance cannot be obtained, the auditor shall evaluate the effect of the lack of sufficient appropriate audit evidence on the auditor’s opinion.
21. The auditor shall evaluate the implications of non-compliance in relation to other aspects of the audit, including the auditor’s risk assessment and the reliability of written representations, and take appropriate action. (Ref: Para. A17 - A18-1)

Reporting of Identified or Suspected Non-Compliance

Reporting Non-Compliance to Those Charged with Governance

22. Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in management of the entity, and therefore are aware of matters involving identified or suspected non-compliance already communicated by the auditor,⁵ the auditor shall^{4a} communicate with those charged with governance matters involving non-compliance with laws and regulations that come to the auditor’s attention during the course of the audit, other than when the matters are clearly inconsequential.

22R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, when an auditor suspects or has reasonable grounds to suspect that irregularities, including fraud with

^{4a} Subject to compliance with legislation relating to ‘tipping off’ or ‘prejudicing an investigation’.

In the UK, ‘tipping off’ is an offence under POCA section 333A. It arises when an individual discloses:

- (a) that a report (internal or external) has already been made where the disclosure by the individual is likely to prejudice an investigation which might be conducted following the internal or external report that has been made; or
- (b) that an investigation is being contemplated or is being carried out into allegations that a money laundering offence has been committed and the disclosure by the individual is likely to prejudice that investigation.

Whilst ‘tipping off’ requires a person to have knowledge or suspicion that a report has been or will be made, a further offence of prejudicing an investigation is included in POCA section 342. Under this provision, it is an offence to make any disclosure which may prejudice an investigation of which a person has knowledge or suspicion, or to falsify, conceal, destroy or otherwise dispose of, or cause or permit the falsification, concealment, destruction or disposal of, documents relevant to such an investigation.

The disclosure offences under sections 333A and 342 are not committed if the person disclosing does not know or suspect that it is likely to prejudice an investigation.

In Ireland Section 58 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1994, as amended, establishes the offence of ‘prejudicing an investigation’. This relates both to when a person, knowing or suspecting that an investigation is taking place, makes any disclosure likely to prejudice the investigation or when a person, knowing that a report has been made, makes any disclosure likely to prejudice any investigation arising from the report.

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), ‘Communication with Those Charged with Governance,’ paragraph 13.

regard to the financial statements of the entity, may occur or have occurred, the auditor shall inform the entity and invite it to investigate the matter and take appropriate measures to deal with such irregularities and to prevent any recurrence of such irregularities in the future. (Ref: Para. A18-2-A18-3) [AR/Article 7]

23. If, in the auditor’s judgment, the non-compliance referred to in paragraph 22 is believed to be intentional and material, the auditor shall^{4a} communicate the matter to those charged with governance as soon as practicable. (Ref: Para. A18-~~42~~)
24. If the auditor suspects that management or those charged with governance are involved in non-compliance, the auditor shall^{4a} communicate the matter to the next higher level of authority at the entity, if it exists, such as an audit committee or supervisory board. Where no higher authority exists, or if the auditor believes that the communication may not be acted upon or is unsure as to the person to whom to report, the auditor shall consider the need to obtain legal advice. (Ref: Para. A18-~~53~~)

Reporting Non-Compliance in the Auditor’s Report on the Financial Statements

25. If the auditor concludes that the non-compliance has a material effect on the financial statements, and has not been adequately reflected in the financial statements, the auditor shall,^{4a} in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), express a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion on the financial statements.⁶
26. If the auditor is precluded by management or those charged with governance from obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence to evaluate whether non-compliance that may be material to the financial statements has, or is likely to have, occurred, the auditor shall^{4a} express a qualified opinion or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements on the basis of a limitation on the scope of the audit in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).
27. If the auditor is unable to determine whether non-compliance has occurred because of limitations imposed by the circumstances rather than by management or those charged with governance, the auditor shall evaluate the effect on the auditor’s opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised). (Ref: Para. A18-~~64~~)

Reporting Non-Compliance to Regulatory and Enforcement Authorities

28. If the auditor has identified or suspects non-compliance with laws and regulations, the auditor shall determine whether the auditor has a responsibility to report the identified or suspected non-compliance to parties outside the entity. (Ref: Para. A19-A20)

28R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, where the entity does not investigate the matter referred to in paragraph 22R-1, the auditor shall inform the authorities responsible for investigating such irregularities. (Ref: Para. A19-13-A19-14) [AR/Article 7]

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraphs 7-8.

Documentation

29. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations and the results of discussion with management and, where applicable, those charged with governance and other parties outside the entity.⁷ (Ref: Para. A21)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Responsibility for Compliance with Laws and Regulations (Ref: Para. 3-8)

- A1. It is the responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations. Laws and regulations may affect an entity's financial statements in different ways: for example, most directly, they may affect specific disclosures required of the entity in the financial statements or they may prescribe the applicable financial reporting framework. They may also establish certain legal rights and obligations of the entity, some of which will be recognized in the entity's financial statements. In addition, laws and regulations may impose penalties in cases of non-compliance.
- A2. The following are examples of the types of policies and procedures an entity may implement to assist in the prevention and detection of non-compliance with laws and regulations:
- Monitoring legal requirements and ensuring that operating procedures are designed to meet these requirements.
 - Instituting and operating appropriate systems of internal control.
 - Developing, publicizing and following a code of conduct.
 - Ensuring employees are properly trained and understand the code of conduct.
 - Monitoring compliance with the code of conduct and acting appropriately to discipline employees who fail to comply with it.
 - Engaging legal advisors to assist in monitoring legal requirements.
 - Maintaining a register of significant laws and regulations with which the entity has to comply within its particular industry and a record of complaints.

In larger entities, these policies and procedures may be supplemented by assigning appropriate responsibilities to the following:

- An internal audit function.
- An audit committee.
- A compliance function.

A2-1. In the UK and Ireland, in certain sectors or activities (for example financial services), there are detailed laws and regulations that specifically require directors to have systems to

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), "Audit Documentation," paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

ensure compliance. Breaches of these laws and regulations could have a material effect on the financial statements.

- A2-2. In the UK and Ireland, it is the directors' responsibility to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of a company or group and of its profit or loss for the financial year. Accordingly it is necessary, where possible non-compliance with law or regulations has occurred which may result in a material misstatement in the financial statements, for them to ensure that the matter is appropriately reflected and/or disclosed in the financial statements.
- A2-3. In the UK and Ireland directors and officers of companies have responsibility to provide information required by the auditor, to which they have a legal right of access^{7a}. Such legislation also provides that it is a criminal offence to give to the auditor information or explanations which are misleading, false or deceptive.

Responsibility of the Auditor

- A3. Non-compliance by the entity with laws and regulations may result in a material misstatement of the financial statements. Detection of non-compliance, regardless of materiality, may affect other aspects of the audit including, for example, the auditor's consideration of the integrity of management or employees.
- A4. Whether an act constitutes non-compliance with laws and regulations is a matter for legal determination, which is ordinarily beyond the auditor's professional competence to determine. Nevertheless, the auditor's training, experience and understanding of the entity and its industry or sector may provide a basis to recognize that some acts, coming to the auditor's attention, may constitute non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- A5. In accordance with specific statutory requirements, the auditor may be specifically required to report, as part of the audit of the financial statements, on whether the entity complies with certain provisions of laws or regulations. In these circumstances, ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised)⁸ or ISA 800⁹ deal with how these audit responsibilities are addressed in the auditor's report. Furthermore, where there are specific statutory reporting requirements, it may be necessary for the audit plan to include appropriate tests for compliance with these provisions of the laws and regulations.

^{7a} In the UK under Section 499 of the Companies Act 2006 or Sections 193(3) and 197 of the Companies Act 1990 in Ireland.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements," paragraph 38.

~~The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, "The Auditor's Report on Financial Statements." Paragraph 21 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 is the equivalent to paragraph 38 of ISA 700.~~

⁹ ISA 800 "Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks," paragraph 11.

ISA 800 has not been promulgated by the FRCAPB for application in the UK and Ireland.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A6. In the public sector, there may be additional audit responsibilities with respect to the consideration of laws and regulations which may relate to the audit of financial statements or may extend to other aspects of the entity's operations.

The Auditor's Consideration of Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Obtaining an Understanding of the Legal and Regulatory Framework (Ref: Para. 12)

- A7. To obtain a general understanding of the legal and regulatory framework, and how the entity complies with that framework, the auditor may, for example:
- Use the auditor's existing understanding of the entity's industry, regulatory and other external factors;
 - Update the understanding of those laws and regulations that directly determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
 - Inquire of management as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the entity;
 - Inquire of management concerning the entity's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations; and
 - Inquire of management regarding the policies or procedures adopted for identifying, evaluating and accounting for litigation claims.

Laws and Regulations Generally Recognized to Have a Direct Effect on the Determination of Material Amounts and Disclosures in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 13)

- A8. Certain laws and regulations are well-established, known to the entity and within the entity's industry or sector, and relevant to the entity's financial statements (as described in paragraph 6(a)). They could include those that relate to, for example:
- The form and content of financial statements^{9a};
 - Industry-specific financial reporting issues;
 - Accounting for transactions under government contracts; or
 - The accrual or recognition of expenses for income tax or pension costs.

In the UK and Ireland, these laws and regulations include:

- Those which determine the circumstances under which a company is prohibited from making a distribution except out of profits available for the purpose^{9b}.

^{9a} In the UK under The Small Companies and Groups (Accounts and Directors' Report) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008-409) and The Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008-410) or The Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986 in Ireland.

^{9b} In the UK under Section 830 of the Companies Act 2006 or Section 45 of the Companies (Amendment) Act 1983 in Ireland.

- Those laws which require auditors expressly to report non-compliance, such as the requirements relating to the maintenance of adequate accounting records^{9c} or the disclosure of particulars of directors' remuneration in a company's financial statements^{9d}.

Some provisions in those laws and regulations may be directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements (for example, the completeness of income tax provisions), while others may be directly relevant to the financial statements as a whole (for example, the required statements constituting a complete set of financial statements). The aim of the requirement in paragraph 13 is for the auditor to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the determination of amounts and disclosures in the financial statements in compliance with the relevant provisions of those laws and regulations.

Non-compliance with other provisions of such laws and regulations and other laws and regulations may result in fines, litigation or other consequences for the entity, the costs of which may need to be provided for in the financial statements, but are not considered to have a direct effect on the financial statements as described in paragraph 6(a).

A8-1. In the UK and Ireland, the auditor's responsibility to express an opinion on an entity's financial statements does not extend to determining whether the entity has complied in every respect with applicable tax legislation. The auditor needs to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to give reasonable assurance that the amounts included in the financial statements in respect of taxation are not materially misstated. This will usually include making appropriate enquiries of those advising the entity on taxation matters (whether within the audit firm or elsewhere). If the auditor becomes aware that the entity has failed to comply with the requirements of tax legislation, the auditor considers whether to report the matter to parties outside the entity.

Procedures to Identify Instances of Non-Compliance – Other Laws and Regulations (Ref: Para. 14)

A9. Certain other laws and regulations may need particular attention by the auditor because they have a fundamental effect on the operations of the entity (as described in paragraph 6(b)). Non-compliance with laws and regulations that have a fundamental effect on the operations of the entity may cause the entity to cease operations, or call into question the entity's continuance as a going concern. For example, non-compliance with the requirements of the entity's license or other entitlement to perform its operations could have such an impact (for example, for a bank, non-compliance with capital or investment requirements)^{9e}. There are also many laws and regulations relating principally to the operating aspects of the entity that typically do not affect the financial statements and are not captured by the entity's information systems relevant to financial reporting.

^{9c} In the UK under Section 498 of the Companies Act 2006 and, in Ireland, under Section 193 and 194 of the Companies Act 1990.

^{9d} In the UK under Section 497 of the Companies Act 2006. There is no equivalent in Ireland.

^{9e} Such requirements exist in the UK under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and in Ireland under the Investment Intermediaries Act 1995, the Central Bank Acts 1942 to 1989 and the Credit Union Act, 1997.

A10. As the financial reporting consequences of other laws and regulations can vary depending on the entity's operations, the audit procedures required by paragraph 14 are directed to bringing to the auditor's attention instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements.

A10-1. When determining the type of procedures necessary in a particular instance the auditor takes account of the particular entity concerned and the complexity of the regulations with which it is required to comply. In general, a small company which does not operate in a regulated area will require few specific procedures compared with a large multinational corporation carrying on complex, regulated business.

Non-Compliance Brought to the Auditor's Attention by Other Audit Procedures (Ref: Para. 15)

A11. Audit procedures applied to form an opinion on the financial statements may bring instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to the auditor's attention. For example, such audit procedures may include:

- Reading minutes;
- Inquiring of the entity's management and in-house legal counsel or external legal counsel concerning litigation, claims and assessments; and
- Performing substantive tests of details of classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures.

A11-1. In the UK and Ireland, the auditor is alert for instances of possible or actual non-compliance with laws and regulations including those that might incur obligations for partners and staff in audit firms to report to a regulatory or other enforcement authority. See paragraphs A11-2 and A19-1 – A19-12.

Money Laundering Offences

A11-2. Anti-money laundering legislation in the UK and Ireland imposes a duty on the auditor to report suspected money laundering activity. There are similar laws and regulations relating to financing terrorist offences^{9f}. The detailed legislation in both countries differs but the impact on the auditor can broadly be summarised as follows:

- Partners and staff in audit firms are required to report suspicions of conduct which would constitute a criminal offence which gives rise to direct or indirect benefit.
- Partners and staff in audit firms need to be alert to the dangers of 'tipping-off' (in the UK) or 'prejudicing an investigation' (in Ireland), as this will constitute a criminal offence under the anti-money laundering legislation.^{4a}

For the UK further detail is set out in Practice Note 12 (Revised): Money Laundering – Guidance for auditors on UK legislation.

^{9f} In the UK, the Terrorism Act 2000 contains reporting requirements for the laundering of terrorist funds which include any funds that are likely to be used for the financing of terrorism.

In Ireland, the Criminal Justice Act 1994 (as amended) requires reporting suspicions of terrorist financing to the appropriate authorities.

Written Representations (Ref: Para. 16)

A12. Because the effect on financial statements of laws and regulations can vary considerably, written representations provide necessary audit evidence about management’s knowledge of identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, whose effects may have a material effect on the financial statements. However, written representations do not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence on their own and, accordingly, do not affect the nature and extent of other audit evidence that is to be obtained by the auditor.¹⁰

Audit Procedures When Non-Compliance Is Identified or Suspected

Indications of Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations (Ref: Para. 18)

A13. If the auditor becomes aware of the existence of, or information about, the following matters, it may be an indication of non-compliance with laws and regulations:

- Investigations by regulatory organizations and government departments or payment of fines or penalties.
- Payments for unspecified services or loans to consultants, related parties, employees or government employees.
- Sales commissions or agent’s fees that appear excessive in relation to those ordinarily paid by the entity or in its industry or to the services actually received.
- Purchasing at prices significantly above or below market price.
- Unusual payments in cash, purchases in the form of cashiers’ cheques payable to bearer or transfers to numbered bank accounts.
- Unusual transactions with companies registered in tax havens.
- Payments for goods or services made other than to the country from which the goods or services originated.
- Payments without proper exchange control documentation.
- Existence of an information system which fails, whether by design or by accident, to provide an adequate audit trail or sufficient evidence.
- Unauthorized transactions or improperly recorded transactions.
- Adverse media comment.

Matters Relevant to the Auditor’s Evaluation (Ref: Para. 18(b))

A14. Matters relevant to the auditor’s evaluation^{10a} of the possible effect on the financial statements include:

- The potential financial consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations on the financial statements including, for example, the imposition of fines, penalties,

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, “Written Representations,” paragraph 4.

^{10a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 620 (Revised), “Using the Work of an Auditor’s Expert” applies if the auditor judges it necessary to obtain appropriate expert advice in connection with the evaluation of the possible effect of legal matters on the financial statements.

damages, threat of expropriation of assets^{10b}, enforced discontinuation of operations, and litigation.

- Whether the potential financial consequences require disclosure.
- Whether the potential financial consequences are so serious as to call into question the fair presentation of the financial statements, or otherwise make the financial statements misleading.

Audit Procedures (Ref: Para. 19)

- A15. The auditor may discuss the findings with those charged with governance where they may be able to provide additional audit evidence. For example, the auditor may confirm that those charged with governance have the same understanding of the facts and circumstances relevant to transactions or events that have led to the possibility of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- A16. If management or, as appropriate, those charged with governance do not provide sufficient information to the auditor that the entity is in fact in compliance with laws and regulations, the auditor may consider it appropriate to consult with the entity's in-house legal counsel or external legal counsel about the application of the laws and regulations to the circumstances, including the possibility of fraud, and the possible effects on the financial statements. If it is not considered appropriate to consult with the entity's legal counsel or if the auditor is not satisfied with the legal counsel's opinion, the auditor may consider it appropriate to consult the auditor's own legal counsel as to whether a contravention of a law or regulation is involved, the possible legal consequences, including the possibility of fraud, and what further action, if any, the auditor would take.

Evaluating the Implications of Non-Compliance (Ref: Para. 21)

- A17. As required by paragraph 21, the auditor evaluates the implications of non-compliance in relation to other aspects of the audit, including the auditor's risk assessment and the reliability of written representations. The implications of particular instances of non-compliance identified by the auditor will depend on the relationship of the perpetration and concealment, if any, of the act to specific control activities and the level of management or employees involved, especially implications arising from the involvement of the highest authority within the entity.
- A18. In exceptional cases, the auditor may consider whether withdrawal from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation, is necessary when management or those charged with governance do not take the remedial action that the auditor considers appropriate in the circumstances, even when the non-compliance is not material to the financial statements. When deciding whether withdrawal from the engagement is necessary, the auditor may consider seeking legal advice. If withdrawal

^{10b} The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 ("POCA") provides procedures to enable the authorities to confiscate in criminal proceedings or bring an action for civil recovery of assets which represent the benefits of criminal conduct. In Ireland, the Criminal Assets Bureau, an agency responsible for the confiscation of assets, was established by the Criminal Assets Bureau Act 1996.

from the engagement is not possible, the auditor may consider alternative actions, including describing the non-compliance in an Other Matter(s) paragraph in the auditor’s report.¹¹

A18-1. Withdrawal from the engagement by the auditor is a step of last resort. It is normally preferable for the auditor to remain in office to fulfil the auditor’s statutory duties, particularly where minority interests are involved. However, there are circumstances where there may be no alternative to withdrawal, for example where the directors of a company refuse to issue its financial statements or the auditor wishes to inform the shareholders or creditors of the company of the auditor’s concerns and there is no immediate occasion to do so.

Reporting of Identified or Suspected Non-Compliance

Reporting Non-Compliance to Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 22R-1-23)

A18-2. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{11a} requires the auditor to communicate in the additional report to the audit committee any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations or articles of association which were identified in the course of the audit.

A18-3. In the UK and Ireland, laws or regulations may prohibit alerting (“tipping off”) the entity when, for example, the auditor is required to report the non-compliance to an appropriate authority pursuant to anti-money laundering legislation.

A18-~~42~~. If a non-compliance is intentional but not material the auditor considers whether the nature and circumstances make it appropriate to communicate to those charged with governance as soon as practicable.

Suspicion that Management or Those Charged with Governance are Involved in Non-Compliance (Ref: Para. 24)

A18-~~53~~. In the case of suspected Money Laundering it may be appropriate to report the matter direct to the appropriate authority.

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraph 8.

In the UK and Ireland, if the auditor concludes that the view given by the financial statements could be affected by a level of uncertainty concerning the consequences of a suspected or actual non-compliance which, in the auditor’s opinion, is significant, the auditor, subject to a consideration of ‘tipping off’ or ‘prejudicing an investigation’ (see footnote 4a), includes an explanatory paragraph referring to the matter in the auditor’s report.

^{11a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance”, paragraph 16R-2(k).

Reporting Non-Compliance in the Auditor’s Report on the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 27)

A18-64. In the UK and Ireland, when considering whether the financial statements reflect the possible consequences of any suspected or actual non-compliance, the auditor has regard to the requirements of applicable accounting standards. Suspected or actual non-compliance with laws or regulations may require disclosure in the financial statements because, although the immediate financial effect on the entity may not be material^{11a}, there could be future material consequences such as fines or litigation. For example, an illegal payment may not itself be material but may result in criminal proceedings against the entity or loss of business which could have a material effect on the true and fair view given by the financial statements.

Reporting Non-Compliance to Regulatory and Enforcement Authorities (Ref: Para. 28)

A19. The auditor’s professional duty to maintain the confidentiality of client information may preclude reporting identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to a party outside the entity. However, the auditor’s legal responsibilities vary by jurisdiction and, in certain circumstances, the duty of confidentiality may be overridden by statute, the law or courts of law. In some jurisdictions, the auditor of a financial institution has a statutory duty to report the occurrence, or suspected occurrence, of non-compliance with laws and regulations to supervisory authorities. Also, in some jurisdictions, the auditor has a duty to report misstatements to authorities in those cases where management and, where applicable, those charged with governance fail to take corrective action. The auditor may consider it appropriate to obtain legal advice to determine the appropriate course of action.

A19-1. Legislation in the UK and Ireland establishes specific responsibilities for the auditor to report suspicions regarding certain criminal offences (for example, in relation to money laundering offences (see paragraph A11-2) and, in the Republic of Ireland, indictable offences under company law and the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001). In addition, the auditor of entities subject to statutory regulation^{11b}, has separate responsibilities to report certain information direct to the relevant regulator. Standards and guidance on these responsibilities is given in Section B of this ISA (UK and Ireland) and relevant **FRCAPB** Practice Notes.

A19-2. The procedures and guidance in Section B of this ISA (UK and Ireland) can be adapted to circumstances in which the auditor of other types of entity becomes aware of a suspected instance of non-compliance with laws or regulations which the auditor is under a statutory duty to report.

Timing of Reports

A19-3. Some laws and regulations stipulate a period within which reports are to be made. If the auditor becomes aware of a suspected or actual non-compliance with law and regulations which gives rise to a statutory duty to report, the auditor complies with any such stipulated

^{11a} As discussed in ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit,” judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances and are affected by the size or nature of a matter or a combination of both.

^{11b} Auditors of financial service entities, pension schemes and, in the UK, charities have a statutory responsibility, subject to compliance with legislation relating to ‘tipping off’ or ‘prejudicing an investigation’ (see footnote 4a), to report matters that are likely to be of material significance to the regulator.

periods for reporting. Ordinarily the auditor makes a report to the appropriate authority as soon as practicable.

Reporting in the Public Interest

A19-4. Where the auditor becomes aware of a suspected or actual instance of non-compliance with law or regulations which does not give rise to a statutory duty to report to an appropriate authority the auditor considers whether the matter may be one that ought to be reported to a proper authority in the public interest and, where this is the case, except in the circumstances covered in paragraph A19-6 below, discusses the matter with those charged with governance, including any audit committee^{11c}.

A19-5. If, having considered any views expressed on behalf of the entity and in the light of any legal advice obtained, the auditor concludes that the matter ought to be reported to an appropriate authority in the public interest, the auditor notifies those charged with governance in writing of the view and, if the entity does not voluntarily do so itself or is unable to provide evidence that the matter has been reported, the auditor reports it.

A19-6. The auditor reports a matter direct to a proper authority in the public interest and without discussing the matter with the entity if the auditor concludes that the suspected or actual instance of non-compliance has caused the auditor no longer to have confidence in the integrity of those charged with governance.

A19-7. Examples of circumstances which may cause the auditor no longer to have confidence in the integrity of those charged with governance include situations:

- Where the auditor suspects or has evidence of the involvement or intended involvement of those charged with governance in possible non-compliance with law or regulations which could have a material effect on the financial statements; or
- Where the auditor is aware that those charged with governance are aware of such non-compliance and, contrary to regulatory requirements or the public interest, have not reported it to a proper authority within a reasonable period. In such a case, if the auditor determines that continued holding of office is untenable or the auditor is removed from office by the client, the auditor will be mindful of the auditor's reporting duties^{11d}.

A19-8. Determination of where the balance of public interest lies requires careful consideration. An auditor whose suspicions have been aroused uses professional judgment to determine whether the auditor's misgivings justify the auditor in carrying the matter further or are too insubstantial to deserve reporting. The auditor is protected from the risk of liability for breach of confidence or defamation provided that:

^{11c} In rare circumstances, according to common law, disclosure might also be justified in the public interest where there is no instance of non-compliance with law or regulations, e.g. where the public is being misled or their financial interests are being damaged; where a miscarriage of justice has occurred; where the health and safety of members of the public or the environment is being endangered – although such events may well constitute breaches of law or regulation.

^{11d} In the UK, under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006.

- In the case of breach of confidence, disclosure is made in the public interest, and such disclosure is made to an appropriate body or person^{11e}, and there is no malice motivating the disclosure; and
- In the case of defamation disclosure is made in the auditor’s capacity as auditor of the entity concerned, and there is no malice motivating the disclosure.

In addition, the auditor is protected from such risks where the auditor is expressly permitted or required by legislation to disclose information^{11f}.

A19-9. 'Public interest' is a concept that is not capable of general definition. Each situation must be considered individually. In the UK, legal precedent indicates that matters to be taken into account when considering whether disclosure is justified in the public interest may include:

- The extent to which the suspected or actual non-compliance with law or regulations is likely to affect members of the public;
- Whether those charged with governance have rectified the matter or are taking, or are likely to take, effective corrective action;
- The extent to which non-disclosure is likely to enable the suspected or actual non-compliance with law or regulations to recur with impunity;
- The gravity of the matter;
- Whether there is a general ethos within the entity of disregarding law or regulations; and
- The weight of evidence and the degree of the auditor’s suspicion that there has been an instance of non-compliance with law or regulations.

A19-10. An auditor who can demonstrate having acted reasonably and in good faith in informing an authority of a breach of law or regulations which the auditor thinks has been committed

^{11e} In the UK, proper authorities could include the Serious Fraud Office, the Crown Prosecution Service, police forces, the Financial Services Authority the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, the Society of Lloyd's, local authorities, the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, the Scottish Office For Scottish Charities, HM Revenue and Customs, the Department of Business Innovation and Skills and the Health and Safety Executive.

In Ireland, comparable bodies could include the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation, the Revenue Commissioners, the Irish Stock Exchange, the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority, the Pensions Board, the Director of Corporate Enforcement, the Health and Safety Authority, The Charities Regulatory Authority and the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment.

^{11f} In the UK, the Employments Rights Act 1996 would give similar protection to an individual member of the audit engagement team who made an appropriate report in the public interest. However, ordinarily a member of the engagement team who believed there was a reportable matter would follow the audit firm’s policies and procedures to address such matters. ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraph 18(a), requires that the engagement partner shall take responsibility for the engagement team undertaking appropriate consultation on difficult or contentious matters. If differences of opinion arise within the engagement team, ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 22, requires that the engagement team shall follow the firm’s policies and procedures for dealing with and resolving differences of opinion.

would not be held by the court to be in breach of duty to the client even if, an investigation or prosecution having occurred, it were found that there had been no offence.

A19-11. The auditor needs to remember that the auditor's decision as to whether to report, and if so to whom, may be called into question at a future date, for example on the basis of:

- What the auditor knew at the time;
- What the auditor ought to have known in the course of the audit;
- What the auditor ought to have concluded; and
- What the auditor ought to have done.

The auditor may also wish to consider the possible consequences if financial loss is occasioned by non-compliance with law or regulations which the auditor suspects (or ought to suspect) has occurred but decided not to report.

A19-12. The auditor may need to take legal advice before making a decision on whether the matter needs to be reported to a proper authority in the public interest.

Reporting to Authorities of Public-Interest Entities

A19-13. The disclosure in good faith to the authorities responsible for investigating such irregularities, by the auditor, of any irregularities referred to in paragraph 28R-1 shall not constitute a breach of any contractual or legal restriction on disclosure of information in accordance with the Audit Regulation.

A19-14. The auditor considers whether to take further action when the entity investigates the matter referred to in paragraph 22R-1 but where the measures taken by management or those charged with governance, in the auditor's professional judgement, were not appropriate to deal with the irregularities identified or would fail to prevent future occurrences.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A20. A public sector auditor may be obliged to report on instances of non-compliance to the legislature or other governing body or to report them in the auditor's report.

Documentation (Ref: Para. 29)

A21. The auditor's documentation of findings regarding identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations may include, for example:

- Copies of records or documents.
- Minutes of discussions held with management, those charged with governance or parties outside the entity.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 250**

SECTION B - THE AUDITOR'S RIGHT AND DUTY TO REPORT TO FINANCIAL REGULATORS ~~IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR~~

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after 17 June 2016~~15 December 2010~~)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 250 (Revised), “Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this Section

1. This Section of ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 deals with the circumstances in which the auditor of an entity financial institution subject to statutory regulation (a 'regulated entity') is required to report direct to a regulator information which comes to the auditor's attention in the course of the work undertaken in the auditor's capacity as auditor of the regulated entity. This may include work undertaken to express an opinion on the entity's financial statements, other financial information or on other matters specified by legislation or by a regulator.

The Auditor's Responsibilities (Ref: Para. A1-A8)

2. The auditor of a regulated entity generally has special reporting responsibilities in addition to the responsibility to report on financial statements. These special reporting responsibilities take two forms:
 - (a) *A responsibility to provide a report on matters specified in legislation or by a regulator.* This form of report is often made on an annual or other routine basis and does not derive from another set of reporting responsibilities. The auditor is required to carry out appropriate procedures sufficient to form an opinion on the matters concerned. These procedures may be in addition to those carried out to form an opinion on the financial statements; and
 - (b) *A statutory duty to report certain information, relevant to the regulators' functions, that come to the auditor's attention in the course of the audit work.* The auditor has no responsibility to carry out procedures to search out the information relevant to the regulator. This form of report is derivative in nature, arising only in the context of another set of reporting responsibilities, and is initiated by the auditor on discovery of a reportable matter.
3. This section of this ISA (UK and Ireland) deals with both forms of direct reports. Guidance on the auditor's responsibility to provide special reports on a routine basis on other matters specified in legislation or by a regulator is given in the Practice Notes dealing with regulated business, for example banks, building societies, investment businesses and insurers.
4. The statutory duty to report to a regulator applies to information which comes to the attention of the auditor in the auditor's capacity as auditor. In determining whether information is obtained in that capacity, two criteria in particular need to be considered: first, whether the person who obtained the information also undertook the audit work; and if so, whether it was obtained in the course of or as a result of undertaking the audit work. Appendix 2 to this Section of this ISA (UK and Ireland) sets out guidance on the application of these criteria.
5. The auditor may have a statutory right to bring information to the attention of the regulator in particular circumstances which lie outside those giving rise to a statutory duty to initiate a direct report. Where this is so, the auditor may use that right to make a direct report relevant to the regulator on a specific matter which comes to the auditor's attention when the auditor concludes that doing so is necessary to protect the interests of those for whose benefit the regulator is required to act.
6. The requirements and explanatory material in this section of this ISA (UK and Ireland) complement but do not replace the legal and regulatory requirements

applicable to each regulated entity. Where the application of those legal and regulatory requirements, taking into account any published interpretations, is insufficiently clear for the auditor to determine whether a particular circumstance results in a legal duty to make a report to a regulator, or a right to make such a report, it may be appropriate to take legal advice.

Effective Date

7. This Section of ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing ~~ending~~ on or after 17 June 2016 ~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

8. The objective of the auditor of a regulated entity is to bring information of which the auditor has become aware in the ordinary course of performing work undertaken to fulfil the auditor's audit responsibilities to the attention of the appropriate regulator as soon as practicable when:
- (a) The auditor concludes that it is relevant to the regulator's functions having regard to such matters as may be specified in statute or any related regulations; and
 - (b) In the auditor's opinion there is reasonable cause to believe it is or may be of material significance to the regulator.

Definitions

9. For purposes of this Section of this ISA (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
- (a) **The Act(s)**: means those Acts that give rise to a duty to report to a regulator. For example:

In the United Kingdom, this includes the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, the Financial Services Act 2012 and regulations made under those Acts, and any future legislation including provisions relating to the duties of auditors similar to those contained in that statute.

In the Republic of Ireland, this includes the Central Bank Acts 1942 to 1989, the Building Societies Act 1989, The Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland Act, 2003, the Trustees Savings Bank Act 1989, the Insurance Act 1989, the European Communities (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) Regulations 1989, the Unit Trusts Act 1990 and, in the case of investment companies, the Companies Act 1990 and any future legislation including provisions relating to the duties of auditors similar to those contained in those Acts, together with other regulations made under them.

- (b) **Audit**: for the purpose of this Section of this ISA (UK and Ireland), the term *audit* refers both to an engagement to report on the financial statements of a regulated entity and to an engagement to provide a report on other matters specified by statute or by a regulator undertaken in the capacity of auditor.
- (c) **Auditor**: the term 'auditor' should be interpreted in accordance with the requirements of the Acts. Guidance on its interpretation is contained in Practice Notes relating to each area of the financial sector to which the duty applies.

- (d) **Material significance:** the term 'material significance' requires interpretation in the context of the specific legislation applicable to the regulated entity. A matter or group of matters is normally of material significance to a regulator's functions when, due either to its nature or its potential financial impact, it is likely of itself to require investigation by the regulator. Further guidance on the interpretation of the term in the context of specific legislation is contained in Practice Notes dealing with the rights and duties of auditors of regulated entities to report direct to regulators.
- (e) **Regulated entity:** an individual, company or other type of entity which is:
- (i) ~~authorised~~Authorized to carry on business in the financial sector which is subject to statutory regulation; or
- (ii) A public-interest entity¹.
- (f) **Regulator:** such persons as are empowered by the Act to regulate ~~the entity business in the financial sector~~. The term includes the Financial Conduct Services Authority (FCSA), the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA), the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI)~~Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority (IFSRA)~~ and such other bodies as may be so empowered in future legislation.
- (g) **'Tipping off'** involves a disclosure that is likely to prejudice any investigation into suspected money laundering which might arise from a report being made to a regulatory authority². Money laundering involves an act which conceals, disguises, converts, transfers, removes, uses, acquires or possesses property which constitutes or represents a benefit from criminal conduct.

Requirements

Conduct of the Audit

Planning

10. When obtaining an understanding of the business for the purpose of the audit, the auditor of a regulated entity shall obtain an understanding of its current activities, the scope of its ~~authorisation~~authorization and the effectiveness of its control environment. (Ref: Para. A9-A16)

Supervision and Control

11. The auditor shall ensure that all staff involved in the audit of a regulated entity have an understanding of:
- (a) The provisions of applicable legislation;
- (b) The regulator's rules and any guidance issued by the regulator; and
- (c) Any specific requirements which apply to the particular regulated entity, appropriate to their role in the audit and sufficient (in the context of that role) to enable them to identify situations which may give reasonable cause to believe that a matter should be reported to the regulator. (Ref: Para. A17-A23)

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) paragraph 7D-1(e) defines public-interest entity.

² More detail is provided in the definition contained in Section A of ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised).

Identifying Matters Requiring a Report Direct to Regulators

12. Where an apparent breach of statutory or regulatory requirements comes to the auditor's attention, the auditor shall:
- (a) Obtain such evidence as is available to assess its implications for the auditor's reporting responsibilities;
 - (b) Determine whether, in the auditor's opinion, there is reasonable cause to believe that the breach is of material significance to the regulator; and
 - (c) Consider whether the apparent breach is criminal conduct that gives rise to criminal property and, as such, should be reported to the specified authorities.
(Ref: Para. A24-A30)

Reporting (Ref: Para. A31-A46)*The Auditor's Statutory Duty to Report Direct to Regulators*

13. When the auditor concludes, after appropriate discussion and investigations, that a matter which has come to the auditor's attention gives rise to a statutory duty to make a report the auditor shall³ bring the matter to the attention of the regulator as soon as practicable in a form and manner which will facilitate appropriate action by the regulator. When the initial report is made orally, the auditor shall make a contemporaneous written record of the oral report and shall confirm the matter in writing to the regulator. (Ref: Para. A31-A35)

13R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor shall:

- (a) Report promptly to the regulator any information concerning that public-interest entity of which the auditor has become aware while carrying out the audit and which may bring about any of the following:
 - (i) A material breach of the laws, regulations or administrative provisions which lay down, where appropriate, the conditions governing authorization or which specifically govern pursuit of the activities of such public-interest entity; or
 - (ii) A material threat or doubt concerning the continuous functioning of the public-interest entity; or
 - (iii) A refusal to issue an audit opinion on the financial statements or the issuing of an adverse or qualified opinion.
- (b) Report any information referred to in paragraph 13R-1(a)(i)-(iii) of which the auditor becomes aware in the course of carrying out the audit of an undertaking having close links⁴ with the public-interest entity for which they are also carrying out the audit. [AR/Article 12.1]

14. When the matter giving rise to a statutory duty to make a report direct to a regulator casts doubt on the integrity of those charged with governance or their competence to conduct the business of the regulated entity, the auditor shall² make the report to the

³ In the UK, subject to compliance with legislation relating to 'tipping off'.

⁴ 'Close links' shall have the meaning assigned to that term in point (38) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (3).

regulator as soon as practicable and without informing those charged with governance in advance. (Ref: Para. A35)

The Auditor's Right to Report Direct to Regulators

15. When a matter comes to the auditor's attention which the auditor concludes does not give rise to a statutory duty to report but nevertheless may be relevant to the regulator's exercise of its functions, the auditor shall²:

- (a) Consider whether the matter should be brought to the attention of the regulator under the terms of the appropriate legal provisions enabling the auditor to report direct to the regulator; and, if so
- (b) Advise those charged with governance that in the auditor's opinion the matter should be drawn to the regulators' attention.

Where the auditor is unable to obtain, within a reasonable period, adequate evidence that those charged with governance have properly informed the regulator of the matter, the auditor shall² make a report direct to the regulator as soon as practicable. (Ref: Para. A36-A37)

Contents of a Report Initiated by the Auditor

16. When making or confirming in writing a report direct to a regulator, the auditor shall:

- (a) State the name of the regulated entity concerned;
- (b) State the statutory power under which the report is made;
- (c) State that the report has been prepared in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 250, Section B 'The Auditor's Right and Duty to Report to Regulators in the Financial Sector';
- (d) Describe the context in which the report is given;
- (e) Describe the matter giving rise to the report;
- (f) Request the regulator to confirm that the report has been received; and
- (g) State the name of the auditor, the date of the written report and, where appropriate, the date on which an oral report was made to the regulator and the name and title of the individual to whom the oral report was made. (Ref: Para. A38-A39)

Relationship With Other Reporting Responsibilities

17. When issuing a report expressing an opinion on a regulated entity's financial statements or on other matters specified by legislation or a regulator, the auditor:

- (a) Shall consider whether there are consequential reporting issues affecting the auditor's opinion which arise from any report previously made direct to the regulator in the course of the auditor's appointment; and
- (b) Shall assess whether any matters encountered in the course of the audit indicate a need for a further direct report. (Ref: Para. A40-A43)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

The Auditor's Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 2-6)

- A1. Before accepting appointment, the auditor follows the procedures identified in the **FRCAPB's** Ethical Standards for Auditors and the ethical pronouncements and Audit Regulations issued by the auditor's relevant professional body.
- A2. In the case of regulated entities, the auditor would in particular obtain an understanding of the appropriate statutory and regulatory requirements and a preliminary knowledge of the management and operations of the entity, so as to enable the auditor to determine whether a level of knowledge of the business adequate to perform the audit can be obtained. The procedures carried out by the auditor in seeking to obtain this preliminary understanding may include discussion with the previous auditor and, in some circumstances, with the regulator.
- A3. On ceasing to hold office, the auditor may be required by statute or by regulation to make specific reports concerning the circumstances relating to that event, and would also follow the procedures identified in the ethical guidance issued by the relevant professional body.
- A4. In addition, the auditor of a regulated entity would assess whether it is appropriate to bring any matters of which the auditor is then aware to the notice of the regulator. Under legislation in the UK, this may be done either before or after ceasing to hold office, as the auditor's statutory right to disclose to a regulator information obtained in the course of the auditor's appointment is not affected by the auditor's removal, resignation or otherwise ceasing to hold office.
- A5. The duty to make a report direct to a regulator does not impose upon the auditor a duty to carry out specific work: it arises solely in the context of work carried out to fulfil other reporting responsibilities. Accordingly, no auditing procedures in addition to those carried out in the normal course of auditing the financial statements, or for the purpose of making any other specified report, are necessary for the fulfilment of the auditor's responsibilities.
- A6. It will, however, be necessary for the auditor to take additional time in carrying out a financial statement audit or other engagement to assess whether matters which come to the auditor's attention should be included in a direct report and, where appropriate, to prepare and submit the report. These additional planning and follow-up procedures do not constitute an extension of the scope of the financial statement audit or of other work undertaken to provide a specified report relating to a regulated entity. They are necessary solely in order to understand and clarify the reporting responsibility and, where appropriate, to make a report.
- A7. The circumstances in which the auditor is required by statute to make a report direct to a regulator include matters which are not considered as part of the audit of financial statements or of work undertaken to discharge other routine responsibilities. For example, the duty to report would apply to information of which the auditor became aware in the course of the auditor's work which is relevant to the **FCSA's** criteria for approved persons, although the auditor is not otherwise required to express an opinion on such matters. However, ~~the~~ legislation imposing a duty to make reports direct to regulators does not require the auditor to change the scope of the audit work, nor does it place on the auditor an obligation to conduct the audit work in such a way that there is reasonable certainty that the auditor will discover all matters which regulators might

consider as being of material significance. Therefore, whilst the auditor of a regulated entity is required to be alert to matters which may require a report, the auditor is not expected to be aware of all circumstances which, had the auditor known of them, would have led the auditor to make such a report. It is only when the auditor becomes aware of such a matter during the conduct of the normal audit work that the auditor has an obligation to determine whether a report to the regulator is required by statute or appropriate for other reasons.

- A8. Similarly, the auditor is not responsible for reporting on a regulated entity's overall compliance with rules with which it is required to comply nor is the auditor required to conduct the audit work in such a way that there is reasonable certainty that the auditor will discover breaches. Nevertheless, breaches of rules with which a regulated entity is required to comply may have implications for the financial statements and, accordingly, the auditor of a regulated entity needs to consider whether any actual or contingent liabilities may have arisen from breaches of regulatory requirements. Breaches of a regulator's requirements may also have consequences for other matters on which the auditor of a regulated entity is required to express an opinion and, if such breaches represent criminal conduct, could give rise to the need to report to specified authorities.

Conduct of the Audit

Planning (Ref: Para. 10)

- A9. ISAs (UK and Ireland) require the auditor to obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment⁵.
- A10. In the context of a regulated entity, the auditor's understanding of its **environment**~~business~~ needs to extend to the applicable statutory provisions, the rules of the regulator concerned and any guidance issued by the regulator on the interpretation of those rules, together with other guidance issued by **relevant authorities, including** the **FRCAPB**.
- A11. The auditor is also required to identify and assess the risks of material misstatements to provide a basis for designing and performing further audit procedures⁶. In making such an assessment the auditor takes into account the control environment, including the entity's higher level procedures for complying with the requirements of its regulator. Such a review gives an indication of the extent to which the general atmosphere and controls in the regulated entity are conducive to compliance, for example through consideration of *inter alia*:
- The adequacy of procedures and training to inform staff of the requirements of relevant legislation and the rules or other regulations of the regulator.;
 - The adequacy of procedures for ~~authorisation~~**authorization** of transactions.;
 - Procedures for internal review of the entity's compliance with regulatory or other requirements.;
 - The authority of, and any resources available to, the compliance officer/Money Laundering Reporting Officer ('MLRO').; ~~and~~

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment," paragraph 11.

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 25.

- Procedures to ensure that possible breaches of requirements are investigated by an appropriate person and are brought to the attention of senior management.
- A12. In some areas of the financial sector, conducting business outside the scope of the entity's ~~authorisation~~authorization is a serious regulatory breach, and therefore of material significance to the regulator. In addition, it may result in fines, suspension or loss of ~~authorisation~~authorization.
- A13. Where the auditor's review of the reporting entity's activities indicates that published guidance by the regulator may not be sufficiently precise to enable the auditor to identify circumstances in which it is necessary to initiate a report, the auditor would consider whether it is necessary to discuss the matters specified in legislation with the appropriate regulator with a view to reaching agreement on its interpretation.
- A14. Similarly, where a group includes two or more companies separately regulated by different regulators, there may be a need to clarify the regulators' requirements in any overlapping areas of activity. However, the statutory duty to make a report as presently defined arises only in respect of the legal entity subject to regulation. Therefore the auditor of an unregulated company in a group that includes one or more other companies which are ~~authorised~~authorized by regulators would not have a duty to report matters to the regulators of those companies.
- A15. When a regulated entity is subject to provisions of two or more regulators, the auditor needs to take account of the separate reporting requirements in planning and conducting the audit work. Arrangements may exist for one regulatory body to rely on financial monitoring being carried out by another body (the 'lead regulator') and where this is the case, routine reports by the regulated entity's auditor may be made to the lead regulator alone.
- A16. However, the auditor's statutory duty to report cannot be discharged by reliance on the lead regulator informing others. Therefore, where the auditor concludes that a matter is of material significance to one regulator, the auditor needs to assess the need for separate reports informing each regulator of matters which the auditor concludes are or may be of material significance to it.

Supervision and Control (Ref: Para. 11)

- A17. ISAs (UK and Ireland) require the engagement partner to take responsibility for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit engagement in compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements⁷. Consequently, in planning and conducting the audit of a regulated entity the auditor needs to ensure that staff are alert to the possibility that a report to its regulator may be required.
- A18. Auditing firms also need to establish adequate procedures to ensure that any matters which are discovered in the course of or as a result of audit work and may give rise to a duty to report are brought to the attention of the engagement partner responsible for the audit on a timely basis.
- A19. The right and duty to report to a regulator applies to information of which the auditor becomes aware in the auditor's capacity as such. They do not extend automatically to any information obtained by a ~~an accounting~~ firm regardless of its source. Consequently

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), "Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 15.

partners and staff undertaking work in another capacity are not required to have detailed knowledge of the regulator's requirements (unless necessary for that other work) nor to bring information to the attention of the engagement partner responsible for the audit on a routine basis.

- A20. However, as discussed further in Appendix 2, firms need to establish lines of communications, commensurate with their size and complexity, sufficient to ensure that non-audit work undertaken for a regulated entity which is likely to have an effect on the audit is brought to the attention of the engagement partner responsible for the audit, who will need to determine whether the results of non-audit work undertaken for a regulated entity ought to be assessed as part of the audit process.

Use of the Work of ~~Reliance on~~ Other Auditors

- A21. An auditor with responsibilities for reporting on financial statements including financial information of one or more components audited by other auditors is required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the work of the other auditors is adequate for the purposes of the audit. The same principle applies to using the work of ~~reliance on~~ another auditor in a different type of engagement. The auditor of a regulated entity who uses ~~there lies on~~ work undertaken by other auditors needs to establish reporting arrangements such that the other auditors bring to the attention of the auditor of the regulated entity matters arising from their work which may give rise to a duty to report to a regulator.
- A22. The nature of the reporting arrangements will depend on the nature of the work undertaken by the other auditors. For example, the statutory duty to make a report relates to the legal entity subject to regulation rather than to the entire group to which that entity may belong. Consequently, the auditor of a holding company authorised ~~authorized~~ by one regulator would not be expected to have knowledge of all matters which come to the attention of a components ~~subsidiary's~~ auditor. The auditor of the regulated entity would, however, have a duty to report, where appropriate, matters which arise from the audit of the regulated entity's own financial statements and of the consolidated group figures.
- A23. Where the audit of a regulated entity is undertaken by joint auditors, knowledge obtained by one auditing firm is likely to be deemed to be known by the other. Care will therefore be needed in agreeing and implementing arrangements to exchange information relating to matters which may give rise to a duty to report to a regulator.

Identifying Matters Requiring a Report Direct to Regulators (Ref: Para. 12)

- A24. The precise matters which give rise to a statutory duty on auditors to make a report to a regulator derive from the relevant Acts. Broadly, such matters fall into three general categories:

- (a) The financial position of the regulated entity;
- (b) Its compliance with requirements for the management of its business; and
- (c) The status of those charged with governance as fit and proper persons.

Further detailed guidance on the interpretation of these matters in the context of specific legislation applicable to each type of regulated entity is contained in Practice Notes dealing with the rights and duties of auditors of regulated entities to report direct to regulators.

- A25. In assessing the effect of an apparent breach, the auditor takes into account the quantity and type of evidence concerning such a matter which may reasonably be expected to be available. If the auditor concludes that the auditor has been prevented from obtaining all such evidence concerning a matter which may give rise to a duty to report, the auditor would normally make a report direct to the regulator as soon as practicable.
- A26. An apparent breach of statutory or regulatory requirements may not of itself give rise to a statutory duty to make a report to a regulator. There will normally be a need for some further investigation and discussion of the circumstances surrounding the apparent breach with the directors in order to obtain sufficient information to determine whether it points to a matter which is or may be of material significance to the regulator. For example, a minor breach which has been corrected by the regulated entity and reported (if appropriate) to the regulator, and which from the evidence available to the auditor appears to be an isolated occurrence, would not normally give the auditor reasonable cause to believe that it is or may be of material significance to the regulator. However a minor breach that results in a criminal offence that gave rise to the criminal property would be reportable to the specified authorities under the anti-money laundering legislation.
- A27. When determining whether a breach of statutory or regulatory requirements gives rise to a statutory duty to make a report direct to a regulator, the auditor considers factors such as:
- Whether the breach, though minor, is indicative of a general lack of compliance with the regulator's requirements or otherwise casts doubt on the status of those charged with governance as fit and proper persons.;
 - Whether a breach which occurred before the auditor's visit to the regulated entity was reported by the entity itself and has since been corrected, such that, at the date of the auditor's discovery, no breach exists.;
 - Whether the circumstances giving rise to a breach which occurred before the auditors visit to the regulated entity continue to exist, or those charged with governance have not taken corrective action, or the breach has re-occurred.;
 - Whether the circumstances suggest that an immediate report to the regulator is necessary in order to protect the interests of depositors, investors, policyholders, clients of the entity or others in whose interests the regulator is required to act.
- A28. The auditor would normally seek evidence to assess the implications of a suspected breach before reporting a matter to the regulator. However, the auditor's responsibility to make a report does not require the auditor to determine the full implications of a matter before reporting: the auditor is required to exercise professional judgment as to whether or not there is reasonable cause to believe that a matter is or may be of material significance to the regulator. In forming that judgment, the auditor undertakes appropriate investigations to determine the circumstances but does not require the degree of evidence which would be a normal part of forming an opinion on financial statements. Such investigations would normally include:
- Enquiry of appropriate level of staff;
 - Review of correspondence and documents relating to the transaction or event concerned; and

- Discussion with those charged with governance, or other senior management where appropriate.

In the case of a life company, it would also be appropriate to consult with the appointed actuary, who also has various statutory duties under insurance companies legislation.

- A29. The potential gravity of some apparent breaches may be such that an immediate report to the regulator is essential in order to enable the regulator to take appropriate action: in particular, prompt reporting of a loss of client assets may be necessary to avoid further loss to investors or others in whose interests the regulator is required to act. The auditor is therefore required to balance the need for further investigation of the matter with the need for prompt reporting.
- A30. On completion of the auditor's investigations, the auditor needs to ensure that the facts and the basis for the auditor's decision (whether to report or not) is adequately documented such that the reasons for that decision may be clearly demonstrated should the need to do so arise in future.

Reporting

The Auditor's Statutory Duty to Report Direct to Regulators (Ref: Para. 13-14)

- A31. Except in the circumstances referred to in paragraph 14 the auditor seeks to reach agreement with those charged with governance on the circumstances giving rise to a report direct to the regulator. However, where a statutory duty to report arises, the auditor is required to make such a report regardless of:
- (a) Whether the matter has been referred to the regulator by other parties (including the company, whether by those charged with governance or otherwise); and
 - (b) Any duty owed to other parties, including those charged with governance of the regulated entity and its shareholders (or equivalent persons).
- A32. Except in the circumstances set out in paragraph 14, the auditor sends a copy of the auditor's written report to those charged with governance and (where appropriate) audit committee of the regulated entity.
- A33. In normal circumstances, the auditor would wish to communicate with the regulator with the knowledge and agreement of those charged with governance of the regulated entity. However, in some circumstances immediate notification of the discovery of a matter giving reasonable grounds to believe that a reportable matter exists will be necessary - for example, a phone call to alert the regulator followed by a meeting to discuss the circumstances.
- A34. Speed of reporting is essential where the circumstances cause the auditor no longer to have confidence in the integrity of those charged with governance. In such circumstances, there may be a serious and immediate threat to the interests of depositors or other persons for whose protection the regulator is required to act; for example where the auditor believes that a fraud or other irregularity may have been committed by, or with the knowledge of, those charged with governance, or have evidence of the intention of those charged with governance to commit or condone a suspected fraud or other irregularity.
- A35. In circumstances where the auditor no longer has confidence in the integrity of those charged with governance, it is not appropriate to provide those charged with governance with copies of the auditor's report. Since such circumstances will be exceptional and

extreme, the auditor may wish to seek legal advice as to the auditor's responsibilities and the appropriate course of action.

The Auditor's Right to Report Direct to Regulators (Ref: Para. 15)

- A36. The auditor may become aware of matters which the auditor concludes are relevant to the exercise of the regulator's functions even though they fall outside the statutory definition of matters which must be reported to a regulator. In such circumstances, the Acts in the UK provide the auditor with protection for making disclosure of the matter to the appropriate regulator⁸.
- A37. Where the auditor considers that a matter which does not give rise to a statutory duty to report is nevertheless, in the auditor's professional judgment, such that it should be brought to the attention of the regulator, it is normally appropriate for the auditor to request those charged with governance of the regulated entity in writing to draw it to the attention of the regulator.

Contents of a Report Initiated by the Auditor (Ref: Para. 16)

- A38. Such a report is a by-product of other work undertaken by the auditor. As a result it is not possible for the auditor or the regulator to conclude that all matters relevant to the regulator were encountered in the course of the auditor's work. The auditor's report therefore sets out the context in which the information reported was identified and indicates the extent to which the matter has been investigated and discussed with those charged with governance.
- A39. Matters to which the auditor may wish to refer when describing the context in which a report is made direct to a regulator include:
- The nature of the appointment from which the report derives. For example, it may be appropriate to distinguish between a report made in the course of an audit of financial statements and one which arises in the course of a more limited engagement, such as an appointment to report on specified matters by the FCSA or IFSRA;
 - The applicable legislative requirements and interpretations of those requirements which have informed the auditor's judgment;
 - The extent to which the auditor has investigated the circumstances giving rise to the matter reported;
 - Whether the matter reported has been discussed with those charged with governance;
 - Whether steps to rectify the matter have been taken.

Relationship With Other Reporting Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 17)

- A40. The circumstances which give rise to a report direct to a regulator may involve an uncertainty or other matter which requires disclosure in the financial statements. The auditor will therefore need to consider whether the disclosures made in the financial statements are adequate for the purposes of giving a true and fair view of the regulated entity's state of affairs and profit or loss. Where the auditor considers it necessary to draw users' attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's judgment, is of such importance that it is fundamental to users'

⁸ There is no statutory provision of protection for a voluntary report under the Acts in the Republic of Ireland.

understanding of the financial statements, the auditor is required to include an emphasis of matter paragraph in the auditor's report⁹.

- A41. Similarly, circumstances giving rise to a report direct to a regulator may also require reflection in the auditor's reports on other matters required by legislation or another regulator.
- A42. In fulfilling the responsibility to report direct to a regulator, it is important that the auditor not only assess the significance of individual transactions or events but also consider whether a combination of such items over the course of the work undertaken for the auditor's primary reporting responsibilities may give the auditor reasonable grounds to believe that they constitute a matter of material significance to the regulator, and so give rise to a statutory duty to make a report.
- A43. As there is no requirement for the auditor to extend the scope of the audit work to search for matters which may give rise to a statutory duty to report, such an assessment of the cumulative effect of evidence obtained in the course of an audit would be made when reviewing the evidence in support of the opinions to be expressed in the reports the auditor has been appointed to make. Where such a review leads to the conclusion that the cumulative effect of matters noted in the course of the audit is of material significance to the regulator, it will be appropriate for a report to be made as set out in paragraph 16 ~~above~~. However, reports indicating a 'nil return' are not appropriate.

Communication of Information by the Regulator

- A44. The Acts provide that, in certain exceptional circumstances, regulators may pass confidential information to another party. The precise circumstances in which regulators may disclose information varies, but in general they may do so if considered necessary to fulfil their own obligations under the appropriate Act, or, in some cases, to enable the auditor to fulfil the auditor's duties either to the regulated entity or, in other cases, to the regulator. Confidential information remains confidential in the hands of the recipient.
- A45. In so far as the law permits, regulators have confirmed that they will consider taking the initiative in bringing a matter to the attention of the auditor of a regulated entity in circumstances where:
- (a) They believe the matter is of such importance that the auditor's knowledge of it could significantly affect the form of the auditor's report on the entity's financial statements or other matters on which the auditor is required to report, or the way in which the auditor discharges the auditor's reporting responsibilities; and
 - (b) The disclosure is for the purpose of enabling or assisting the regulator to discharge its functions under the Acts.
- A46. The auditor needs to be aware that there may be circumstances in which the regulators are unable to disclose such information. Where the auditor of a regulated entity is not informed by the regulator of any matter, therefore, the auditor cannot assume that there are no matters known to the regulator which could affect the auditor's judgment as to whether information is of material significance. However, in the absence of disclosure

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), "Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report," paragraph 6.

by the regulator, the auditor can only form a judgment in the light of evidence to which the auditor has access.

A47. For statutory audits of public-interest entities, the Audit Regulation¹⁰ requires an effective dialogue to be established between the supervising credit institutions and insurance undertakings, on the one hand, and the auditor carrying out the audit of those institutions and undertakings, on the other hand. The responsibility for compliance with this requirement of the Audit Regulation rests with both parties to the dialogue. [AR/Article 12.2]

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014.

Appendix 1**The Regulatory Framework in the Financial Sector**

1. In both the UK and Ireland, legislation exists in the principal areas of financial services to protect the interests of investors, depositors in banks and other users of financial services. Regulated entities operating in the financial sector are required to comply with legal and regulatory requirements concerning the way their business is conducted. Compliance with those rules is monitored in four principal ways:
 - Internal monitoring by those charged with governance of the regulated entity;
 - Submission of regular returns by the regulated entity to the regulator;
 - Monitoring and, in some cases, inspection of the entity by the regulator;
 - Reports² by the reporting entity's auditor on its financial statements and other specified matters required by legislation or by the regulator.

Responsibility for Ensuring Compliance

2. Ensuring compliance with the requirements with which a regulated entity is required to comply in carrying out its business is the responsibility of those charged with governance of a regulated entity. It requires adequate ~~organisation~~organization and systems of controls. The regulatory framework provides that adequate procedures for compliance must be established and maintained. Those charged with governance of a regulated entity are also normally required to undertake regular reviews of compliance and to inform the regulator of any breach of the rules and regulations applicable to its regulated business. In addition, regulators may undertake compliance visits.
3. The auditor of a regulated entity normally has responsibilities for reporting² on particular aspects of its compliance with the regulator's requirements. However, the auditor has no direct responsibility for expressing an opinion on an entity's overall compliance with the requirements for the conduct of its business, nor does an audit provide any assurance that breaches of requirements which are not the subject of regular auditors' reports will be detected.

The Role of Auditors

4. Those charged with governance of regulated entities have primary responsibility for ensuring that all appropriate information is made available to regulators. Normal reporting procedures (including auditor's reports on records, systems and returns, and regular meetings with those charged with governance and/or management and auditors) supplemented by any inspection visits considered necessary by the regulators should provide the regulators with all the information they need to carry out their responsibilities under the relevant Act.

Routine Reporting by Auditors

5. Regulators' requirements for reports by auditors vary. In general terms, however, such reports may include opinions on:
 - The regulated entity's annual financial statements;
 - The regulated entity's compliance with requirements for financial resources; and
 - The adequacy of the regulated entity's system of controls over its transactions and in particular over its clients' money and other property.

6. As a result of performing the work necessary to discharge their routine reporting responsibilities, or those arising from an appointment to provide a special report required by the regulator, the auditor of a regulated entity may become aware of matters which the auditor considers need to be brought to the regulator's attention sooner than would be achieved by routine reports by the entity or its auditor.
7. The auditor of a regulated entity normally has a right to communicate in good faith² information the auditor considers is relevant to the regulators' functions.

The Auditor's Statutory Duty to Report to the Regulator

8. In addition, the auditor is required by law to report² direct to a regulator when the auditor concludes that there is reasonable cause to believe that a matter is or may be of material significance to the regulator. The precise matters which result in a statutory duty to make such a report vary, depending upon the specific requirements of relevant legislation and the regulator's rules. In general, however, a duty to report to a regulator arises when the auditor becomes aware that:
 - The regulated entity is in serious breach of:
 - Requirements to maintain adequate financial resources; or
 - Requirements for those charged with governance to conduct its business in a sound and prudent manner (including the maintenance of systems of control over transactions and over any clients' assets held by the business); or
 - There are circumstances which give reason to doubt the status of those charged with governance or senior management as fit and proper persons.

Confidentiality

9. Confidentiality is an implied term of the auditor's contracts with client entities. However² in the circumstances leading to a right or duty to report, the auditor is entitled to communicate to regulators in good faith information or opinions relating to the business or affairs of the entity or any associated body without contravening the duty of confidence owed to the entity and, in the case of a bank, building society and friendly society, its associated bodies.
10. The statutory provisions permitting the auditor to communicate information to regulators relate to information obtained in the auditor's capacity as auditor of the regulated entity concerned. Auditors and regulators therefore should be aware that confidential information obtained in other capacities may not normally be disclosed to another party.

Appendix 2**The Application of the Statutory Duty to Report to Regulators****Introduction**

1. The statutory duty to report to a regulator² applies to information which comes to the attention of the auditor in the auditor's capacity as auditor. However, neither the term 'auditor' nor the phrase "in the capacity of auditor" are defined in the legislation, nor has the court determined how these expressions should be construed.
2. As a result, it is not always clearly apparent when an ~~an-accounting~~ firm should regard itself as having a duty to report to a regulator. For example, information about a regulated entity may be obtained when partners or staff of the firm which is appointed as its auditor carry out work for another client entity; or when the firm undertakes other work for the regulated entity. Auditors, regulated entities and regulators need to be clear as to when the normal duty of confidentiality will be overridden by the auditor's statutory duty to report to the regulator.
3. In order to clarify whether or not an ~~an-accounting~~ firm should regard itself as bound by the duty, the APB has developed, in conjunction with HM Treasury, the IFSRA and the regulators, guidance on the interpretation of the key conditions for the existence of that duty, namely that the firm is to be regarded as auditor of a regulated entity and that information is obtained in the capacity of auditor.
4. Guidance on the interpretation of the term 'auditor' in the context of each Act is contained in the separate Practice Notes dealing with each area affected by the legislation.
5. This appendix sets out guidance on the interpretation of the phrase "in the capacity of auditor". The Board nevertheless continues to hold the view that the meaning of the phrase should be clarified in legislation in the longer term.

In the Capacity of Auditor

6. In determining whether information is obtained in the capacity of auditor, two criteria in particular should be considered:
 - (a) Whether the person who obtained the information also undertook the audit work; and if so
 - (b) Whether it was obtained in the course of or as a result of undertaking the audit work.
7. It is then necessary to apply these criteria to information about a regulated entity which may become known from a number of sources, and by a number of different individuals within an ~~an-accounting~~ firm. Within a large firm, for example, information may come to the attention of the partner responsible for the audit of a regulated entity, a partner in another office who undertakes a different type of work, or members of the firm's staff at any level. In the case of a sole practitioner who is the auditor of a regulated entity, information about a regulated entity may also be obtained by the practitioner in the course of work other than its audit.

Non-Audit Work Carried out in Relation to a Regulated Entity

8. Where partners or staff involved in the audit of a regulated entity carry out work other than its audit (non-audit work) information about the regulated entity will be known to

them as individuals. In circumstances which suggest that a matter would otherwise give rise to a statutory duty to report² if obtained in the capacity of auditor, it will be prudent for them to make enquiries in the course of their audit work in order to establish whether this is the case from information obtained in that capacity.

9. However where non-audit work is carried out by other partners or staff, neither of the criteria set out in paragraph 6 is met in respect of information which becomes known to them. Nevertheless the firm should take proper account of such information when it could affect the audit so that it is treated in a responsible manner, particularly since in partnership law the knowledge obtained by one partner in the course of the partnership business may be imputed to the entire partnership. In doing so, two types of work may be distinguished: first, work which could affect the firm's work as auditor and, secondly, work which is undertaken purely in an advisory capacity.
10. A firm appointed as auditor of a regulated entity needs to have in place appropriate procedures to ensure that the partner responsible for the audit function is made aware of any other relationship which exists between any department of the firm and the regulated entity when that relationship could affect the firm's work as auditor. Common examples of such work include accounting work, particularly for smaller entities, and provision of tax services to the regulated entity.
11. *Prima facie*, information obtained in the course of non-audit work is not covered by either the right or the duty to report to a regulator. However, the firm appointed as auditor needs to consider whether the results of other work undertaken for a regulated entity need to be assessed as part of the audit process. In principle, this is no different to seeking to review a report prepared by outside consultants on, say, the entity's accounting systems so as to ensure that the auditor makes a proper assessment of the risks of misstatement in the financial statements and of the work needed to form an opinion. Consequently, the partner responsible for the audit needs to make appropriate enquiries in the process of planning and completing the audit (see paragraph 17 above). Such enquiries would be directed to those aspects of the non-audit work which might reasonably be expected to be relevant to the audit. When, as a result of such enquiries, those involved in the audit become aware of issues which may be of material significance to a regulator such issues should be considered, and if appropriate reported² following the requirements set out in this Section of this ISA (UK and Ireland).
12. Work which is undertaken in an advisory capacity, for example to assist the directors of a regulated entity to determine effective and efficient methods of discharging their duties, would not normally affect the work undertaken for the audit. Nevertheless, in rare instances, the partner responsible for such advisory work may conclude that steps considered necessary in order to comply with the regulator's requirements have not been taken by the directors or that the directors intend in some respect not to comply with the regulator's requirements. Such circumstances would require consideration in the course of work undertaken for the audit, both to consider the effect on the auditor's routine reports and to determine whether the possible non-compliance is or is likely to be of material significance to the regulator.

Work Relating to a Separate Entity

13. Information obtained in the course of work relating to another entity audited by the same firm (or the same practitioner) is confidential to that other entity. The auditor is not required, and has no right, to report to a regulator confidential information which arises from work undertaken by the same auditing firm for another client. However, as

a matter of sound practice, individuals involved in the audit of a regulated entity who become aware (in a capacity other than that of auditor of a regulated entity) of a matter which could otherwise give rise to a statutory duty to report would normally make enquiries in the course of their audit of the regulated entity to establish whether the information concerned is substantiated.

14. In carrying out the audit work, the auditor is required to have due regard to whether disclosure of non-compliance with laws and regulations to a proper authority is appropriate in the public interest. standards and guidance on this general professional obligation is set out in Section A of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

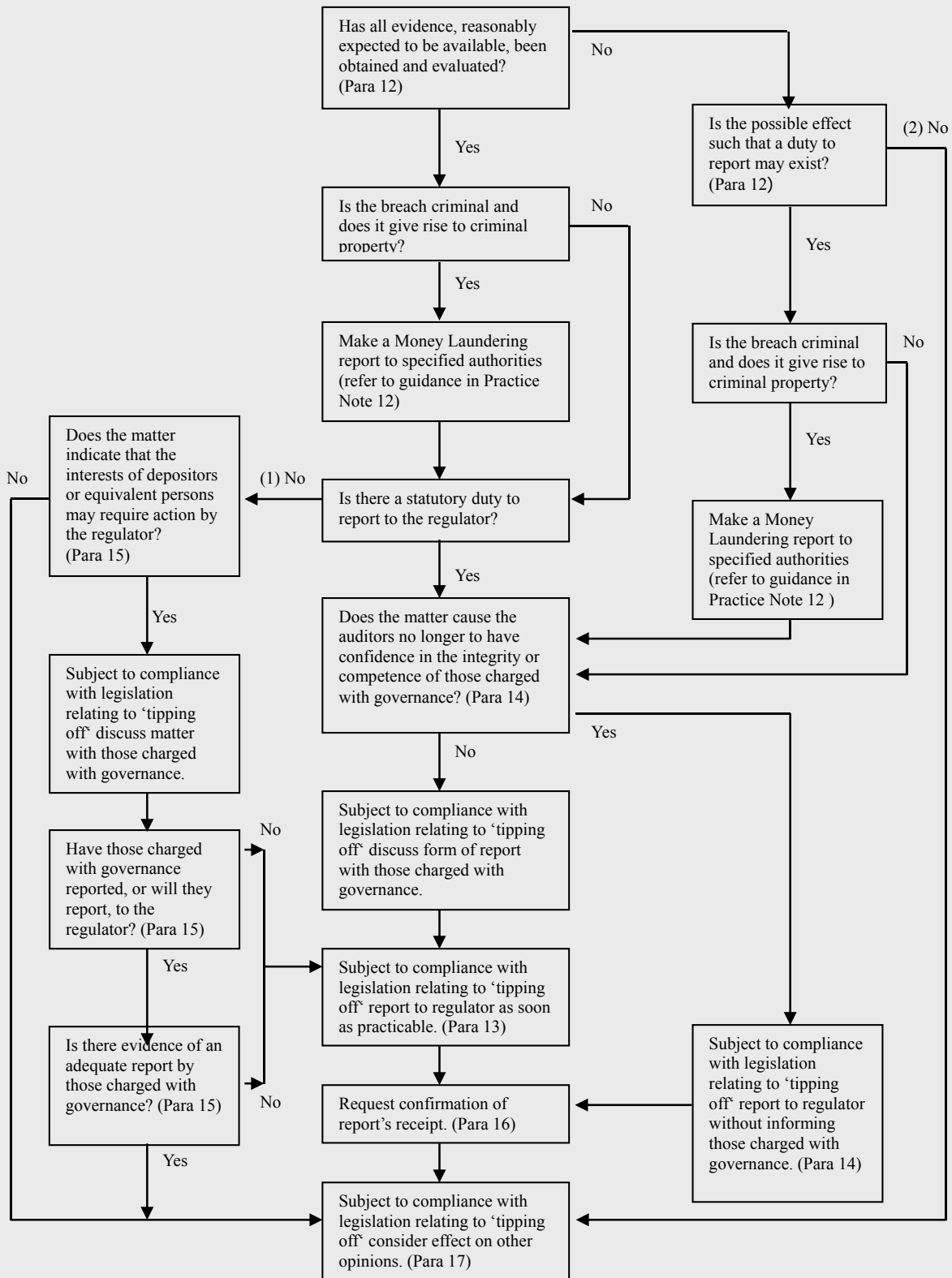
Conclusion

15. The phrase “in his capacity as auditor” limits information subject to the duty to report to matters of which the auditor becomes aware in the auditor’s capacity as such. Consequently, it is unlikely that a partnership can be said to be acting in its capacity as auditor of a particular regulated entity whenever any apparently unrelated material comes to the attention of a partner or member of staff not engaged in that audit, particularly if that material is confidential to another client.
16. The statutory duty to report to a regulator² therefore does not extend automatically to any information obtained by an ~~accounting~~ firm regardless of its source. ~~Accounting~~ ~~f~~Firms undertaking audits of regulated entities need, however, to establish lines of communication, commensurate with their size and ~~organisational~~organizational structure, sufficient to ensure that non-audit work undertaken for a regulated entity which is likely to have an effect on the audit is brought to the attention of the partner responsible for the audit and to establish procedures for the partner responsible for the audit to make appropriate enquiries of those conducting such other work as part of the process of planning and completing the audit.

Appendix 3**Action by the Auditor on Discovery of a Breach of a Regulator's Requirements**

1. This appendix sets out in the form of a flowchart the steps involved in assessing whether a report to a regulator is required when a breach of the regulator's requirements comes to the attention of the auditor.
2. The flowchart is intended to provide guidance to readers in understanding this Section of this ISA (UK and Ireland). It does not form part of the auditing standards contained in the ISA (UK and Ireland).

Action by the Auditor on Discovery of a Breach of a Regulator’s Requirement



(1) This route would be only followed when a distinct right to report to the regulator exists. Otherwise, where no duty to report exists, the auditor would next consider the effect on other opinions.

(2) Where the auditor considers that a distinct right to report to the regulator exists, the auditor would next consider the question marked (1).

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 260 (REVISED ~~SEPTEMBER 2014~~)**

COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ October 2014)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 260 (<u>Revised</u>), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (<u>Revised</u>), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”
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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate with those charged with governance in an audit of financial statements. Although this ISA (UK and Ireland) applies irrespective of an entity's governance structure or size, particular considerations apply where all of those charged with governance are involved in managing an entity, and for listed entities. This ISA (UK and Ireland) does not establish requirements regarding the auditor's communication with an entity's management or owners unless they are also charged with a governance role.
2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is written in the context of an audit of financial statements, but may also be applicable, adapted as necessary in the circumstances, to audits of other historical financial information when those charged with governance have a responsibility to oversee the preparation of the other historical financial information.
3. Recognizing the importance of effective two-way communication in an audit of financial statements, this ISA (UK and Ireland) provides an overarching framework for the auditor's communication with those charged with governance, and identifies some specific matters to be communicated with them. Additional matters to be communicated, which complement the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland), are identified in other ISAs (UK and Ireland) (see Appendix 1). In addition, ISA (UK and Ireland) 265¹ establishes specific requirements regarding the communication of significant deficiencies in internal control the auditor has identified during the audit to those charged with governance. Further matters, not required by this or other ISAs (UK and Ireland), may be required to be communicated by law or regulation, by agreement with the entity, or by additional requirements applicable to the engagement, for example, the standards of a national professional accountancy body. Nothing in this ISA (UK and Ireland) precludes the auditor from communicating any other matters to those charged with governance. (Ref: Para. ~~A3324-A3627~~)

The Role of Communication

4. This ISA (UK and Ireland) focuses primarily on communications from the auditor to those charged with governance. Nevertheless, effective two-way communication is important in assisting:
 - (a) The auditor and those charged with governance in understanding matters related to the audit in context, and in developing a constructive working relationship. This relationship is developed while maintaining the auditor's independence and objectivity;
 - (b) The auditor in obtaining from those charged with governance information relevant to the audit^{1a}. For example, those charged with governance may assist the auditor in understanding the entity and its environment, in identifying appropriate sources

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 265, "Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management."

^{1a} Sections 499 and 500 of the Companies Act 2006 set legal requirements in relation to the auditor's right to obtain information. For the Republic of Ireland, relevant requirements are set out in Sections ~~387-493(3)~~ and ~~389-496~~, Companies Act ~~2014-1990~~.

of audit evidence, and in providing information about specific transactions or events; and

- (c) Those charged with governance in fulfilling their responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process, thereby reducing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements.
5. Although the auditor is responsible for communicating matters required by this ISA (UK and Ireland), management also has a responsibility to communicate matters of governance interest to those charged with governance. Communication by the auditor does not relieve management of this responsibility. Similarly, communication by management with those charged with governance of matters that the auditor is required to communicate does not relieve the auditor of the responsibility to also communicate them. Communication of these matters by management may, however, affect the form or timing of the auditor's communication with those charged with governance.
 6. Clear communication of specific matters required to be communicated by ISAs (UK and Ireland) is an integral part of every audit. ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not, however, require the auditor to perform procedures specifically to identify any other matters to communicate with those charged with governance.
 7. Law or regulation may restrict the auditor's communication of certain matters with those charged with governance. For example, laws or regulations may specifically prohibit a communication, or other action, that might prejudice an investigation by an appropriate authority into an actual, or suspected, illegal act. In some circumstances, potential conflicts between the auditor's obligations of confidentiality and obligations to communicate may be complex. In such cases, the auditor may consider obtaining legal advice.

Effective Date

8. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ ~~October 2014~~.

Objectives

9. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To communicate clearly with those charged with governance the responsibilities of the auditor in relation to the financial statement audit, and an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit;
 - (b) To obtain from those charged with governance information relevant to the audit;
 - (c) To provide those charged with governance with timely observations arising from the audit that are significant and relevant to their responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process; and
 - (d) To promote effective two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance.

Definitions

10. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Those charged with governance – The person(s) or organization(s) (~~e.g. for example~~, a corporate trustee) with responsibility for overseeing the strategic

direction of the entity and obligations related to the accountability of the entity. This includes overseeing the financial reporting process. For some entities in some jurisdictions, those charged with governance may include management personnel, for example, executive members of a governance board of a private or public sector entity, or an owner-manager. For discussion of the diversity of governance structures, see paragraphs A1-A8.

In the UK and Ireland, those charged with governance include the directors (executive and non-executive) of a company and the members of an audit committee where one exists. For other types of entity it usually includes equivalent persons such as the partners, proprietors, committee of management or trustees.

- (b) Management – The person(s) with executive responsibility for the conduct of the entity’s operations. For some entities in some jurisdictions, management includes some or all of those charged with governance, for example, executive members of a governance board, or an owner-manager.

In the UK and Ireland, management will not normally include non-executive directors.

Requirements

Those Charged with Governance

11. The auditor shall determine the appropriate person(s) within the entity’s governance structure with whom to communicate. (Ref: Para. A1-A4)

11R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, if the entity does not have an audit committee, the additional report to the audit committee required by paragraph 16R-2 shall be submitted to the body performing equivalent functions within the entity. [AR/Article 11(1)]

Communication with a Subgroup of Those Charged with Governance

12. If the auditor communicates with a subgroup of those charged with governance, for example, an audit committee, or an individual, the auditor shall determine whether the auditor also needs to communicate with the governing body. (Ref: Para. A5-A7)

When All of Those Charged with Governance Are Involved in Managing the Entity

13. In some cases, all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, for example, a small business where a single owner manages the entity and no one else has a governance role. In these cases, if matters required by this ISA (UK and Ireland) are communicated with person(s) with management responsibilities, and those person(s) also have governance responsibilities, the matters need not be communicated again with those same person(s) in their governance role. These matters are noted in paragraph 16(c). The auditor shall nonetheless be satisfied that communication with person(s) with management responsibilities adequately informs all of those with whom the auditor would otherwise communicate in their governance capacity. (Ref: Para. A8)

Matters to Be Communicated

The Auditor’s Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

14. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance the responsibilities of the auditor in relation to the financial statement audit, including that:

- (a) The auditor is responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management^{1b} with the oversight of those charged with governance; and
- (b) The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities. (Ref: Para. A9-A10)

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

15. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, which includes communicating about the significant risks identified by the auditor. (Ref: Para. A11-A16~~5~~) [IAASB/AR]

In the UK and Ireland, when applicable, the overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit shall also include communicating about the matters required to be determined in accordance with paragraph 10-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.

Significant Findings from the Audit

16. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance: (Ref: Para. A17-A18~~6~~)
- (a) The auditor's views about significant qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures. When applicable, the auditor shall explain to those charged with governance why the auditor considers a significant accounting practice, that is acceptable under the applicable financial reporting framework, not to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the entity; (Ref: Para. A19-A20~~7~~)
 - (b) Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit; (Ref: Para. A21~~18~~)
 - (c) Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity:
 - (i) Significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or subject to correspondence, with management; and (Ref: Para. A22~~19~~)
 - (ii) Written representations the auditor is requesting; ~~and~~
 - (d) Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditor's report, if any; and (Ref: Para. A23-A25)
 - (e) Any oOther significant matters, ~~if any~~, arising ~~during from~~ the audit that, in the auditor's professional judgment, are ~~relevant/significant~~ to the oversight of the financial reporting process. (Ref: Para. A26-A28~~0~~) [IAASB/AR]

Entities that Report on Application of the UK Corporate Governance Code

- 16-1. In the case of entities that are required^{1c}, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code, or to explain why they have not, the auditor shall communicate to the audit committee the information that the auditor believes will be relevant to: (Ref: Para. A20-1)

^{1b} In the UK and Ireland those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

^{1c} In the UK, these include companies with a Premium listing of equity shares regardless of whether they are incorporated in the UK or elsewhere. In Ireland, these include Irish incorporated companies with a primary or secondary listing of equity shares on the Irish Stock Exchange.

- The board (in the context of fulfilling its responsibilities under Code provisions C.1.1, C.1.3, C.2.1, C.2.2 and C.2.3) and, where applicable, the audit committee (in the context of fulfilling its responsibilities under Code provision C.3.4); and
- The audit committee (in the context of fulfilling its responsibilities under Code provision C.3.2) in order to understand the rationale and the supporting evidence the auditor has relied on when making significant professional judgments in the course of the audit and in reaching an opinion on the financial statements.

If not already covered by communications under paragraphs 15, 16 and 16R-2 of this ISA (UK and Ireland)~~above~~ and paragraph 253 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), “Going Concern”, this information shall include the auditor’s views: (Ref: Para. A20-2 – A20-5)

- (a) About business risks relevant to financial reporting objectives, the application of materiality and the implications of their judgments in relation to these for the overall audit strategy, the audit plan and the evaluation of misstatements identified;
- (b) On the significant accounting policies (both individually and in aggregate);
- (c) On management’s valuations of the entity’s material assets and liabilities and the related disclosures provided by management;
- (d) Without expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s system of internal control as a whole, and based solely on the audit procedures performed in the audit of the financial statements, about:
 - (i) The effectiveness of the entity’s system of internal control relevant to risks that may affect financial reporting; and
 - (ii) Other risks arising from the entity’s business model and the effectiveness of related internal controls to the extent, if any, the auditor has obtained an understanding of these matters;
- (e) About the robustness of the directors’ assessment of the principal risks facing the entity, including those that would threaten its business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity and its outcome, including the related disclosures in the annual report confirming that they have carried out such an assessment and describing those risks and explaining how they are being managed or mitigated (in accordance with Code provision C.2.1);
- (f) About the directors’ explanation in the annual report as to how they have assessed the prospects of the entity, over what period they have done so and why they consider that period to be appropriate (in accordance with Code provision C.2.2), and their statements:
 - (i) in the financial statements, as to whether they considered it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing them, including any related disclosures identifying any material uncertainties to the entity’s ability to continue to do so over a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements (in accordance with Code provision C.1.3); and
 - (ii) in the annual report as to whether they have a reasonable expectation that the entity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as

they fall due over the period of their assessment, including any related disclosures drawing attention to any necessary qualifications or assumptions (in accordance with Code provision C.2.2); and

- (g) On any other matters identified in the course of the audit that the auditor believes will be relevant to the board or the audit committee in the context of fulfilling their responsibilities referred to above.

The auditor shall include with this communication sufficient explanation to enable the audit committee to understand the context within which the auditor's views relating to the matters in paragraph (d) above are expressed, including the extent to which the auditor has developed an understanding of these matters in the course of the audit and, if not already communicated to the audit committee, that the audit included consideration of internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements only in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.

16R-2. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor shall submit an additional report in writing to the audit committee of the entity not later than the date of submission of the auditor's report^{1d} explaining the results of the audit carried out and shall at least:

- (a) Include the declaration of independence required by paragraph 17R-1(a);
- (b) Identify each key audit partner(s)^{1e} involved in the audit;
- (c) Where the auditor has made arrangements for any of *the auditor's* activities to be conducted by another firm^{1f} that is not a member of the same network, or has used the work of external experts, the report shall indicate that fact and shall confirm that the auditor received a confirmation from the other firm and/or the external expert regarding their independence;
- (d) Describe the nature, frequency and extent of communication with the audit committee or the body performing equivalent functions within the entity, the management body and the administrative or supervisory body of the audited entity, including the dates of meetings with those bodies;
- (e) Include a description of the scope and timing of the audit;
- (f) Where more than one auditor has been appointed, describe the distribution of tasks among the auditors;
- (g) Describe the methodology used, including which categories of the balance sheet have been directly verified and which categories have been verified based on system and compliance testing, including an explanation of any substantial variation in the weighting of system and compliance testing when compared to the previous year, even if the previous year's audit was carried out by another firm;
- (h) Disclose the quantitative level of materiality applied to perform the audit for the financial statements as a whole and where applicable the materiality level or

^{1d} ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements."

^{1e} "Key audit partner" is defined in paragraph 7D-1(d) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised).

^{1f} "Firm" is defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) as a sole practitioner, partnership or corporation or other entity of professional accountants.

levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and disclose the qualitative factors which were considered when setting the level of materiality;

- (i) Report and explain judgements about events or conditions identified in the course of the audit that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and whether they constitute a material uncertainty, and provide a summary of all guarantees, comfort letters, undertakings of public intervention and other support measures that have been taken into account when making a going concern assessment;
- (j) Report on any significant deficiencies the entity's or, in the case of consolidated financial statements, the parent undertaking's internal financial control system, and/or in the accounting system. For each such significant deficiency, the additional report shall state whether or not the deficiency in question has been resolved by management;
- (k) Report any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations or articles of association which were identified in the course of the audit, in so far as they are considered to be relevant in order to enable the audit committee to fulfil its tasks;
- (l) Report the valuation methods^{1g} applied to the various items in the annual or consolidated financial statements including any impact of changes of such methods;
- (m) In the case of an audit of consolidated financial statements, explain the scope of consolidation and the exclusion criteria applied by the entity to the non-consolidated entities, if any, and whether those criteria applied are in accordance with the financial reporting framework;
- (n) Where applicable, identify any audit work performed by in relation to an audit of consolidated financial statements other than by members of the same network to which the auditor of the consolidated financial statements belongs;
- (o) Indicate whether all requested explanations and documents were provided by the entity;
- (p) Report:
 - (i) Any significant difficulties encountered in the course of the audit;
 - (ii) Any significant matters arising from the audit that were discussed or were the subject of correspondence with management; and
 - (iii) Any other matters arising from the audit that in the auditor's professional judgement, are significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process.

Where more than one auditor has been engaged simultaneously, and any disagreement has arisen between them on auditing procedures, accounting rules or any other issue regarding the conduct of the audit, the reasons for such disagreement shall be explained in the additional report to the audit committee. [AR/Article 11(1)(2)]

^{1g} ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph 19R-1 deals with the auditor's responsibility to assess the valuation methods applied, including any impact of changes of such methods.

Auditor Independence

17. In the case of listed entities, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance:
- (a) A statement that the engagement team and others in the firm as appropriate, the firm and, when applicable, network firms have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence^{1h}; and
 - ~~(b)~~ (i) All relationships and other matters between the firm, network firms, and the entity that, in the auditor’s professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on independence. This shall include total fees charged during the period covered by the financial statements for audit and non-audit services provided by the firm and network firms to the entity and components controlled by the entity. These fees shall be allocated to categories that are appropriate to assist those charged with governance in assessing the effect of services on the independence of the auditor; and
 - (ii) The related safeguards that have been applied to eliminate identified threats to independence or reduce them to an acceptable level. (Ref: Para. A~~2921~~-A~~3223~~)

17R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor shall:

- (a) Confirm annually in writing to the audit committee that the statutory auditor, the audit firm and partners, senior managers and managers, conducting the statutory audit are independent from the audited entity; and
- (b) Discuss with the audit committee the threats to the auditor’s independence and the safeguards applied to mitigate those threats¹ⁱ. [AR/Article 6(2)]

The Communication Process*Establishing the Communication Process*

18. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance the form, timing and expected general content of communications. (Ref: Para. A~~3728~~-A~~4536~~)

Forms of Communication

19. The auditor shall communicate in writing with those charged with governance regarding significant findings from the audit if, in the auditor’s professional judgment, oral communication would not be adequate. Written communications need not include all matters that arose during the course of the audit. (Ref: Para. A~~4637~~-A~~4839~~)
20. The auditor shall communicate in writing with those charged with governance regarding auditor independence when required by paragraph 17 and 17R-1.

^{1h} In the UK and Ireland, auditors are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: the APB’s Ethical Standards for Auditors (ESs), including ES 1 (Revised), “Integrity, Objectivity and Independence,” and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor’s relevant professional body. In the case of listed companies, ES 1 (Revised) specifies information to be communicated to those charged with governance (see Para A21-1 in this ISA (UK and Ireland)).

¹ⁱ Paragraph 27R-2 of ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), “Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements,” deals with the auditor’s responsibility to assess such matters.

20R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities:

- (a) The additional report to the audit committee^{1j} shall be in writing. [AR/Article 11.2]
- (b) The additional report to the audit committee shall be signed and dated. Where firm carries out the audit, the additional report to the audit committee shall be signed by the engagement partner. [AR/Article 11.4]
- (c) Upon request by either the auditor or the audit committee, the auditor shall discuss key matters arising from the audit, referred to in the additional report to the audit committee, and in particular deficiencies communicated in accordance with paragraph 16R-2(j). [AR/Article 11.2]

Timing of Communications

21. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance on a timely basis. (Ref: Para. A~~4940-A50-A41-1~~)

Adequacy of the Communication Process

22. The auditor shall evaluate whether the two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance has been adequate for the purpose of the audit. If it has not, the auditor shall evaluate the effect, if any, on the auditor’s assessment of the risks of material misstatement and ability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, and shall take appropriate action. (Ref: Para. A~~5142-A5344~~)

Documentation

23. Where matters required by this ISA (UK and Ireland) to be communicated are communicated orally, the auditor shall include them in the audit documentation, and when and to whom they were communicated. Where matters have been communicated in writing, the auditor shall retain a copy of the communication as part of the audit documentation.² (Ref: Para. A~~5445~~)

23D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the statutory auditor or the audit firm shall retain any other data and documents that are of importance in support of the additional report to the audit committee^{2a} as part of the audit documentation. [AD/Article 24b.5]

Application and Other Explanatory Material**Those Charged with Governance** (Ref: Para. 11)

- A1. Governance structures vary by jurisdiction and by entity, reflecting influences such as different cultural and legal backgrounds, and size and ownership characteristics. For example:
- In some jurisdictions a supervisory (wholly or mainly non-executive) board exists that is legally separate from an executive (management) board (a “two-tier board”

^{1j} Paragraph 16R-2 deals with the auditor’s responsibilities to prepare an additional report to the audit committee.

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

^{2a} Paragraph 16R-2 deals with the auditor’s responsibilities to prepare an additional report to the audit committee.

structure). In other jurisdictions, both the supervisory and executive functions are the legal responsibility of a single, or unitary, board (a “one-tier board” structure).

- In some entities, those charged with governance hold positions that are an integral part of the entity’s legal structure, for example, company directors. In others, for example, some government entities, a body that is not part of the entity is charged with governance.
 - In some cases, some or all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity. In others, those charged with governance and management comprise different persons.
 - In some cases, those charged with governance are responsible for approving³ the entity’s financial statements (in other cases management has this responsibility).
- A2. In most entities, governance is the collective responsibility of a governing body, such as a board of directors, a supervisory board, partners, proprietors, a committee of management, a council of governors, trustees, or equivalent persons. In some smaller entities, however, one person may be charged with governance, for example, the owner-manager where there are no other owners, or a sole trustee. When governance is a collective responsibility, a subgroup such as an audit committee or even an individual, may be charged with specific tasks to assist the governing body in meeting its responsibilities. Alternatively, a subgroup or individual may have specific, legally identified responsibilities that differ from those of the governing body.
- A3. Such diversity means that it is not possible for this ISA (UK and Ireland) to specify for all audits the person(s) with whom the auditor is to communicate particular matters. Also, in some cases the appropriate person(s) with whom to communicate may not be clearly identifiable from the applicable legal framework or other engagement circumstances, for example, entities where the governance structure is not formally defined, such as some family-owned entities, some not-for-profit organizations, and some government entities. In such cases, the auditor may need to discuss and agree with the engaging party the relevant person(s) with whom to communicate. In deciding with whom to communicate, the auditor’s understanding of an entity’s governance structure and processes obtained in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~)⁴ is relevant. The appropriate person(s) with whom to communicate may vary depending on the matter to be communicated.

³ As described at paragraph A40 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements,” having responsibility for approving in this context means having the authority to conclude that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared.

In the UK and Ireland, those charged with governance are responsible for the approval of the financial statements.

~~The FRC has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.”~~

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment.”

A4. ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised) includes specific matters to be communicated by group auditors with those charged with governance.⁵ When the entity is a component of a group, the appropriate person(s) with whom the component auditor communicates depends on the engagement circumstances and the matter to be communicated. In some cases, a number of components may be conducting the same businesses within the same system of internal control and using the same accounting practices. Where those charged with governance of those components are the same (e.g. for example, common board of directors), duplication may be avoided by dealing with these components concurrently for the purpose of communication.

A4-1. In the UK and Ireland there are statutory obligations on corporate subsidiary undertakings, and their auditors and other parties, to provide the auditor of a corporate parent undertaking with such information and explanations as that auditor may reasonably require for the purposes of the audit.^{5a} Where there is no such statutory obligation (e.g., for non corporate entities), permission may be needed by the auditors of the subsidiary undertakings, from those charged with governance of the subsidiary undertakings, to disclose the contents of any communication to them to the auditor of the parent undertaking and also for the auditor of the parent undertaking to pass those disclosures onto those charged with governance of the parent undertaking. The auditor of the parent undertaking seeks to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made at the planning stage for these disclosures. Normally, such arrangements for groups are recorded in the instructions to the auditors of subsidiary undertakings and relevant engagement letters.

Communication with a Subgroup of Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 12)

A5. When considering communicating with a subgroup of those charged with governance, the auditor may take into account such matters as:

- The respective responsibilities of the subgroup and the governing body.
- The nature of the matter to be communicated.
- Relevant legal or regulatory requirements.
- Whether the subgroup has the authority to take action in relation to the information communicated, and can provide further information and explanations the auditor may need.

A6. When deciding whether there is also a need to communicate information, in full or in summary form, with the governing body, the auditor may be influenced by the auditor's

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised), "Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)," paragraphs 46-49.

^{5a} In the UK, Section 499 of the Companies Act 2006 specifies that the auditor of a company may require any subsidiary undertaking of the company which is a body corporate incorporated in the UK, and any officer, employee or auditor of any such subsidiary undertaking or any person holding or accountable for any books, accounts or vouchers of any such subsidiary undertaking, to provide him with such information or explanations as he thinks necessary for the performance of his duties as auditor. If a parent company has a subsidiary undertaking that is not a body corporate incorporated in the UK, Section 500 of the Companies Act 2006 specifies that the auditor of the parent company may require it to take all such steps as are reasonably open to it to obtain from the subsidiary undertaking, any officer, employee or auditor of the undertaking, or any person holding or accountable for any of the undertaking's books, accounts or vouchers, such information and explanations as he may reasonably require for the purposes of his duties as auditor. Similar obligations regarding companies incorporated in the Republic of Ireland are set out in Section 196, Companies Act 1990.

assessment of how effectively and appropriately the subgroup communicates relevant information with the governing body. The auditor may make explicit in agreeing the terms of engagement that, unless prohibited by law or regulation, the auditor retains the right to communicate directly with the governing body.

A6-1. Audit committees report to the board on various matters related to the discharge of their responsibilities, including those related to the financial statements, the annual report and the audit process (see paragraph A20-1 below). The auditor, when assessing whether there is a need to communicate with the full board regarding matters communicated by the auditor to the audit committee, takes into consideration the adequacy of the communications between the audit committee and the board, including whether they appropriately address relevant matters communicated to the audit committee by the auditor. This may be achieved in one or more ways including: where judged appropriate attending the relevant part of a board meeting where the audit committee reports to the board, holding discussions with individual board members, or reviewing any written reports from the audit committee to the board.

A7. Audit committees (or similar subgroups with different names) exist in many jurisdictions. Although their specific authority and functions may differ, communication with the audit committee, where one exists, has become a key element in the auditor's communication with those charged with governance. Good governance principles suggest that:

- The auditor will be invited to regularly attend meetings of the audit committee.
- The chair of the audit committee and, when relevant, the other members of the audit committee, will liaise with the auditor periodically.
- The audit committee will meet the auditor without management present at least annually.

When All of Those Charged with Governance Are Involved in Managing the Entity (Ref: Para.13)

A8. In some cases, all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, and the application of communication requirements is modified to recognize this position. In such cases, communication with person(s) with management responsibilities may not adequately inform all of those with whom the auditor would otherwise communicate in their governance capacity. For example, in a company where all directors are involved in managing the entity, some of those directors (~~e.g. for example~~, one responsible for marketing) may be unaware of significant matters discussed with another director (~~e.g. for example~~, one responsible for the preparation of the financial statements).

Matters to Be Communicated

The Auditor's Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit (Ref: Para. 14)

A9. The auditor's responsibilities in relation to the financial statement audit are often included in the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement that records the agreed terms of the engagement.⁶ Law, regulation or the governance structure of the entity may require those charged with governance to agree the terms of the engagement with the auditor. When this is not the case, pProviding those charged

⁶ See paragraph 10 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), "Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements."

with governance with a copy of that engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement may be an appropriate way to communicate with them regarding such matters as:

- The auditor’s responsibility for performing the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland), which is directed towards the expression of an opinion on the financial statements. The matters that ISAs (UK and Ireland) require to be communicated, therefore, include significant matters arising ~~during~~ from the audit of the financial statements that are relevant to those charged with governance in overseeing the financial reporting process.
- The fact that ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not require the auditor to design procedures for the purpose of identifying supplementary matters to communicate with those charged with governance.
- When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701⁷ applies, the auditor’s responsibilities to determine and communicate key audit matters in the auditor’s report.
- When applicable, the auditor’s responsibility for communicating particular matters required by law or regulation, by agreement with the entity or by additional requirements applicable to the engagement, for example, the standards of a national professional accountancy body. [IAASB/AR]

A9-1. The provision of copies of the audit engagement letter to the audit committees of listed companies facilitates their review and agreement of the audit engagement letter as recommended by the FRC Guidance on Audit Committees. As part of their review, the guidance further recommends the audit committee to consider whether the audit engagement letter has been updated to reflect changes in circumstances since the previous year.

A10. Law or regulation, an agreement with the entity or additional requirements applicable to the engagement may provide for broader communication with those charged with governance. For example, (a) an agreement with the entity may provide for particular matters to be communicated when they arise from services provided by a firm or network firm other than the financial statement audit; or (b) the mandate of a public sector auditor may provide for matters to be communicated that come to the auditor’s attention as a result of other work, such as performance audits.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit (Ref: Para. 15)

A11. Communication regarding the planned scope and timing of the audit may:

- (a) Assist those charged with governance to understand better the consequences of the auditor’s work, to discuss issues of risk and the concept of materiality with the auditor, and to identify any areas in which they may request the auditor to undertake additional procedures^{7a}; and
- (b) Assist the auditor to understand better the entity and its environment.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

^{7a} The UK Corporate Governance Code and the FRC Guidance on Audit Committees contain, inter alia, recommendations about the audit committee’s relationship with the auditor.

A11-1. The communication of the planned scope of the audit includes, where relevant, any limitations on the work the auditor proposes to undertake (e.g., if limitations are imposed by management)^{7b}.

A12. Communicating significant risks identified by the auditor helps those charged with governance understand those matters and why they require special audit consideration. The communication about significant risks may assist those charged with governance in fulfilling their responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process. Care is required when communicating with those charged with governance about the planned scope and timing of the audit so as not to compromise the effectiveness of the audit, particularly where some or all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity. For example, communicating the nature and timing of detailed audit procedures may reduce the effectiveness of those procedures by making them too predictable. [IAASB/AR]

A13. Matters communicated may include:

- How the auditor ~~plans~~~~proposes~~ to address the significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. [IAASB/AR]
- How the auditor plans to address areas of higher assessed risks of material misstatement. [IAASB/AR]
- The auditor’s approach to internal control relevant to the audit.
- The application of the concept of materiality in the context of an audit.⁸
- The nature and extent of specialized skill or knowledge needed to perform the planned audit procedures or evaluate the audit results, including the use of an auditor’s expert.⁹ [IAASB/AR]
- When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 applies, the auditor’s preliminary views about matters that may be areas of significant auditor attention in the audit and therefore may be key audit matters. [IAASB/AR]
- The auditor’s planned approach to addressing the implications on the individual statements and the disclosures of any significant changes within the applicable financial reporting framework or in the entity’s environment, financial condition or activities. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A13-1. The nature and detail of the planning information communicated will reflect the size and nature of the entity and the manner in which those charged with governance operate.

A13-2 In any particular year, the auditor may decide that there are no significant changes in the planned scope and timing of the audit that have been communicated previously and judge that it is unnecessary to remind those charged with governance of all or part of that information. In these circumstances, the auditor need only make those charged with

^{7b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements,” paragraph 7 requires that if management or those charged with governance impose a limitation on the scope of the auditor’s work in the terms of a proposed audit engagement such that the auditor believes the limitation will result in the auditor disclaiming an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall not accept such a limited engagement as an audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit.”

⁹ See ISA (UK and Ireland) 620 (Revised), “Using the Work of an Auditor’s Expert.”

governance aware that the auditor has no new matters to communicate concerning the planned scope and timing of the audit. Matters that are included in the audit engagement letter need not be repeated.

- A14. Other planning matters that it may be appropriate to discuss with those charged with governance include:
- Where the entity has an internal audit function, how the external and internal auditors can work together in a constructive and complementary manner, including any planned use of the work of the internal audit function, and the nature and extent of any planned use of internal auditors to provide direct assistance.¹⁰
 - The views of those charged with governance about:
 - The appropriate person(s) in the entity’s governance structure with whom to communicate.
 - The allocation of responsibilities between those charged with governance and management.
 - The entity’s objectives and strategies, and the related business risks that may result in material misstatements.
 - Matters those charged with governance consider warrant particular attention during the audit, and any areas where they request additional procedures to be undertaken.
 - Significant communications between the entity and regulators. [IAASB/Disclosures]
 - Other matters those charged with governance consider may influence the audit of the financial statements.
 - The attitudes, awareness, and actions of those charged with governance concerning (a) the entity’s internal control and its importance in the entity, including how those charged with governance oversee the effectiveness of internal control, and (b) the detection or possibility of fraud.
 - The actions of those charged with governance in response to developments in accounting standards, corporate governance practices, exchange listing rules, and related matters, and the effect of such developments on, for example, the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including:
 - The relevance, reliability, comparability and understandability of the information presented in the financial statements; and
 - Considering whether the financial statements are undermined by the inclusion of information that is not relevant or that obscures a proper understanding of the matters disclosed. [IAASB/Disclosures]
 - The responses of those charged with governance to previous communications with the auditor. [IAASB/AR]

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), “Using the Work of Internal Auditors,” paragraphs 20 and 31.

The use of internal auditors to provide direct assistance is prohibited in an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) – see ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), paragraph 5-1.

- The documents comprising the other information (as defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised)) and the planned manner and timing of the issuance of such documents. When the auditor expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor’s report, the discussions with those charged with governance may also include the actions that may be appropriate or necessary if the auditor concludes that a material misstatement of the other information exists in other information obtained after the date of the auditor’s report. [IAASB/OI]

A15. While communication with those charged with governance may assist the auditor to plan the scope and timing of the audit, it does not change the auditor’s sole responsibility to establish the overall audit strategy and the audit plan, including the nature, timing and extent of procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

A16. Care is necessary when communicating with those charged with governance about the planned scope and timing of the audit so as not to compromise the effectiveness of the audit, particularly where some or all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity. For example, communicating the nature and timing of detailed audit procedures may reduce the effectiveness of those procedures by making them too predictable. [IAASB/AR]

Significant Findings from the Audit (Ref: Para. 16-16-1)

A17. The communication of findings from the audit may include requesting further information from those charged with governance in order to complete the audit evidence obtained. For example, the auditor may confirm that those charged with governance have the same understanding of the facts and circumstances relevant to specific transactions or events.

A18. When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 applies, the communications with those charged with governance required by paragraph 16, as well as the communication about the significant risks identified by the auditor required by paragraph 15, are particularly relevant to the auditor’s determination of matters that required significant auditor attention and which therefore may be key audit matters.¹¹ [IAASB/AR]

A18-1. In the UK and Ireland, the communications with those charged with governance required by paragraph 16-1 are also particularly relevant to the auditor’s determination of matters that required significant auditor attention and which therefore may be key audit matters.

Significant Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices (Ref: Para. 16(a))

A19. Financial reporting frameworks ordinarily allow for the entity to make accounting estimates, and judgments about accounting policies and financial statement disclosures for example, in relation to the use of key assumptions in the development of accounting estimates for which there is significant measurement uncertainty. In addition, law, regulation or financial reporting frameworks may require disclosure of a summary of significant accounting policies or make reference to “critical accounting estimates” or “critical accounting policies and practices” to identify and provide additional information to users about the most difficult, subjective or complex judgments made by management in preparing the financial statements. [IAASB/AR]

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, paragraphs 9–10.

A20. As a result, the auditor’s views on the subjective aspects of the financial statements may be particularly relevant to those charged with governance in discharging their responsibilities for oversight of the financial reporting process. For example, in relation to the matters described in paragraph A19, those charged with governance may be interested in the auditor’s evaluation of the adequacy of disclosures of the estimation uncertainty relating to accounting estimates that give rise to significant risks. Open and constructive communication about significant qualitative aspects of the entity’s accounting practices also may include comment on the acceptability of significant accounting practices, and the quality of the disclosures. Appendix 2 identifies matters that may be included in this communication. [IAASB/AR] [IAASB/Disclosures]

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit (Ref: Para. 16(b))

A21~~18~~. Significant difficulties encountered during the audit may include such matters as:

- Significant delays ~~by~~ management, the unavailability of entity personnel, or an unwillingness by management to providing required information necessary for the auditor to perform the auditor’s procedures.
- An ~~unreasonably unnecessary~~ brief time within which to complete the audit.
- Extensive unexpected effort required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.
- The unavailability of expected information.
- Restrictions imposed on the auditor by management.
- Management’s unwillingness to make or extend its assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern when requested.

In some circumstances, such difficulties may constitute a scope limitation that leads to a modification of the auditor’s opinion.¹² [IAASB/AR]

Significant Matters Discussed, or Subject to Correspondence with Management (Ref: Para. 16(c)(i))

A22~~19~~. Significant matters discussed, or subject to correspondence with management may include such matters as:

- Significant events or transactions that occurred during the year.
- Business conditions affecting the entity, and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement.
- Concerns about management’s consultations with other accountants on accounting or auditing matters.
- Discussions or correspondence in connection with the initial or recurring appointment of the auditor regarding accounting practices, the application of auditing standards, or fees for audit or other services.
- Significant matters on which there was disagreement with management, except for initial differences of opinion because of incomplete facts or preliminary information that are later resolved by the auditor obtaining additional relevant facts or information. [IAASB/AR]

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para 16(d))

A23. ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised) requires the auditor to agree the terms of the audit engagement with management or those charged with governance, as appropriate.¹³ The agreed terms of the audit engagement are required to be recorded in an audit engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement and include, among other things, reference to the expected form and content of the auditor’s report.¹⁴ As explained in paragraph A9, if the terms of engagement are not agreed with those charged with governance, the auditor may provide those charged with governance with a copy of the engagement letter to communicate about matters relevant to the audit. The communication required by paragraph 16(d) is intended to inform those charged with governance about circumstances in which the auditor’s report may differ from its expected form and content or may include additional information about the audit that was performed. [IAASB/AR]

A24. Circumstances in which the auditor is required or may otherwise consider it necessary to include additional information in the auditor’s report in accordance with the ISAs (UK and Ireland), and for which communication with those charged with governance is required, include when:

- The auditor expects to modify the opinion in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).¹⁵ [IAASB/AR]
- A material uncertainty related to going concern is reported in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised).¹⁶ [IAASB/AR]
- Key audit matters are communicated in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.¹⁷ [IAASB/AR]
- The auditor considers it necessary to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matters paragraph in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised)¹⁸ or is required to do so by other ISAs. [IAASB/AR]
- The auditor has concluded that there is an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised).¹⁹ [IAASB/OI]

In such circumstances, the auditor may consider it useful to provide those charged with governance with a draft of the auditor’s report to facilitate a discussion of how such matters will be addressed in the auditor’s report. [IAASB/AR]

A25. In the rare circumstances that the auditor intends not to include the name of the engagement partner in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland)

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), paragraph 9.

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), paragraph 10.

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), paragraph 30.

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), “Going Concern,” paragraph 25(d).

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, paragraph 17.

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraph 12.

¹⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information,” paragraph 18(a).

700 (Revised), the auditor is required to discuss this intention with those charged with governance to inform the auditor’s assessment of the likelihood and severity of a significant personal security threat.²⁰ The auditor also may communicate with those charged with governance in circumstances when the auditor elects not to include the description of the auditor’s responsibilities in the body of the auditor’s report as permitted by ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised).²¹ [IAASB/AR]

Other Significant Matters Relevant to the Financial Reporting Process (Ref: Para. 16(~~ef~~))

A26. ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised)²² notes that, as a result of unexpected events, changes in conditions, or the audit evidence obtained from the results of audit procedures, the auditor may need to modify the overall audit strategy and audit plan and thereby the resulting planned nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures, based on the revised consideration of assessed risks. The auditor may communicate with those charged with governance about such matters, for example, as an update to initial discussions about the planned scope and timing of the audit. [IAASB/AR]

A27~~0~~. Other significant matters arising ~~from~~ during the audit that are directly relevant to those charged with governance in overseeing the financial reporting process may include such matters as material misstatements of ~~fact or material inconsistencies in the other information accompanying the audited financial statements~~ that have been corrected. [IAASB/OI]

A28. To the extent not already addressed by the requirements in paragraphs 16(a)-(d) and related application material, the auditor may consider communicating about other matters discussed with, or considered by, the engagement quality control reviewer, if one has been appointed, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised).²³ [IAASB/AR]

Entities that Report on Application of the UK Corporate Governance Code (Ref: Para. 16-1)

A28~~0~~-1. Under the UK Corporate Governance Code, the responsibilities of the directors under Code provision C.1.1 include making a statement that they consider the annual report and accounts taken as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the entity’s position and performance, business model and strategy. The responsibilities of the audit committee under Code provision C.3.4 include, where requested by the board, providing advice in relation to that statement^{23a}. The responsibilities of the board under Code provision C.2.3 include monitoring the entity’s risk management and internal control systems and, at least annually, carrying out a review of their effectiveness and reporting on that review in the annual report^{23b}. The responsibilities of the board under Code provisions C.1.3, C.2.1 and C.2.2 are described in paragraphs 16-1 (e) and (f). The responsibilities

²⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), paragraphs 45 and A58

²¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), paragraph 40

²² ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised), “Planning an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraph A13

²³ See paragraphs 19-22 and A23-A32 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements.”

^{23a} Responsibility for ensuring the annual report is fair, balanced and understandable rests with the board as a whole. The board may ask the audit committee to provide advice on this.

^{23b} In addition, FSA Rule DTR 7.2.5 R requires companies to describe the main features of the internal control and risk management systems in relation to the financial reporting process.

of the audit committee under Code provision C.3.2 include: monitoring the integrity of the financial statements of the entity and any formal announcements relating to the entity's financial performance, reviewing significant financial reporting judgments contained in them; reviewing the entity's internal financial controls and, unless expressly addressed by a separate board risk committee composed of independent directors or by the board itself, the entity's internal control and risk management systems^{23c}; review and monitor the effectiveness of the audit process; and reporting to the board on how it has discharged its responsibilities. The supporting Guidance on Audit Committees indicates that the report to the board should include, inter alia^{23d}:

- The significant issues that the audit committee considered in relation to the financial statements and how these issues were addressed; and
- The basis for its advice, where requested by the board, that the annual report and accounts taken as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the entity's performance, business model and strategy.

A280-2. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the audit committee and the board will be assisted by an understanding of:

- (a) Issues that involve significant judgment; and
- (b) Other matters communicated to them by the auditor relevant to those responsibilities.

This will include an understanding of the rationale and supporting evidence for the auditor's significant professional judgments made in the course of the audit and in reaching the opinion on the financial statements, and of other matters communicated to the audit committee by the auditor in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 16-1, including relevant information communicated in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 15 and 16. The auditor's communications include information regarding separate components of a group where relevant. In fulfilling its responsibilities set out above, the board will be assisted by the report from the audit committee on how the audit committee has discharged its responsibilities.

A280-3. The audit procedures that the auditor designs as part of the audit of the financial statements are not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's system of internal control as a whole and accordingly the auditor does not express such an opinion on the basis of those procedures. However, communication of the auditor's views about the effectiveness of elements of the entity's system of internal control, based on the audit procedures performed in the audit of the financial statements, may help the audit committee and the board fulfil their respective

^{23c} The FRC issues "Guidance on Risk Management and Internal Control and Related Financial and Business Reporting" for directors on their responsibilities under the UK Corporate Governance Code. The guidance indicates that it is for the board to decide what arrangements to put in place to enable it to exercise its responsibilities. The guidance also indicates the nature of the information the board may include in its narrative statement about these matters. Supplementary considerations for the banking sector are provided in "Guidance for Directors of Banks on Solvency and Liquidity Risk Management and the Going Concern Basis of Accounting."

^{23d} The Guidance on Audit Committees also sets out other matters the audit committee should consider in relation to the annual audit cycle, including in relation to the audit plan and the auditor's findings.

responsibilities with respect to the entity’s internal control and risk management systems.

A2~~80~~-4. The auditor’s understanding of the entity includes the entity’s objectives and strategies and those related business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement, obtained in compliance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~)^{23e}, and may also include other risks arising from the entity’s business model that are relevant to an understanding of that model and the entity’s strategy. To the extent that the auditor has obtained an understanding of such risks and the effectiveness of the entity’s system of internal control in addressing them, communicating its views on those matters may be helpful to the audit committee and the board in their evaluation of whether the annual report is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for users to assess the entity’s position and performance, business model and strategy. However, the auditor is not required to design and perform audit procedures expressly for the purpose of forming views about the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control in addressing such risks. Accordingly, to the extent applicable, the auditor may communicate that they have not obtained an understanding of, and therefore are not able to express views about, such risks and related aspects of the entity’s internal control.

A2~~80~~-5. The auditor’s communication of views about the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control may include, or refer to, the communication of significant deficiencies in internal control, if any, that is required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 265. However, views about effectiveness can go beyond just identifying such deficiencies. For example they may include views about such matters as the entity’s strategies for identifying and responding quickly to significant new financial or operational risks; the quality of the reports that the board receives to provide them with information about risks and the operation of internal control; or how the entity’s systems compare in general terms with those of other relevant entities of which the auditor has knowledge, such as the impact on internal control effectiveness that may result from different approaches to maintaining an appropriate control environment. The auditor’s communications include its views relating to separate components of a group where relevant.

Auditor Independence (Ref: Para. 17)

A2~~91~~. The auditor is required to comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to financial statement audit engagements.²⁴

A2~~91~~-1 In the UK and Ireland, auditors are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: the ~~FRCAPB’s Ethical Standards for Auditors (ESs), including ES 1 (Revised), “Integrity, Objectivity and Independence,”~~ and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor’s relevant professional body. In the case of listed companies, ~~the Ethical Standard 1 (Revised)~~ requires that:

“The audit engagement partner shall ensure that those charged with the governance of the audited entity are appropriately informed on a timely basis of all significant facts and matters that bear upon the auditor’s objectivity and independence.” and

^{23e} ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~), paragraph 11(d).

²⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 14.

“In the case of listed companies, the audit engagement partner shall ensure that the audit committee is provided with:

- (a) a written disclosure of relationships (including the provision of non-audit services) that bear on the auditor’s objectivity and independence, the threats to auditor independence that these create, any safeguards that have been put in place and why they address such threats, together with any other information necessary to enable the auditor’s objectivity and independence to be assessed;
- (b) details of non-audit services provided to the audited entity and the fees charged in relation thereto;
- (c) written confirmation that the auditor is independent;
- (d) details of any inconsistencies between APB Ethical Standards and the company’s policy for the supply of non-audit services by the audit firm and any apparent breach of that policy.
- (e) an opportunity to discuss auditor independence issues.”

A~~30~~22. The relationships and other matters, and safeguards to be communicated, vary with the circumstances of the engagement, but generally address:

- (a) Threats to independence, which may be categorized as: self-interest threats, self-review threats, advocacy threats, familiarity threats, and intimidation threats; and
- (b) Safeguards created by the profession, legislation or regulation, safeguards within the entity, and safeguards within the firm’s own systems and procedures.

~~The communication required by paragraph 17(a) may include an inadvertent violation of relevant ethical requirements as they relate to auditor independence, and any remedial action taken or proposed.~~

A31. Relevant ethical requirements or law or regulation may also specify particular communications to those charged with governance in circumstances where breaches of independence requirements have been identified. For example, the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance in writing about any breach and the action the firm has taken or proposes to take.²⁵ [IAASB/AR]

A~~32~~23. The communication requirements relating to auditor independence that apply in the case of listed entities may also be ~~appropriate~~relevant in the case of some other entities, ~~including particularly~~ those that may be of significant public interest, ~~for example because, as a result of their business, their size or their corporate status, they have a large number and~~ wide range of stakeholders ~~and considering the nature and size of the business~~. Examples of ~~such~~ entities ~~that are not listed entities, but where communication of auditor independence may be appropriate, may~~ include ~~public sector entities, credit~~financial institutions, ~~(such as banks, insurance companies, and pension~~retirement benefit funds), ~~and other entities such as charities~~. On the other hand, there may be situations where communications regarding independence may not be relevant, for example, where all of those charged with governance have been informed of relevant facts through their management activities. This is particularly likely where

²⁵ See Section 290.39–49 of the IESBA Code, which addresses breaches of independence.

the entity is owner-managed, and the auditor's firm and network firms have little involvement with the entity beyond a financial statement audit. [\[IAASB/AR\]](#)

Supplementary Matters (Ref: Para. 3)

[A3324](#). The oversight of management by those charged with governance includes ensuring that the entity designs, implements and maintains appropriate internal control with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

[A3425](#). The auditor may become aware of supplementary matters that do not necessarily relate to the oversight of the financial reporting process but which are, nevertheless, likely to be significant to the responsibilities of those charged with governance in overseeing the strategic direction of the entity or the entity's obligations related to accountability. Such matters may include, for example, significant issues regarding governance structures or processes, and significant decisions or actions by senior management that lack appropriate authorization.

[A3526](#). In determining whether to communicate supplementary matters with those charged with governance, the auditor may discuss matters of this kind of which the auditor has become aware with the appropriate level of management, unless it is inappropriate to do so in the circumstances.

[A3627](#). If a supplementary matter is communicated, it may be appropriate for the auditor to make those charged with governance aware that:

- (a) Identification and communication of such matters is incidental to the purpose of the audit, which is to form an opinion on the financial statements;
- (b) No procedures were carried out with respect to the matter other than any that were necessary to form an opinion on the financial statements; and
- (c) No procedures were carried out to determine whether other such matters exist.

The Communication Process

Establishing the Communication Process (Ref: Para. 18)

[A3728](#). Clear communication of the auditor's responsibilities, the planned scope and timing of the audit, and the expected general content of communications helps establish the basis for effective two-way communication.

[A3829](#). Matters that may also contribute to effective two-way communication include discussion of:

- The purpose of communications. When the purpose is clear, the auditor and those charged with governance are better placed to have a mutual understanding of relevant issues and the expected actions arising from the communication process.
- The form in which communications will be made.
- The person(s) in the engagement team and amongst those charged with governance who will communicate regarding particular matters.
- The auditor's expectation that communication will be two-way, and that those charged with governance will communicate with the auditor matters they consider relevant to the audit, for example, strategic decisions that may significantly affect the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures, the suspicion or the detection of fraud, and concerns with the integrity or competence of senior management.

- The process for taking action and reporting back on matters communicated by the auditor.
- The process for taking action and reporting back on matters communicated by those charged with governance.

[A3930](#). The communication process will vary with the circumstances, including the size and governance structure of the entity, how those charged with governance operate, and the auditor's view of the significance of matters to be communicated. Difficulty in establishing effective two-way communication may indicate that the communication between the auditor and those charged with governance is not adequate for the purpose of the audit (see paragraph [A5244](#)).

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

[A4031](#). In the case of audits of smaller entities, the auditor may communicate in a less structured manner with those charged with governance than in the case of listed or larger entities.

Communication with Management

[A4132](#). Many matters may be discussed with management in the ordinary course of an audit, including matters required by this ISA (UK and Ireland) to be communicated with those charged with governance. Such discussions recognize management's executive responsibility for the conduct of the entity's operations and, in particular, management's responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements.

[A4233](#). Before communicating matters with those charged with governance, the auditor may discuss them with management, unless that is inappropriate. For example, it may not be appropriate to discuss questions of management's competence or integrity with management. In addition to recognizing management's executive responsibility, these initial discussions may clarify facts and issues, and give management an opportunity to provide further information and explanations. Similarly, when the entity has an internal audit function, the auditor may discuss matters with appropriate individuals within the function before communicating with those charged with governance.

Communication with Third Parties

[A4334](#). Those charged with governance may be required by law or regulation, or may wish to provide third parties, for example, bankers or certain regulatory authorities, with copies of a written communication from the auditor. In some cases, disclosure to third parties may be illegal or otherwise inappropriate. When a written communication prepared for those charged with governance is provided to third parties, it may be important in the circumstances that the third parties be informed that the communication was not prepared with them in mind, for example, by stating in written communications with those charged with governance:

- (a) That the communication has been prepared for the sole use of those charged with governance and, where applicable, the group management and the group auditor, and should not be relied upon by third parties;
- (b) That no responsibility is assumed by the auditor to third parties; and
- (c) Any restrictions on disclosure or distribution to third parties. [\[IAASB/AR\]](#)

~~A4435~~. In some jurisdictions the auditor may be required by law or regulation to, for example:

- Notify a regulatory or enforcement body of certain matters communicated with those charged with governance. For example, in some countries the auditor has a duty to report misstatements to authorities where management and those charged with governance fail to take corrective action;
- Submit copies of certain reports prepared for those charged with governance to relevant regulatory or funding bodies, or other bodies such as a central authority in the case of some public sector entities; or
- Make reports prepared for those charged with governance publicly available.

~~A4536~~. Unless required by law or regulation to provide a third party with a copy of the auditor's written communications with those charged with governance, the auditor may need the prior consent of those charged with governance before doing so.

Forms of Communication (Ref: Para. 19-~~20~~)

~~A4637~~. Effective communication may involve structured presentations and written reports as well as less structured communications, including discussions. The auditor may communicate matters other than those identified in paragraphs 19-~~and~~ 20R-1 either orally or in writing. Written communications may include an engagement letter that is provided to those charged with governance.

~~A4637~~-1. The auditor discusses issues clearly and unequivocally with those charged with governance so that the implications of those issues are likely to be fully comprehended by them.

~~A4738~~. In addition to the significance of a particular matter, the form of communication (e.g. for example, whether to communicate orally or in writing, the extent of detail or summarization in the communication, and whether to communicate in a structured or unstructured manner) may be affected by such factors as:

- Whether a discussion of the matter will be included in the auditor's report. For example, when key audit matters are communicated in the auditor's report, the auditor may consider it necessary to communicate in writing about the matters determined to be key audit matters.
- Whether the matter has been satisfactorily resolved.
- Whether management has previously communicated the matter.
- The size, operating structure, control environment, and legal structure of the entity.
- In the case of an audit of special purpose financial statements, whether the auditor also audits the entity's general purpose financial statements.
- Legal requirements. In some jurisdictions, a written communication with those charged with governance is required in a prescribed form by local law.
- The expectations of those charged with governance, including arrangements made for periodic meetings or communications with the auditor.
- The amount of ongoing contact and dialogue the auditor has with those charged with governance.

- Whether there have been significant changes in the membership of a governing body. [IAASB/AR]

~~A4738~~-1. The judgment of whether to communicate significant matters orally or in writing may also be affected by the evaluation, required by paragraph 22, of whether the two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance has been adequate for the purpose of the audit. The auditor may judge also that for effective communication a written communication is issued even if its content is limited to explaining that there is nothing the auditor wishes to draw to the attention of those charged with governance. To avoid doubt where there are no matters the auditor wishes to communicate in writing, the auditor may communicate that fact in writing to those charged with governance.

~~A4839~~. When a significant matter is discussed with an individual member of those charged with governance, for example, the chair of an audit committee, it may be appropriate for the auditor to summarize the matter in later communications so that all of those charged with governance have full and balanced information.

Timing of Communications (Ref: Para. 21)

~~A490~~. Timely communication throughout the audit contributes to the achievement of robust two-way dialogue between those charged with governance and the auditor. However, ~~the~~ appropriate timing for communications will vary with the circumstances of the engagement. Relevant circumstances include the significance and nature of the matter, and the action expected to be taken by those charged with governance. For example:

- Communications regarding planning matters may often be made early in the audit engagement and, for an initial engagement, may be made as part of agreeing the terms of the engagement.
- It may be appropriate to communicate a significant difficulty encountered during the audit as soon as practicable if those charged with governance are able to assist the auditor to overcome the difficulty, or if it is likely to lead to a modified opinion. Similarly, the auditor may communicate orally to those charged with governance as soon as practicable significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor has identified, prior to communicating these in writing as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 265.²⁶
- When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 applies, the auditor may communicate preliminary views about key audit matters when discussing the planned scope and timing of the audit (see paragraph A13), and the auditor also may have more frequent communications to further discuss such matters when communicating about significant audit findings.
- Communications regarding independence may be appropriate whenever significant judgments are made about threats to independence and related safeguards, for example, when accepting an engagement to provide non-audit services, and at a concluding discussion.
- Communications regarding findings from the audit ~~A concluding discussion may also be an appropriate time to communicate findings from the audit,~~ including the

²⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 265, paragraphs 9 and A14.

auditor's views about the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, may also be made as part of the concluding discussion.

- When auditing both general purpose and special purpose financial statements, it may be appropriate to coordinate the timing of communications. [IAASB/AR]

A5041. Other factors that may be relevant to the timing of communications include:

- The size, operating structure, control environment, and legal structure of the entity being audited.
- Any legal obligation to communicate certain matters within a specified timeframe.
- The expectations of those charged with governance, including arrangements made for periodic meetings or communications with the auditor.
- The time at which the auditor identifies certain matters, for example, the auditor may not identify a particular matter (e.g. for example, noncompliance with a law) in time for preventive action to be taken, but communication of the matter may enable remedial action to be taken. [IAASB/AR]

A5041-1. Findings from the audit that are relevant to the financial statements, including the auditor's views about the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting and financial reporting, are ordinarily communicated to those charged with governance before they approve the financial statements.

Adequacy of the Communication Process (Ref: Para. 22)

A5142. The auditor need not design specific procedures to support the evaluation of the two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance; rather, that evaluation may be based on observations resulting from audit procedures performed for other purposes. Such observations may include:

- The appropriateness and timeliness of actions taken by those charged with governance in response to matters raised by the auditor. Where significant matters raised in previous communications have not been dealt with effectively, it may be appropriate for the auditor to inquire as to why appropriate action has not been taken, and to consider raising the point again. This avoids the risk of giving an impression that the auditor is satisfied that the matter has been adequately addressed or is no longer significant.
- The apparent openness of those charged with governance in their communications with the auditor.
- The willingness and capacity of those charged with governance to meet with the auditor without management present.
- The apparent ability of those charged with governance to fully comprehend matters raised by the auditor, for example, the extent to which those charged with governance probe issues, and question recommendations made to them.
- Difficulty in establishing with those charged with governance a mutual understanding of the form, timing and expected general content of communications.
- Where all or some of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, their apparent awareness of how matters discussed with the auditor

affect their broader governance responsibilities, as well as their management responsibilities.

- Whether the two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance meets applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

A5243. As noted in paragraph 4, effective two-way communication assists both the auditor and those charged with governance. Further, ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~) identifies participation by those charged with governance, including their interaction with the internal audit function, if any, and external auditors, as an element of the entity's control environment.²⁷ Inadequate two-way communication may indicate an unsatisfactory control environment and influence the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatements. There is also a risk that the auditor may not have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to form an opinion on the financial statements.

A5344. If the two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance is not adequate and the situation cannot be resolved, the auditor may take such actions as:

- Modifying the auditor's opinion on the basis of a scope limitation.
- Obtaining legal advice about the consequences of different courses of action.
- Communicating with third parties (~~e.g. for example~~, a regulator), or a higher authority in the governance structure that is outside the entity, such as the owners of a business (~~e.g. for example~~, shareholders in a general meeting), or the responsible government minister or parliament in the public sector.
- Withdrawing from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation. [\[IAASB/AR\]](#)

Documentation (Ref: Para. 23)

A5445. Documentation of oral communication may include a copy of minutes prepared by the entity retained as part of the audit documentation where those minutes are an appropriate record of the communication.

²⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~), paragraph A77.

Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. 3)

Specific Requirements in ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 and Other ISAs (UK and Ireland) that Refer to Communications with Those Charged With Governance

This appendix identifies paragraphs in ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1²⁸ and other ISAs (UK and Ireland) ~~in effect for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010~~ that require communication of specific matters with those charged with governance. The list is not a substitute for considering the requirements and related application and other explanatory material in ISAs (UK and Ireland).

- ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), “Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements” – paragraph 30(a)
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements” – paragraphs 21, 38(c)(i) and 40-~~42~~R-1
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised), “Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements” – paragraphs 14, 19 and 22-24
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 265, “Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management” – paragraph 9
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit” – paragraphs 12-13
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 505, “External Confirmations” – paragraph 9
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 510, “Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances” – paragraph 7
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 550, “Related Parties” – paragraph 27
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events” – paragraphs 7(b)-(c), 10(a), 13(b), 14(a) and 17
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), “Going Concern” – paragraph ~~25~~3
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised), “Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)” – paragraphs ~~49-~~49D-1
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised), Using the Work of Internal Auditors – paragraph 18; ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised 2013), Using the Work of Internal Auditors – paragraphs 20 and 31
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements – paragraph 45
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report – paragraph 17

²⁸ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), “Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements.”

- ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report” – paragraphs 12, 14, ~~2319(a)~~ and ~~3028~~
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report” – paragraph ~~129~~
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 710, “Comparative Information—Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements” – paragraph 18
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information ~~in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements~~” – paragraphs ~~17-190, 13 and 16~~

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. 16(a), A17)

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

The communication required by paragraph 16(a), and discussed in paragraph A19-A207, may include such matters as:

Accounting Policies

- The appropriateness of the accounting policies to the particular circumstances of the entity, having regard to the need to balance the cost of providing information with the likely benefit to users of the entity’s financial statements. Where acceptable alternative accounting policies exist, the communication may include identification of the financial statement items that are affected by the choice of significant accounting policies as well as information on accounting policies used by similar entities.
- The initial selection of, and changes in significant accounting policies, including the application of new accounting pronouncements. The communication may include: the effect of the timing and method of adoption of a change in accounting policy on the current and future earnings of the entity; and the timing of a change in accounting policies in relation to expected new accounting pronouncements.
- The effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas (or those unique to an industry, particularly when there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus).
- The effect of the timing of transactions in relation to the period in which they are recorded.

Accounting Estimates

- For items for which estimates are significant, issues discussed in ISA (UK and Ireland) 540,²⁹ including, for example:
 - How management identifies those transactions, events and conditions that may give rise to the need for accounting estimates to be recognized or disclosed in the financial statements.~~Management’s identification of accounting estimates.~~
 - Changes in circumstances that may give rise to new, or the need to revise existing, accounting estimates.
 - Whether management’s decision to recognize, or to not recognize, the accounting estimates in the financial statements is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
 - Whether there has been or ought to have been a change from the prior period in the methods for making the accounting estimates and, if so, why, as well as the outcome of accounting estimates in prior periods.
 - Management’s process for making accounting estimates (e.g., when management has used a model), including whether the selected measurement basis for the accounting estimate is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

²⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised), “Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures.”

- Whether the significant assumptions used by management in developing the accounting estimate are reasonable.
- Where relevant to the reasonableness of the significant assumptions used by management or the appropriate application of the applicable financial reporting framework, management's intent to carry out specific courses of action and its ability to do so.
- Risks of material misstatement.
- Indicators of possible management bias.
- How management has considered alternative assumptions or outcomes and why it has rejected them, or how management has otherwise addressed estimation uncertainty in making the accounting estimate.
- The adequacy of disclosure of estimation uncertainty in the financial statements.

Financial Statement Disclosures

- The issues involved, and related judgments made, in formulating particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures (~~e.g. for example~~, disclosures related to revenue recognition, remuneration, going concern, subsequent events, and contingency issues).
- The overall neutrality, consistency and clarity of the disclosures in the financial statements.

Related Matters

- The potential effect on the financial statements of significant risks, exposures and uncertainties, such as pending litigation, that are disclosed in the financial statements.
- The extent to which the financial statements are affected by significant ~~unusual~~ transactions, that are outside the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appear to be unusual. This communication may highlight:
 - The ~~including~~ non-recurring amounts recognized during the period.
 - T, ~~and~~ the extent to which such transactions are separately disclosed in the financial statements.
 - Whether such transactions appear to have been designed to achieve a particular accounting or tax treatment, or a particular legal or regulatory objective.
 - Whether the form of such transactions appears overly complex or where extensive advice regarding the structuring of the transaction has been taken.
 - Where management is placing more emphasis on the need for a particular accounting treatment than on the underlying economics of the transaction.
- The factors affecting asset and liability carrying values, including the entity's bases for determining useful lives assigned to tangible and intangible assets. The communication may explain how factors affecting carrying values were selected and how alternative selections would have affected the financial statements.
- The selective correction of misstatements, for example, correcting misstatements with the effect of increasing reported earnings, but not those that have the effect of decreasing reported earnings.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 265**

**COMMUNICATING DEFICIENCIES IN INTERNAL CONTROL TO THOSE
CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 265, “Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (<u>Revised</u>), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate appropriately to those charged with governance and management deficiencies in internal control¹ that the auditor has identified in an audit of financial statements. This ISA (UK and Ireland) does not impose additional responsibilities on the auditor regarding obtaining an understanding of internal control and designing and performing tests of controls over and above the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#) and ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#).² ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 [\(Revised\)](#)³ establishes further requirements and provides guidance regarding the auditor's responsibility to communicate with those charged with governance in relation to the audit.
2. The auditor is required to obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit when identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement.⁴ In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. The auditor may identify deficiencies in internal control not only during this risk assessment process but also at any other stage of the audit. This ISA (UK and Ireland) specifies which identified deficiencies the auditor is required to communicate to those charged with governance and management.
3. Nothing in this ISA (UK and Ireland) precludes the auditor from communicating to those charged with governance and management other internal control matters that the auditor has identified during the audit.

Effective Date

4. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010.

Objective

5. The objective of the auditor is to communicate appropriately to those charged with governance and management deficiencies in internal control that the auditor has identified during the audit and that, in the auditor's professional judgment, are of sufficient importance to merit their respective attentions.

Definitions

6. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Deficiency in internal control – This exists when:

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment," paragraphs 4 and 12.

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), "The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks."

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 [\(Revised\)](#), "Communication with Those Charged with Governance."

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 12. Paragraphs A60-A65 provide guidance on controls relevant to the audit.

- (i) A control is designed, implemented or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis; or
 - (ii) A control necessary to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing.
- (b) Significant deficiency in internal control – A deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control that, in the auditor’s professional judgment, is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of those charged with governance.
(Ref: Para. A5)

Requirements

7. The auditor shall determine whether, on the basis of the audit work performed, the auditor has identified one or more deficiencies in internal control. (Ref: Para. A1-A4)
8. If the auditor has identified one or more deficiencies in internal control, the auditor shall determine, on the basis of the audit work performed, whether, individually or in combination, they constitute significant deficiencies. (Ref: Para. A5-A11)
9. The auditor shall communicate in writing significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit to those charged with governance on a timely basis. (Ref: Para. A12-A18, A27)
10. The auditor shall also communicate to management at an appropriate level of responsibility on a timely basis: (Ref: Para. A19, A27)
 - (a) In writing, significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor has communicated or intends to communicate to those charged with governance, unless it would be inappropriate to communicate directly to management in the circumstances; and (Ref: Para. A14, A20-A21)
 - (b) Other deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit that have not been communicated to management by other parties and that, in the auditor’s professional judgment, are of sufficient importance to merit management’s attention. (Ref: Para. A22-A26)
11. The auditor shall include in the written communication of significant deficiencies in internal control:
 - (a) A description of the deficiencies and an explanation of their potential effects; and (Ref: Para. A28)
 - (b) Sufficient information to enable those charged with governance and management to understand the context of the communication. In particular, the auditor shall explain that: (Ref: Para. A29-A30)
 - (i) The purpose of the audit was for the auditor to express an opinion on the financial statements;
 - (ii) The audit included consideration of internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control; and

- (iii) The matters being reported are limited to those deficiencies that the auditor has identified during the audit and that the auditor has concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to those charged with governance.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Determination of Whether Deficiencies in Internal Control Have Been Identified (Ref: Para. 7)

- A1. In determining whether the auditor has identified one or more deficiencies in internal control, the auditor may discuss the relevant facts and circumstances of the auditor's findings with the appropriate level of management. This discussion provides an opportunity for the auditor to alert management on a timely basis to the existence of deficiencies of which management may not have been previously aware. The level of management with whom it is appropriate to discuss the findings is one that is familiar with the internal control area concerned and that has the authority to take remedial action on any identified deficiencies in internal control. In some circumstances, it may not be appropriate for the auditor to discuss the auditor's findings directly with management, for example, if the findings appear to call management's integrity or competence into question (see paragraph A20).
- A2. In discussing the facts and circumstances of the auditor's findings with management, the auditor may obtain other relevant information for further consideration, such as:
- Management's understanding of the actual or suspected causes of the deficiencies.
 - Exceptions arising from the deficiencies that management may have noted, for example, misstatements that were not prevented by the relevant information technology (IT) controls.
 - A preliminary indication from management of its response to the findings.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

- A3. While the concepts underlying control activities in smaller entities are likely to be similar to those in larger entities, the formality with which they operate will vary. Further, smaller entities may find that certain types of control activities are not necessary because of controls applied by management. For example, management's sole authority for granting credit to customers and approving significant purchases can provide effective control over important account balances and transactions, lessening or removing the need for more detailed control activities.
- A4. Also, smaller entities often have fewer employees which may limit the extent to which segregation of duties is practicable. However, in a small owner-managed entity, the owner-manager may be able to exercise more effective oversight than in a larger entity. This higher level of management oversight needs to be balanced against the greater potential for management override of controls.

Significant Deficiencies in Internal Control (Ref: Para. 6(b), 8)

- A5. The significance of a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies in internal control depends not only on whether a misstatement has actually occurred, but also on the likelihood that a misstatement could occur and the potential magnitude of the

misstatement. Significant deficiencies may therefore exist even though the auditor has not identified misstatements during the audit.

A6. Examples of matters that the auditor may consider in determining whether a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control constitutes a significant deficiency include:

- The likelihood of the deficiencies leading to material misstatements in the financial statements in the future.
- The susceptibility to loss or fraud of the related asset or liability.
- The subjectivity and complexity of determining estimated amounts, such as fair value accounting estimates.
- The financial statement amounts exposed to the deficiencies.
- The volume of activity that has occurred or could occur in the account balance or class of transactions exposed to the deficiency or deficiencies.
- The importance of the controls to the financial reporting process; for example:
 - General monitoring controls (such as oversight of management).
 - Controls over the prevention and detection of fraud.
 - Controls over the selection and application of significant accounting policies.
 - Controls over significant transactions with related parties.
 - Controls over significant transactions outside the entity's normal course of business.
 - Controls over the period-end financial reporting process (such as controls over non-recurring journal entries).
- The cause and frequency of the exceptions detected as a result of the deficiencies in the controls.
- The interaction of the deficiency with other deficiencies in internal control.

A7. Indicators of significant deficiencies in internal control include, for example:

- Evidence of ineffective aspects of the control environment, such as:
 - Indications that significant transactions in which management is financially interested are not being appropriately scrutinized by those charged with governance.
 - Identification of management fraud, whether or not material, that was not prevented by the entity's internal control.
 - Management's failure to implement appropriate remedial action on significant deficiencies previously communicated.
- Absence of a risk assessment process within the entity where such a process would ordinarily be expected to have been established.

- Evidence of an ineffective entity risk assessment process, such as management’s failure to identify a risk of material misstatement that the auditor would expect the entity’s risk assessment process to have identified.
 - Evidence of an ineffective response to identified significant risks (for example, absence of controls over such a risk).
 - Misstatements detected by the auditor’s procedures that were not prevented, or detected and corrected, by the entity’s internal control.
 - Restatement of previously issued financial statements to reflect the correction of a material misstatement due to error or fraud.
 - Evidence of management’s inability to oversee the preparation of the financial statements.
- A8. Controls may be designed to operate individually or in combination to effectively prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements.⁵ For example, controls over accounts receivable may consist of both automated and manual controls designed to operate together to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the account balance. A deficiency in internal control on its own may not be sufficiently important to constitute a significant deficiency. However, a combination of deficiencies affecting the same account balance or disclosure, relevant assertion, or component of internal control may increase the risks of misstatement to such an extent as to give rise to a significant deficiency.
- A9. Law or regulation in some jurisdictions may establish a requirement (particularly for audits of listed entities) for the auditor to communicate to those charged with governance or to other relevant parties (such as regulators) one or more specific types of deficiency in internal control that the auditor has identified during the audit. Where law or regulation has established specific terms and definitions for these types of deficiency and requires the auditor to use these terms and definitions for the purpose of the communication, the auditor uses such terms and definitions when communicating in accordance with the legal or regulatory requirement.
- A10. Where the jurisdiction has established specific terms for the types of deficiency in internal control to be communicated but has not defined such terms, it may be necessary for the auditor to use judgment to determine the matters to be communicated further to the legal or regulatory requirement. In doing so, the auditor may consider it appropriate to have regard to the requirements and guidance in this ISA (UK and Ireland). For example, if the purpose of the legal or regulatory requirement is to bring to the attention of those charged with governance certain internal control matters of which they should be aware, it may be appropriate to regard such matters as being generally equivalent to the significant deficiencies required by this ISA (UK and Ireland) to be communicated to those charged with governance.
- A11. The requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland) remain applicable notwithstanding that law or regulation may require the auditor to use specific terms or definitions.

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph A66.

Communication of Deficiencies in Internal Control

Communication of Significant Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 9)

A12. Communicating significant deficiencies in writing to those charged with governance reflects the importance of these matters, and assists those charged with governance in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) establishes relevant considerations regarding communication with those charged with governance when all of them are involved in managing the entity.⁶

A12-1. In the UK and Ireland, where applicable, timely communication of significant deficiencies, in writing, to directors of listed entities can assist them comply with apply the revised “Turnbull Guidance”^{6a} on the provisions requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Combined Code relating to internal control and reporting to shareholders thereon.

A13. In determining when to issue the written communication, the auditor may consider whether receipt of such communication would be an important factor in enabling those charged with governance to discharge their oversight responsibilities. In addition, for listed entities in certain jurisdictions, those charged with governance may need to receive the auditor’s written communication before the date of approval of the financial statements in order to discharge specific responsibilities in relation to internal control for regulatory or other purposes. For other entities, the auditor may issue the written communication at a later date. Nevertheless, in the latter case, as the auditor’s written communication of significant deficiencies forms part of the final audit file, the written communication is subject to the overriding requirement⁷ for the auditor to complete the assembly of the final audit file on a timely basis. ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) states that an appropriate time limit within which to complete the assembly of the final audit file is ordinarily not more than 60 days after the date of the auditor’s report.⁸

A13-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{8a} requires the auditor to communicate in the additional report to the audit committee any significant deficiencies in the entity’s internal financial control system or in the accounting system, and whether or not the deficiencies reported have been resolved by management. [AR/Article 11.2(j)]

A14. Regardless of the timing of the written communication of significant deficiencies, the auditor may communicate these orally in the first instance to management and, when appropriate, to those charged with governance to assist them in taking timely remedial action to minimize the risks of material misstatement. Doing so, however, does not relieve the auditor of the responsibility to communicate the significant deficiencies in writing, as this ISA (UK and Ireland) requires.

A15. The level of detail at which to communicate significant deficiencies is a matter of the auditor’s professional judgment in the circumstances. Factors that the auditor may

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 13.

^{6a} ~~“Internal Control Revised Guidance for Directors on the Combined Code” issued by the Financial Reporting Council, October 2005.~~

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraph 14.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), paragraph A21.

^{8a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 16R-2(j).

consider in determining an appropriate level of detail for the communication include, for example:

- The nature of the entity. For instance, the communication required for a public interest entity may be different from that for a non-public interest entity.
- The size and complexity of the entity. For instance, the communication required for a complex entity may be different from that for an entity operating a simple business.
- The nature of significant deficiencies that the auditor has identified.
- The entity's governance composition. For instance, more detail may be needed if those charged with governance include members who do not have significant experience in the entity's industry or in the affected areas.
- Legal or regulatory requirements regarding the communication of specific types of deficiency in internal control.

A16. Management and those charged with governance may already be aware of significant deficiencies that the auditor has identified during the audit and may have chosen not to remedy them because of cost or other considerations. The responsibility for evaluating the costs and benefits of implementing remedial action rests with management and those charged with governance. Accordingly, the requirement in paragraph 9 applies regardless of cost or other considerations that management and those charged with governance may consider relevant in determining whether to remedy such deficiencies.

A17. The fact that the auditor communicated a significant deficiency to those charged with governance and management in a previous audit does not eliminate the need for the auditor to repeat the communication if remedial action has not yet been taken. If a previously communicated significant deficiency remains, the current year's communication may repeat the description from the previous communication, or simply reference the previous communication. The auditor may ask management or, where appropriate, those charged with governance, why the significant deficiency has not yet been remedied. A failure to act, in the absence of a rational explanation, may in itself represent a significant deficiency.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A18. In the case of audits of smaller entities, the auditor may communicate in a less structured manner with those charged with governance than in the case of larger entities.

Communication of Deficiencies in Internal Control to Management (Ref: Para. 10)

A19. Ordinarily, the appropriate level of management is the one that has responsibility and authority to evaluate the deficiencies in internal control and to take the necessary remedial action. For significant deficiencies, the appropriate level is likely to be the chief executive officer or chief financial officer (or equivalent) as these matters are also required to be communicated to those charged with governance. For other deficiencies in internal control, the appropriate level may be operational management with more direct involvement in the control areas affected and with the authority to take appropriate remedial action.

Communication of Significant Deficiencies in Internal Control to Management (Ref: Para. 10(a))

- A20. Certain identified significant deficiencies in internal control may call into question the integrity or competence of management. For example, there may be evidence of fraud or intentional non-compliance with laws and regulations by management, or management may exhibit an inability to oversee the preparation of adequate financial statements that may raise doubt about management's competence. Accordingly, it may not be appropriate to communicate such deficiencies directly to management.
- A21. ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised) establishes requirements and provides guidance on the reporting of identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, including when those charged with governance are themselves involved in such non-compliance.⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised) establishes requirements and provides guidance regarding communication to those charged with governance when the auditor has identified fraud or suspected fraud involving management.¹⁰

Communication of Other Deficiencies in Internal Control to Management (Ref: Para. 10(b))

- A22. During the audit, the auditor may identify other deficiencies in internal control that are not significant deficiencies but that may be of sufficient importance to merit management's attention. The determination as to which other deficiencies in internal control merit management's attention is a matter of professional judgment in the circumstances, taking into account the likelihood and potential magnitude of misstatements that may arise in the financial statements as a result of those deficiencies.
- A23. The communication of other deficiencies in internal control that merit management's attention need not be in writing but may be oral. Where the auditor has discussed the facts and circumstances of the auditor's findings with management, the auditor may consider an oral communication of the other deficiencies to have been made to management at the time of these discussions. Accordingly, a formal communication need not be made subsequently.
- A24. If the auditor has communicated deficiencies in internal control other than significant deficiencies to management in a prior period and management has chosen not to remedy them for cost or other reasons, the auditor need not repeat the communication in the current period. The auditor is also not required to repeat information about such deficiencies if it has been previously communicated to management by other parties, such as the internal audit function or regulators. It may, however, be appropriate for the auditor to re-communicate these other deficiencies if there has been a change of management, or if new information has come to the auditor's attention that alters the prior understanding of the auditor and management regarding the deficiencies. Nevertheless, the failure of management to remedy other deficiencies in internal control that were previously communicated may become a significant deficiency requiring communication with those charged with governance. Whether this is the case depends on the auditor's judgment in the circumstances.
- A25. In some circumstances, those charged with governance may wish to be made aware of the details of other deficiencies in internal control the auditor has communicated to

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised), "Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraphs 22-28.

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 41.

management, or be briefly informed of the nature of the other deficiencies. Alternatively, the auditor may consider it appropriate to inform those charged with governance of the communication of the other deficiencies to management. In either case, the auditor may report orally or in writing to those charged with governance as appropriate.

- A26. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) establishes relevant considerations regarding communication with those charged with governance when all of them are involved in managing the entity.¹¹

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities (Ref: Para. 9-10)

- A27. Public sector auditors may have additional responsibilities to communicate deficiencies in internal control that the auditor has identified during the audit, in ways, at a level of detail and to parties not envisaged in this ISA (UK and Ireland). For example, significant deficiencies may have to be communicated to the legislature or other governing body. Law, regulation or other authority may also mandate that public sector auditors report deficiencies in internal control, irrespective of the significance of the potential effects of those deficiencies. Further, legislation may require public sector auditors to report on broader internal control-related matters than the deficiencies in internal control required to be communicated by this ISA (UK and Ireland), for example, controls related to compliance with legislative authorities, regulations, or provisions of contracts or grant agreements.

Content of Written Communication of Significant Deficiencies in Internal Control (Ref: Para. 11)

- A28. In explaining the potential effects of the significant deficiencies, the auditor need not quantify those effects. The significant deficiencies may be grouped together for reporting purposes where it is appropriate to do so. The auditor may also include in the written communication suggestions for remedial action on the deficiencies, management's actual or proposed responses, and a statement as to whether or not the auditor has undertaken any steps to verify whether management's responses have been implemented.
- A29. The auditor may consider it appropriate to include the following information as additional context for the communication:
- An indication that if the auditor had performed more extensive procedures on internal control, the auditor might have identified more deficiencies to be reported, or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not, in fact, have been reported.
 - An indication that such communication has been provided for the purposes of those charged with governance, and that it may not be suitable for other purposes.
- A30. Law or regulation may require the auditor or management to furnish a copy of the auditor's written communication on significant deficiencies to appropriate regulatory authorities. Where this is the case, the auditor's written communication may identify such regulatory authorities.

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 13.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 300 (REVISED)**

PLANNING AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after 17 June 2016~~5~~
~~December 2010~~)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 300 <u>(Revised)</u> , “Planning an Audit of Financial Statements” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 <u>(Revised)</u> , “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor’s responsibility to plan an audit of financial statements. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is written in the context of recurring audits. Additional considerations in an initial audit engagement are separately identified.

The Role and Timing of Planning

2. Planning an audit involves establishing the overall audit strategy for the engagement and developing an audit plan. Adequate planning benefits the audit of financial statements in several ways, including the following: (Ref: Para. A1-A3)
 - Helping the auditor to devote appropriate attention to important areas of the audit.
 - Helping the auditor identify and resolve potential problems on a timely basis.
 - Helping the auditor properly organize and manage the audit engagement so that it is performed in an effective and efficient manner.
 - Assisting in the selection of engagement team members with appropriate levels of capabilities and competence to respond to anticipated risks, and the proper assignment of work to them.
 - Facilitating the direction and supervision of engagement team members and the review of their work.
 - Assisting, where applicable, in coordination of work done by auditors of components and experts.

Effective Date

3. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing ending on or after 17 June 2016~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

4. The objective of the auditor is to plan the audit so that it will be performed in an effective manner.

Requirements

Involvement of Key Engagement Team Members

5. The engagement partner and other key members of the engagement team shall be involved in planning the audit, including planning and participating in the discussion among engagement team members. (Ref: Para. A4)

Preliminary Engagement Activities

6. The auditor shall undertake the following activities at the beginning of the current audit engagement:
 - (a) Performing procedures required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) regarding the continuance of the client relationship and the specific audit engagement;¹

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraphs 12-13.

- (b) Evaluating compliance with relevant ethical requirements, including independence, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised);² and
- (c) Establishing an understanding of the terms of the engagement, as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised).³ (Ref: Para. A5-A7)

Planning Activities

- 7. The auditor shall establish an overall audit strategy that sets the scope, timing and direction of the audit, and that guides the development of the audit plan.
- 8. In establishing the overall audit strategy, the auditor shall:
 - (a) Identify the characteristics of the engagement that define its scope;
 - (b) Ascertain the reporting objectives of the engagement to plan the timing of the audit and the nature of the communications required;
 - (c) Consider the factors that, in the auditor’s professional judgment, are significant in directing the engagement team’s efforts;
 - (d) Consider the results of preliminary engagement activities and, where applicable, whether knowledge gained on other engagements performed by the engagement partner for the entity is relevant; and
 - (e) Ascertain the nature, timing and extent of resources necessary to perform the engagement. (Ref: Para. A8-A11)
- 9. The auditor shall develop an audit plan that shall include a description of:
 - (a) The nature, timing and extent of planned risk assessment procedures, as determined under ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised).⁴
 - (b) The nature, timing and extent of planned further audit procedures at the assertion level, as determined under ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised).⁵
 - (c) Other planned audit procedures that are required to be carried out so that the engagement complies with ISAs (UK and Ireland). (Ref: Para. A12-A12b)
- 10. The auditor shall update and change the overall audit strategy and the audit plan as necessary during the course of the audit. (Ref: Para. A13)
- 11. The auditor shall plan the nature, timing and extent of direction and supervision of engagement team members and the review of their work. (Ref: Para. A14-A15)

Documentation

- 12. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation:⁶
 - (a) The overall audit strategy;
 - (b) The audit plan; and

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraphs 9-11.

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements,” paragraphs 9-13.

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment.”

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks.”

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

- (c) Any significant changes made during the audit engagement to the overall audit strategy or the audit plan, and the reasons for such changes. (Ref: Para. A16-A19)

Additional Considerations in Initial Audit Engagements

13. The auditor shall undertake the following activities prior to starting an initial audit:
- (a) Performing procedures required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) regarding the acceptance of the client relationship and the specific audit engagement;⁷ and
 - (b) Communicating with the predecessor auditor, where there has been a change of auditors, in compliance with relevant ethical requirements. (Ref: Para. A20)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

The Role and Timing of Planning (Ref: Para. 2)

- A1. The nature and extent of planning activities will vary according to the size and complexity of the entity, the key engagement team members' previous experience with the entity, and changes in circumstances that occur during the audit engagement.
- A2. Planning is not a discrete phase of an audit, but rather a continual and iterative process that often begins shortly after (or in connection with) the completion of the previous audit and continues until the completion of the current audit engagement. Planning, however, includes consideration of the timing of certain activities and audit procedures that need to be completed prior to the performance of further audit procedures. For example, planning includes the need to consider, prior to the auditor's identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement, such matters as:
- The analytical procedures to be applied as risk assessment procedures.
 - Obtaining a general understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the entity and how the entity is complying with that framework.
 - The determination of materiality.
 - The involvement of experts.
 - The performance of other risk assessment procedures.
- A3. The auditor may decide to discuss elements of planning with the entity's management to facilitate the conduct and management of the audit engagement (for example, to coordinate some of the planned audit procedures with the work of the entity's personnel). Although these discussions often occur, the overall audit strategy and the audit plan remain the auditor's responsibility. When discussing matters included in the overall audit strategy or audit plan, care is required in order not to compromise the effectiveness of the audit. For example, discussing the nature and timing of detailed audit procedures with management may compromise the effectiveness of the audit by making the audit procedures too predictable.

Involvement of Key Engagement Team Members (Ref: Para. 5)

- A4. The involvement of the engagement partner and other key members of the engagement team in planning the audit draws on their experience and insight, thereby enhancing the

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraphs 12-13.

effectiveness and efficiency of the planning process.⁸

Preliminary Engagement Activities (Ref: Para. 6)

- A5. Performing the preliminary engagement activities specified in paragraph 6 at the beginning of the current audit engagement assists the auditor in identifying and evaluating events or circumstances that may adversely affect the auditor's ability to plan and perform the audit engagement.
- A6. Performing these preliminary engagement activities enables the auditor to plan an audit engagement for which, for example:
- The auditor maintains the necessary independence and ability to perform the engagement.
 - There are no issues with management^{8a} integrity that may affect the auditor's willingness to continue the engagement.
 - There is no misunderstanding with the client as to the terms of the engagement.
- A7. The auditor's consideration of client continuance and relevant ethical requirements, including independence, occurs throughout the audit engagement as conditions and changes in circumstances occur. Performing initial procedures on both client continuance and evaluation of relevant ethical requirements (including independence) at the beginning of the current audit engagement means that they are completed prior to the performance of other significant activities for the current audit engagement. For continuing audit engagements, such initial procedures often occur shortly after (or in connection with) the completion of the previous audit.

Planning Activities

The Overall Audit Strategy (Ref: Para. 7-8)

- A8. The process of establishing the overall audit strategy assists the auditor to determine, subject to the completion of the auditor's risk assessment procedures, such matters as:
- The resources to deploy for specific audit areas, such as the use of appropriately experienced team members for high risk areas or the involvement of experts on complex matters;
 - The amount of resources to allocate to specific audit areas, such as the number of team members assigned to observe the inventory count at material locations, the extent of review of other auditors' work in the case of group audits, or the audit budget in hours to allocate to high risk areas;
 - When these resources are to be deployed, such as whether at an interim audit stage or at key cut-off dates; and
 - How such resources are managed, directed and supervised, such as when team briefing and debriefing meetings are expected to be held, how engagement partner

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (*Revised*), paragraph 10, establishes requirements and provides guidance on the engagement team's discussion of the susceptibility of the entity to material misstatements of the financial statements. ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (*Revised*), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 15, provides guidance on the emphasis given during this discussion to the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud.

^{8a} In the UK and Ireland, the auditor is also concerned to establish that there are no issues with the integrity of those charged with governance that may affect the auditor's willingness to continue the engagement.

and manager reviews are expected to take place (for example, on-site or off-site), and whether to complete engagement quality control reviews.

- A9. The Appendix lists examples of considerations in establishing the overall audit strategy.
- A10. Once the overall audit strategy has been established, an audit plan can be developed to address the various matters identified in the overall audit strategy, taking into account the need to achieve the audit objectives through the efficient use of the auditor's resources. The establishment of the overall audit strategy and the detailed audit plan are not necessarily discrete or sequential processes, but are closely inter-related since changes in one may result in consequential changes to the other.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

- A11. In audits of small entities, the entire audit may be conducted by a very small audit team. Many audits of small entities involve the engagement partner (who may be a sole practitioner) working with one engagement team member (or without any engagement team members). With a smaller team, co-ordination of, and communication between, team members are easier. Establishing the overall audit strategy for the audit of a small entity need not be a complex or time-consuming exercise; it varies according to the size of the entity, the complexity of the audit, and the size of the engagement team. For example, a brief memorandum prepared at the completion of the previous audit, based on a review of the working papers and highlighting issues identified in the audit just completed, updated in the current period based on discussions with the owner-manager, can serve as the documented audit strategy for the current audit engagement if it covers the matters noted in paragraph 8.

The Audit Plan (Ref: Para. 9)

- A12. The audit plan is more detailed than the overall audit strategy in that it includes the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures to be performed by engagement team members. Planning for these audit procedures takes place over the course of the audit as the audit plan for the engagement develops. For example, planning of the auditor's risk assessment procedures occurs early in the audit process. However, planning the nature, timing and extent of specific further audit procedures depends on the outcome of those risk assessment procedures. In addition, the auditor may begin the execution of further audit procedures for some classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures before planning all remaining further audit procedures.

A12a. Determining the nature, timing and extent of planned risk assessment procedures, and the further audit procedures, as they relate to disclosures is important in light of both the wide range of information and the level of detail that may be encompassed in those disclosures. Further, certain disclosures may contain information that is obtained from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers, which may also affect the assessed risks and the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures to address them. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A12b. Consideration of disclosures early in the audit assists the auditor in giving appropriate attention to, and planning adequate time for, addressing disclosures in the same way as classes of transactions, events and account balances. Early consideration may also help the auditor to determine the effects on the audit of:

- Significant new or revised disclosures required as a result of changes in the entity's environment, financial condition or activities (for example, a change in

the required identification of segments and reporting of segment information arising from a significant business combination);

- Significant new or revised disclosures arising from changes in the applicable financial reporting framework;
- The need for the involvement of an auditor's expert to assist with audit procedures related to particular disclosures (for example, disclosures related to pension or other retirement benefit obligations); and
- Matters relating to disclosures that the auditor may wish to discuss with those charged with governance.⁹ [IAASB/Disclosures]

Changes to Planning Decisions during the Course of the Audit (Ref: Para. 10)

A13. As a result of unexpected events, changes in conditions, or the audit evidence obtained from the results of audit procedures, the auditor may need to modify the overall audit strategy and audit plan and thereby the resulting planned nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures, based on the revised consideration of assessed risks. This may be the case when information comes to the auditor's attention that differs significantly from the information available when the auditor planned the audit procedures. For example, audit evidence obtained through the performance of substantive procedures may contradict the audit evidence obtained through tests of controls.

Direction, Supervision and Review (Ref: Para. 11)

A14. The nature, timing and extent of the direction and supervision of engagement team members and review of their work vary depending on many factors, including:

- The size and complexity of the entity.
- The area of the audit.
- The assessed risks of material misstatement (for example, an increase in the assessed risk of material misstatement for a given area of the audit ordinarily requires a corresponding increase in the extent and timeliness of direction and supervision of engagement team members, and a more detailed review of their work).
- The capabilities and competence of the individual team members performing the audit work.

ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) contains further guidance on the direction, supervision and review of audit work.¹⁰

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A15. If an audit is carried out entirely by the engagement partner, questions of direction and supervision of engagement team members and review of their work do not arise. In such cases, the engagement partner, having personally conducted all aspects of the work, will be aware of all material issues. Forming an objective view on the appropriateness of the judgments made in the course of the audit can present practical problems when the same individual also performs the entire audit. If particularly complex or unusual issues are

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), "Communication with Those Charged With Governance", Paragraph A12

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraphs 15-17.

involved, and the audit is performed by a sole practitioner, it may be desirable to consult with other suitably-experienced auditors or the auditor’s professional body.

Documentation (Ref: Para. 12)

- A16. The documentation of the overall audit strategy is a record of the key decisions considered necessary to properly plan the audit and to communicate significant matters to the engagement team. For example, the auditor may summarize the overall audit strategy in the form of a memorandum that contains key decisions regarding the overall scope, timing and conduct of the audit.
- A17. The documentation of the audit plan is a record of the planned nature, timing and extent of risk assessment procedures and further audit procedures at the assertion level in response to the assessed risks. It also serves as a record of the proper planning of the audit procedures that can be reviewed and approved prior to their performance. The auditor may use standard audit programs or audit completion checklists, tailored as needed to reflect the particular engagement circumstances.
- A18. A record of the significant changes to the overall audit strategy and the audit plan, and resulting changes to the planned nature, timing and extent of audit procedures, explains why the significant changes were made, and the overall strategy and audit plan finally adopted for the audit. It also reflects the appropriate response to the significant changes occurring during the audit.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

- A19. As discussed in paragraph A11, a suitable, brief memorandum may serve as the documented strategy for the audit of a smaller entity. For the audit plan, standard audit programs or checklists (see paragraph A17) drawn up on the assumption of few relevant control activities, as is likely to be the case in a smaller entity, may be used provided that they are tailored to the circumstances of the engagement, including the auditor’s risk assessments.

Additional Considerations in Initial Audit Engagements (Ref: Para. 13)

- A20. The purpose and objective of planning the audit are the same whether the audit is an initial or recurring engagement. However, for an initial audit, the auditor may need to expand the planning activities because the auditor does not ordinarily have the previous experience with the entity that is considered when planning recurring engagements. For an initial audit engagement, additional matters the auditor may consider in establishing the overall audit strategy and audit plan include the following:
- Unless prohibited by law or regulation, arrangements to be made with the predecessor auditor, for example, to review the predecessor auditor’s working papers.
 - Any major issues (including the application of accounting principles or of auditing and reporting standards) discussed with management in connection with the initial selection as auditor, the communication of these matters to those charged with governance and how these matters affect the overall audit strategy and audit plan.

- The audit procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding opening balances.¹¹
- Other procedures required by the firm’s system of quality control for initial audit engagements (for example, the firm’s system of quality control may require the involvement of another partner or senior individual to review the overall audit strategy prior to commencing significant audit procedures or to review reports prior to their issuance).

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 510, “Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances.”

Appendix

(Ref: Para. 7-8, A8-A11)

Considerations in Establishing the Overall Audit Strategy

This appendix provides examples of matters the auditor may consider in establishing the overall audit strategy. Many of these matters will also influence the auditor’s detailed audit plan. The examples provided cover a broad range of matters applicable to many engagements. While some of the matters referred to below may be required by other ISAs (UK and Ireland), not all matters are relevant to every audit engagement and the list is not necessarily complete.

Characteristics of the Engagement

- The financial reporting framework on which the financial information to be audited has been prepared, including any need for reconciliations to another financial reporting framework.
- Industry-specific reporting requirements such as reports mandated by industry regulators.
- The expected audit coverage, including the number and locations of components to be included.
- The nature of the control relationships between a parent and its components that determine how the group is to be consolidated.
- The extent to which components are audited by other auditors.
- The nature of the business segments to be audited, including the need for specialized knowledge.
- The reporting currency to be used, including any need for currency translation for the financial information audited.
- The need for a statutory audit of standalone financial statements in addition to an audit for consolidation purposes.
- Whether the entity has an internal audit function and if so, whether, in which areas and to what extent, the work of the function can be used, or internal auditors can be used to provide direct assistance^{11a}, for purposes of the audit.
- The availability of the work of internal auditors and the extent of the auditor’s potential reliance on such work.
- The entity’s use of service organizations and how the auditor may obtain evidence concerning the design or operation of controls performed by them.
- The expected use of audit evidence obtained in previous audits, for example, audit evidence related to risk assessment procedures and tests of controls.
- The effect of information technology on the audit procedures, including the availability of data and the expected use of computer-assisted audit techniques.
- The coordination of the expected coverage and timing of the audit work with any reviews of interim financial information and the effect on the audit of the information obtained during such reviews.

^{11a} The use of internal auditors to provide direct assistance is prohibited in an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) – see ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), “Using the Work of Internal Auditors”, paragraph 5-1.

- The availability of client personnel and data.

Reporting Objectives, Timing of the Audit, and Nature of Communications

- The entity’s timetable for reporting, such as at interim and final stages.
- The organization of meetings with management and those charged with governance to discuss the nature, timing and extent of the audit work.
- The discussion with management and those charged with governance regarding the expected type and timing of reports to be issued and other communications, both written and oral, including the auditor’s report, management letters and communications to those charged with governance.
- The discussion with management regarding the expected communications on the status of audit work throughout the engagement.
- Communication with auditors of components regarding the expected types and timing of reports to be issued and other communications in connection with the audit of components.
- The expected nature and timing of communications among engagement team members, including the nature and timing of team meetings and timing of the review of work performed.
- Whether there are any other expected communications with third parties, including any statutory or contractual reporting responsibilities arising from the audit.

Significant Factors, Preliminary Engagement Activities, and Knowledge Gained on Other Engagements

- The determination of materiality in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 [\(Revised\)](#)¹² and, where applicable:
 - The determination of materiality for components and communication thereof to component auditors in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 [\(Revised\)](#).¹³
 - The preliminary identification of significant components and material classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures.
- Preliminary identification of areas where there may be a higher risk of material misstatement.
- The impact of the assessed risk of material misstatement at the overall financial statement level on direction, supervision and review.
- The manner in which the auditor emphasizes to engagement team members the need to maintain a questioning mind and to exercise professional skepticism in gathering and evaluating audit evidence.
- Results of previous audits that involved evaluating the operating effectiveness of internal control, including the nature of identified deficiencies and action taken to address them.

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 [\(Revised\)](#), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit.”

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 [\(Revised\)](#), “Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors), paragraphs 21-23 and 40(c).

- The discussion of matters that may affect the audit with firm personnel responsible for performing other services to the entity.
- Evidence of management's^{13a} commitment to the design, implementation and maintenance of sound internal control, including evidence of appropriate documentation of such internal control.
- Changes within the applicable financial reporting framework, such as changes in accounting standards, which may involve significant new or revised disclosures.
- Volume of transactions, which may determine whether it is more efficient for the auditor to rely on internal control.
- Importance attached to internal control throughout the entity to the successful operation of the business.
- The process(es) management uses to identify and prepare the disclosures required by the applicable financial reporting framework, including disclosures containing information that is obtained from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers.
- Significant business developments affecting the entity, including changes in information technology and business processes, changes in key management, and acquisitions, mergers and divestments.
- Significant industry developments such as changes in industry regulations and new reporting requirements.
- ~~Significant changes in the financial reporting framework, such as changes in accounting standards.~~
- Other significant relevant developments, such as changes in the legal environment affecting the entity.

Nature, Timing and Extent of Resources

- The selection of the engagement team (including, where necessary, the engagement quality control reviewer) and the assignment of audit work to the team members, including the assignment of appropriately experienced team members to areas where there may be higher risks of material misstatement.
- Engagement budgeting, including considering the appropriate amount of time to set aside for areas where there may be higher risks of material misstatement.

^{13a} In the UK and Ireland, the auditor also considers evidence of the commitment of those charged with governance to the design and operation of sound internal control.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 315 (REVISED ~~JUNE 2013~~)**

**IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING THE RISKS OF MATERIAL MISSTATEMENT
THROUGH UNDERSTANDING THE ENTITY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~15 June 2014)

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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, through understanding the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control.

Effective Date

2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~~~ending~~ on or after ~~17 June 2016~~~~15 June 2014~~.

Objective

3. The objective of the auditor is to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, at the financial statement and assertion levels, through understanding the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control, thereby providing a basis for designing and implementing responses to the assessed risks of material misstatement.

Definitions

4. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Assertions – Representations by management^{1a}, explicit or otherwise, that are embodied in the financial statements, as used by the auditor to consider the different types of potential misstatements that may occur.
 - (b) Business risk – A risk resulting from significant conditions, events, circumstances, actions or inactions that could adversely affect an entity's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies, or from the setting of inappropriate objectives and strategies.
 - (c) Internal control – The process designed, implemented and maintained by those charged with governance, management and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of an entity's objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The term "controls" refers to any aspects of one or more of the components of internal control.
 - (d) Risk assessment procedures – The audit procedures performed to obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control, to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, at the financial statement and assertion levels.
 - (e) Significant risk – An identified and assessed risk of material misstatement that, in the auditor's judgment, requires special audit consideration.

^{1a} In the UK and Ireland, those charged with governance are responsible for preparing the financial statements.

Requirements

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities

5. The auditor shall perform risk assessment procedures to provide a basis for the identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels. Risk assessment procedures by themselves, however, do not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the audit opinion. (Ref: Para. A1-A5)
6. The risk assessment procedures shall include the following:
 - (a) Inquiries of management, of appropriate individuals within the internal audit function (if the function exists), and of others within the entity who in the auditor's judgment may have information that is likely to assist in identifying risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error. (Ref: Para. A6-A13)
 - (b) Analytical procedures. (Ref: Para. A14-A17)
 - (c) Observation and inspection. (Ref: Para. A18)
7. The auditor shall consider whether information obtained from the auditor's client acceptance or continuance process is relevant to identifying risks of material misstatement.
8. If the engagement partner has performed other engagements for the entity, the engagement partner shall consider whether information obtained is relevant to identifying risks of material misstatement.
9. Where the auditor intends to use information obtained from the auditor's previous experience with the entity and from audit procedures performed in previous audits, the auditor shall determine whether changes have occurred since the previous audit that may affect its relevance to the current audit. (Ref: Para. A19-A20)
10. The engagement partner and other key engagement team members shall discuss the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement, and the application of the applicable financial reporting framework to the entity's facts and circumstances. The engagement partner shall determine which matters are to be communicated to engagement team members not involved in the discussion. (Ref: Para. A21-A23)

The Required Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment, Including the Entity's Internal Control

The Entity and Its Environment

11. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of the following:
 - (a) Relevant industry, regulatory, and other external factors including the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A24-A29)
 - (b) The nature of the entity, including:
 - (i) its operations;
 - (ii) its ownership and governance structures;
 - (iii) the types of investments that the entity is making and plans to make, including investments in special-purpose entities; and

(iv) the way that the entity is structured and how it is financed

to enable the auditor to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures to be expected in the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A30-A34)

- (c) The entity's selection and application of accounting policies, including the reasons for changes thereto. The auditor shall evaluate whether the entity's accounting policies are appropriate for its business and consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework and accounting policies used in the relevant industry. (Ref: Para. A35)
- (d) The entity's objectives and strategies, and those related business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement. (Ref: Para. A36-A42)
- (e) The measurement and review of the entity's financial performance. (Ref: Para. A43-A48)

The Entity's Internal Control

12. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit. Although most controls relevant to the audit are likely to relate to financial reporting, not all controls that relate to financial reporting are relevant to the audit. It is a matter of the auditor's professional judgment whether a control, individually or in combination with others, is relevant to the audit. (Ref: Para. A49-A72)

Nature and Extent of the Understanding of Relevant Controls

13. When obtaining an understanding of controls that are relevant to the audit, the auditor shall evaluate the design of those controls and determine whether they have been implemented, by performing procedures in addition to inquiry of the entity's personnel. (Ref: Para. A73-A75)

Components of Internal Control

Control environment

14. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of the control environment. As part of obtaining this understanding, the auditor shall evaluate whether:
- (a) Management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, has created and maintained a culture of honesty and ethical behavior; and
 - (b) The strengths in the control environment elements collectively provide an appropriate foundation for the other components of internal control, and whether those other components are not undermined by deficiencies in the control environment. (Ref: Para. A76-A86)

The entity's risk assessment process

15. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of whether the entity has a process for:
- (a) Identifying business risks relevant to financial reporting objectives;
 - (b) Estimating the significance of the risks;
 - (c) Assessing the likelihood of their occurrence; and
 - (d) Deciding about actions to address those risks. (Ref: Para. A87)
16. If the entity has established such a process (referred to hereafter as the "entity's risk assessment process"), the auditor shall obtain an understanding of it, and the results

thereof. If the auditor identifies risks of material misstatement that management failed to identify, the auditor shall evaluate whether there was an underlying risk of a kind that the auditor expects would have been identified by the entity's risk assessment process. If there is such a risk, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of why that process failed to identify it, and evaluate whether the process is appropriate to its circumstances or determine if there is a significant deficiency in internal control with regard to the entity's risk assessment process.

17. If the entity has not established such a process or has an ad hoc process, the auditor shall discuss with management whether business risks relevant to financial reporting objectives have been identified and how they have been addressed. The auditor shall evaluate whether the absence of a documented risk assessment process is appropriate in the circumstances, or determine whether it represents a significant deficiency in internal control. (Ref: Para. A88)

The information system, including the related business processes, relevant to financial reporting, and communication

18. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of the information system, including the related business processes, relevant to financial reporting, including the following areas: [\(Ref: Para. A89–A89a\)](#)
- (a) The classes of transactions in the entity's operations that are significant to the financial statements;
 - (b) The procedures, within both information technology (IT) and manual systems, by which those transactions are initiated, recorded, processed, corrected as necessary, transferred to the general ledger and reported in the financial statements;
 - (c) The related accounting records, supporting information and specific accounts in the financial statements that are used to initiate, record, process and report transactions; this includes the correction of incorrect information and how information is transferred to the general ledger. The records may be in either manual or electronic form;
 - (d) How the information system captures events and conditions, other than transactions, that are significant to the financial statements;
 - (e) The financial reporting process used to prepare the entity's financial statements, including significant accounting estimates and disclosures; and
 - (f) Controls surrounding journal entries, including non-standard journal entries used to record non-recurring, unusual transactions or adjustments. (Ref: Para. A89-A93)

[This understanding of the information system relevant to financial reporting shall include relevant aspects of that system relating to information disclosed in the financial statements that is obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers. \[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)

19. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of how the entity communicates financial reporting roles and responsibilities and significant matters relating to financial reporting, including: (Ref: Para. A94-A95)
- (a) Communications between management and those charged with governance; and
 - (b) External communications, such as those with regulatory authorities.

Control activities relevant to the audit

20. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of control activities relevant to the audit, being those the auditor judges it necessary to understand in order to assess the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level and design further audit procedures responsive to assessed risks. An audit does not require an understanding of all the control activities related to each significant class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure in the financial statements or to every assertion relevant to them. (Ref: Para. A96-A102)
21. In understanding the entity's control activities, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of how the entity has responded to risks arising from IT. (Ref: Para. A103-A105)

Monitoring of controls

22. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of the major activities that the entity uses to monitor internal control relevant to financial reporting, including those related to those control activities relevant to the audit, and how the entity initiates remedial actions to deficiencies in its controls. (Ref: Para. A106-A108)
23. If the entity has an internal audit function,¹ the auditor shall obtain an understanding of the nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities, its organizational status, and the activities performed, or to be performed. (Ref: Para A109-A116)
24. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of the sources of the information used in the entity's monitoring activities, and the basis upon which management considers the information to be sufficiently reliable for the purpose. (Ref: Para. A117)

Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

25. The auditor shall identify and assess the risks of material misstatement at:
 - (a) the financial statement level; and (Ref: Para. A118-A121)
 - (b) the assertion level for classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures (Ref: Para. A122-A126)
 to provide a basis for designing and performing further audit procedures.
26. For this purpose, the auditor shall:
 - (a) Identify risks throughout the process of obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including relevant controls that relate to the risks, and by considering the classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures (including the quantitative or qualitative aspects of such disclosures) in the financial statements; (Ref: Para. A127-A128b) [IAASB/Disclosures]
 - (b) Assess the identified risks, and evaluate whether they relate more pervasively to the financial statements as a whole and potentially affect many assertions;
 - (c) Relate the identified risks to what can go wrong at the assertion level, taking account of relevant controls that the auditor intends to test; and (Ref: Para. A129-A131)

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), "Using the Work of Internal Auditors," paragraph 14, defines the term "internal audit function" for purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland).

- (d) Consider the likelihood of misstatement, including the possibility of multiple misstatements, and whether the potential misstatement ~~is of a magnitude that~~ could result in a material misstatement. (Ref: Para. A131a)

Risks That Require Special Audit Consideration

27. As part of the risk assessment as described in paragraph 25, the auditor shall determine whether any of the risks identified are, in the auditor's judgment, a significant risk. In exercising this judgment, the auditor shall exclude the effects of identified controls related to the risk.
28. In exercising judgment as to which risks are significant risks, the auditor shall consider at least the following:
- (a) Whether the risk is a risk of fraud;
 - (b) Whether the risk is related to recent significant economic, accounting or other developments and, therefore, requires specific attention;
 - (c) The complexity of transactions;
 - (d) Whether the risk involves significant transactions with related parties;
 - (e) The degree of subjectivity in the measurement of financial information related to the risk, especially those measurements involving a wide range of measurement uncertainty; and
 - (f) Whether the risk involves significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appear to be unusual. (Ref: Para. A132-A136)
29. If the auditor has determined that a significant risk exists, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of the entity's controls, including control activities, relevant to that risk. (Ref: Para. A137-A139)

Risks for Which Substantive Procedures Alone Do Not Provide Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence

30. In respect of some risks, the auditor may judge that it is not possible or practicable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence only from substantive procedures. Such risks may relate to the inaccurate or incomplete recording of routine and significant classes of transactions or account balances, the characteristics of which often permit highly automated processing with little or no manual intervention. In such cases, the entity's controls over such risks are relevant to the audit and the auditor shall obtain an understanding of them. (Ref: Para. A140-A142)

Revision of Risk Assessment

31. The auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level may change during the course of the audit as additional audit evidence is obtained. In circumstances where the auditor obtains audit evidence from performing further audit procedures, or if new information is obtained, either of which is inconsistent with the audit evidence on which the auditor originally based the assessment, the auditor shall revise the assessment and modify the further planned audit procedures accordingly. (Ref: Para. A143)

Documentation

32. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation:²
- (a) The discussion among the engagement team where required by paragraph 10, and the significant decisions reached;
 - (b) Key elements of the understanding obtained regarding each of the aspects of the entity and its environment specified in paragraph 11 and of each of the internal control components specified in paragraphs 14-24; the sources of information from which the understanding was obtained; and the risk assessment procedures performed;
 - (c) The identified and assessed risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level and at the assertion level as required by paragraph 25; and
 - (d) The risks identified, and related controls about which the auditor has obtained an understanding, as a result of the requirements in paragraphs 27-30. (Ref: Para. A144-A147)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities (Ref: Para. 5)

- A1. Obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control (referred to hereafter as an "understanding of the entity"), is a continuous, dynamic process of gathering, updating and analyzing information throughout the audit. The understanding establishes a frame of reference within which the auditor plans the audit and exercises professional judgment throughout the audit, for example, when:
- Assessing risks of material misstatement of the financial statements;
 - Determining materiality in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised);³
 - Considering the appropriateness of the selection and application of accounting policies, and the adequacy of financial statement disclosures;
 - Identifying areas relating to amounts or disclosures in the financial statements where special audit consideration may be necessary, for example, related party transactions; ~~or the appropriateness of~~ management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern assumption, or when considering the business purpose of transactions;
 - Developing expectations for use when performing analytical procedures;
 - Responding to the assessed risks of material misstatement, including designing and performing further audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence; and

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), "Audit Documentation," paragraphs 8-11, and A6.

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit."

- Evaluating the sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence obtained, such as the appropriateness of assumptions and of management's^{3a} oral and written representations. [\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)
- A2. Information obtained by performing risk assessment procedures and related activities may be used by the auditor as audit evidence to support assessments of the risks of material misstatement. In addition, the auditor may obtain audit evidence about classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosures and related assertions and about the operating effectiveness of controls, even though such procedures were not specifically planned as substantive procedures or as tests of controls. The auditor also may choose to perform substantive procedures or tests of controls concurrently with risk assessment procedures because it is efficient to do so.
- A3. The auditor uses professional judgment to determine the extent of the understanding required. The auditor's primary consideration is whether the understanding that has been obtained is sufficient to meet the objective stated in this ISA (UK and Ireland). The depth of the overall understanding that is required by the auditor is less than that possessed by management in managing the entity.
- A4. The risks to be assessed include both those due to error and those due to fraud, and both are covered by this ISA (UK and Ireland). However, the significance of fraud is such that further requirements and guidance are included in ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 [\(Revised\)](#) in relation to risk assessment procedures and related activities to obtain information that is used to identify the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.⁴
- A5. Although the auditor is required to perform all the risk assessment procedures described in paragraph 6 in the course of obtaining the required understanding of the entity (see paragraphs 11-24), the auditor is not required to perform all of them for each aspect of that understanding. Other procedures may be performed where the information to be obtained therefrom may be helpful in identifying risks of material misstatement. Examples of such procedures include:
- Reviewing information obtained from external sources such as trade and economic journals; reports by analysts, banks, or rating agencies; or regulatory or financial publications.
 - Making inquiries of the entity's external legal counsel or of valuation experts that the entity has used.

Inquiries of Management, the Internal Audit Function and Others within the Entity (Ref: Para. 6(a))

- A6. Much of the information obtained by the auditor's inquiries is obtained from management and those responsible for financial reporting. Information may also be obtained by the auditor through inquiries with the internal audit function, if the entity has such a function, and others within the entity.

^{3a} In the UK and Ireland, as explained in paragraph A2-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, "Written Representations," it is appropriate for written representations that are critical to obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence to be provided by those charged with governance, rather than other levels of the entity's management.

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 [\(Revised\)](#), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraphs 12-24

- A7. The auditor may also obtain information, or a different perspective in identifying risks of material misstatement, through inquiries of others within the entity and other employees with different levels of authority. For example:
- Inquiries directed towards those charged with governance may help the auditor understand the environment in which the financial statements are prepared. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)⁵ identifies the importance of effective two-way communication in assisting the auditor to obtain information from those charged with governance in this regard.
 - Inquiries of employees involved in initiating, processing or recording complex or unusual transactions may help the auditor to evaluate the appropriateness of the selection and application of certain accounting policies.
 - Inquiries directed toward in-house legal counsel may provide information about such matters as litigation, compliance with laws and regulations, knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity, warranties, post-sales obligations, arrangements (such as joint ventures) with business partners and the meaning of contract terms.
 - Inquiries directed towards marketing or sales personnel may provide information about changes in the entity’s marketing strategies, sales trends, or contractual arrangements with its customers.
 - Inquiries directed to the risk management function (or those performing such roles) may provide information about operational and regulatory risks that may affect financial reporting.
 - Inquiries directed to information systems personnel may provide information about system changes, system or control failures, or other information system-related risks.
- A8. As obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment is a continual, dynamic process, the auditor’s inquiries may occur throughout the audit engagement.

Inquiries of the Internal Audit Function

- A9. If an entity has an internal audit function, inquiries of the appropriate individuals within the function may provide information that is useful to the auditor in obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, and in identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels. In performing its work, the internal audit function is likely to have obtained insight into the entity’s operations and business risks, and may have findings based on its work, such as identified control deficiencies or risks, that may provide valuable input into the auditor’s understanding of the entity, the auditor’s risk assessments or other aspects of the audit. The auditor’s inquiries are therefore made whether or not the auditor expects to use the work of the internal audit function to modify the nature or timing, or reduce the extent, of audit procedures to be performed.⁶ Inquiries of particular relevance may be about matters the internal audit function has raised with those charged with governance and the outcomes of the function’s own risk assessment process.

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 4(b)

⁶ The relevant requirements are contained in ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013).

- A10. If, based on responses to the auditor's inquiries, it appears that there are findings that may be relevant to the entity's financial reporting and the audit, the auditor may consider it appropriate to read related reports of the internal audit function. Examples of reports of the internal audit function that may be relevant include the function's strategy and planning documents and reports that have been prepared for management or those charged with governance describing the findings of the internal audit function's examinations.
- A11. In addition, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised),⁷ if the internal audit function provides information to the auditor regarding any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, the auditor takes this into account in the auditor's identification of risk of material misstatement due to fraud.
- A12. Appropriate individuals within the internal audit function with whom inquiries are made are those who, in the auditor's judgment, have the appropriate knowledge, experience and authority, such as the chief internal audit executive or, depending on the circumstances, other personnel within the function. The auditor may also consider it appropriate to have periodic meetings with these individuals.

Considerations specific to public sector entities (Ref: Para 6(a))

- A13. Auditors of public sector entities often have additional responsibilities with regard to internal control and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Inquiries of appropriate individuals in the internal audit function can assist the auditors in identifying the risk of material noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations and the risk of deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting.

Analytical Procedures (Ref: Para. 6(b))

- A14. Analytical procedures performed as risk assessment procedures may identify aspects of the entity of which the auditor was unaware and may assist in assessing the risks of material misstatement in order to provide a basis for designing and implementing responses to the assessed risks. Analytical procedures performed as risk assessment procedures may include both financial and non-financial information, for example, the relationship between sales and square footage of selling space or volume of goods sold.
- A15. Analytical procedures may help identify the existence of unusual transactions or events, and amounts, ratios, and trends that might indicate matters that have audit implications. Unusual or unexpected relationships that are identified may assist the auditor in identifying risks of material misstatement, especially risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- A16. However, when such analytical procedures use data aggregated at a high level (which may be the situation with analytical procedures performed as risk assessment procedures), the results of those analytical procedures only provide a broad initial indication about whether a material misstatement may exist. Accordingly, in such cases, consideration of other information that has been gathered when identifying the risks of material misstatement together with the results of such analytical procedures may assist the auditor in understanding and evaluating the results of the analytical procedures.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), paragraph 19.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A17. Some smaller entities may not have interim or monthly financial information that can be used for purposes of analytical procedures. In these circumstances, although the auditor may be able to perform limited analytical procedures for purposes of planning the audit or obtain some information through inquiry, the auditor may need to plan to perform analytical procedures to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement when an early draft of the entity's financial statements is available.

Observation and Inspection (Ref: Para. 6(c))

A18. Observation and inspection may support inquiries of management and others, and may also provide information about the entity and its environment. Examples of such audit procedures include observation or inspection of the following:

- The entity's operations.
- Documents (such as business plans and strategies), records, and internal control manuals.
- Reports prepared by management (such as quarterly management reports and interim financial statements) and those charged with governance (such as minutes of board of directors' meetings).
- The entity's premises and plant facilities.

Information Obtained in Prior Periods (Ref: Para. 9)

A19. The auditor's previous experience with the entity and audit procedures performed in previous audits may provide the auditor with information about such matters as:

- Past misstatements and whether they were corrected on a timely basis.
- The nature of the entity and its environment, and the entity's internal control (including deficiencies in internal control).
- Significant changes that the entity or its operations may have undergone since the prior financial period, which may assist the auditor in gaining a sufficient understanding of the entity to identify and assess risks of material misstatement.
- Those particular types of transactions and other events or account balances (and related disclosures) where the auditor experienced difficulty in performing the necessary audit procedures, for example due to their complexity. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A20. The auditor is required to determine whether information obtained in prior periods remains relevant, if the auditor intends to use that information for the purposes of the current audit. This is because changes in the control environment, for example, may affect the relevance of information obtained in the prior year. To determine whether changes have occurred that may affect the relevance of such information, the auditor may make inquiries and perform other appropriate audit procedures, such as walk-throughs of relevant systems.

Discussion among the Engagement Team (Ref: Para. 10)

A21. The discussion among the engagement team about the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement:

- Provides an opportunity for more experienced engagement team members, including the engagement partner, to share their insights based on their knowledge of the entity.
- Allows the engagement team members to exchange information about the business risks to which the entity is subject and about how and where the financial statements might be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud or error.
- Assists the engagement team members to gain a better understanding of the potential for material misstatement of the financial statements in the specific areas assigned to them, and to understand how the results of the audit procedures that they perform may affect other aspects of the audit including the decisions about the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures.
- Provides a basis upon which engagement team members communicate and share new information obtained throughout the audit that may affect the assessment of risks of material misstatement or the audit procedures performed to address these risks.

ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised) provides further requirements and guidance in relation to the discussion among the engagement team about the risks of fraud.⁸

A21a. As part of the discussion among the engagement team required by paragraph 10, consideration of the disclosure requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework assists in identifying early in the audit where there may be risks of material misstatement in relation to disclosures. Examples of matters the engagement team may discuss include:

- Changes in financial reporting requirements that may result in significant new or revised disclosures;
- Changes in the entity's environment, financial condition or activities that may result in significant new or revised disclosures, for example, a significant business combination in the period under audit;
- Disclosures for which obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence may have been difficult in the past; and
- Disclosures about complex matters, including those involving significant management judgment as to what information to disclose. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A22. It is not always necessary or practical for the discussion to include all members in a single discussion (as, for example, in a multi-location audit), nor is it necessary for all of the members of the engagement team to be informed of all of the decisions reached in the discussion. The engagement partner may discuss matters with key members of the engagement team including, if considered appropriate, those with specific skills or knowledge, and those responsible for the audits of components, while delegating discussion with others, taking account of the extent of communication considered necessary throughout the engagement team. A communications plan, agreed by the engagement partner, may be useful.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), paragraph 15.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A23. Many small audits are carried out entirely by the engagement partner (who may be a sole practitioner). In such situations, it is the engagement partner who, having personally conducted the planning of the audit, would be responsible for considering the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud or error.

The Required Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment, Including the Entity's Internal Control

The Entity and Its Environment

Industry, Regulatory and Other External Factors (Ref: Para. 11(a))

Industry Factors

A24. Relevant industry factors include industry conditions such as the competitive environment, supplier and customer relationships, and technological developments. Examples of matters the auditor may consider include:

- The market and competition, including demand, capacity, and price competition.
- Cyclical or seasonal activity.
- Product technology relating to the entity's products.
- Energy supply and cost.

A25. The industry in which the entity operates may give rise to specific risks of material misstatement arising from the nature of the business or the degree of regulation. For example, long-term contracts may involve significant estimates of revenues and expenses that give rise to risks of material misstatement. In such cases, it is important that the engagement team include members with sufficient relevant knowledge and experience.⁹

Regulatory Factors

A26. Relevant regulatory factors include the regulatory environment. The regulatory environment encompasses, among other matters, the applicable financial reporting framework and the legal and political environment. Examples of matters the auditor may consider include:

- Accounting principles and industry specific practices.
- Regulatory framework for a regulated industry, including requirements for disclosures.
- Legislation and regulation that significantly affect the entity's operations, including direct supervisory activities.
- Taxation (corporate and other).
- Government policies currently affecting the conduct of the entity's business, such as monetary, including foreign exchange controls, fiscal, financial incentives (for example, government aid programs), and tariffs or trade restrictions policies.

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), "Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 14.

- Environmental requirements affecting the industry and the entity’s business. [\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)

A27. ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 [\(Revised\)](#) includes some specific requirements related to the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the entity and the industry or sector in which the entity operates.¹⁰

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A28. For the audits of public sector entities, law, regulation or other authority may affect the entity’s operations. Such elements are essential to consider when obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment.

Other External Factors

A29. Examples of other external factors affecting the entity that the auditor may consider include the general economic conditions, interest rates and availability of financing, and inflation or currency revaluation.

Nature of the Entity (Ref: Para. 11(b))

A30. An understanding of the nature of an entity enables the auditor to understand such matters as:

- Whether the entity has a complex structure, for example with subsidiaries or other components in multiple locations. Complex structures often introduce issues that may give rise to risks of material misstatement. Such issues may include whether goodwill, joint ventures, investments, or special-purpose entities are accounted for appropriately [and whether adequate disclosure of such issues in the financial statements has been made.](#)
- The ownership, and relationships between owners and other people or entities. This understanding assists in determining whether related party transactions have been [appropriately identified, and accounted for, and adequately disclosed in the financial statements](#)~~appropriately~~. ISA (UK and Ireland) 550¹¹ establishes requirements and provides guidance on the auditor’s considerations relevant to related parties. [\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)

A31. Examples of matters that the auditor may consider when obtaining an understanding of the nature of the entity include:

- Business operations such as:
 - Nature of revenue sources, products or services, and markets, including involvement in electronic commerce such as Internet sales and marketing activities.
 - Conduct of operations (for example, stages and methods of production, or activities exposed to environmental risks).
 - Alliances, joint ventures, and outsourcing activities.
 - Geographic dispersion and industry segmentation.

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 [\(Revised\)](#), “Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraph 12.

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 550, “Related Parties.”

- Location of production facilities, warehouses, and offices, and location and quantities of inventories.
- Key customers and important suppliers of goods and services, employment arrangements (including the existence of union contracts, pension and other post employment benefits, stock option or incentive bonus arrangements, and government regulation related to employment matters).
- Research and development activities and expenditures.
- Transactions with related parties.
- Investments and investment activities such as:
 - Planned or recently executed acquisitions or divestitures.
 - Investments and dispositions of securities and loans.
 - Capital investment activities.
 - Investments in non-consolidated entities, including partnerships, joint ventures and special-purpose entities.
- Financing and financing activities such as:
 - Major subsidiaries and associated entities, including consolidated and non-consolidated structures.
 - Debt structure and related terms, including off-balance-sheet financing arrangements and leasing arrangements.
 - Beneficial owners (local, foreign, business reputation and experience) and related parties.
 - Use of derivative financial instruments.
- Financial reporting practices such as:
 - Accounting principles and industry specific practices, including for industry-specific significant classes of transactions, account balances and related disclosures in the financial statements categories (for example, loans and investments for banks, or research and development for pharmaceuticals).
 - Revenue recognition ~~practices~~.
 - Accounting for fair values.
 - Foreign currency assets, liabilities and transactions.
 - Accounting for unusual or complex transactions including those in controversial or emerging areas (for example, accounting for stock-based compensation). [IAASB/Disclosures]

A32. Significant changes in the entity from prior periods may give rise to, or change, risks of material misstatement.

Nature of Special-Purpose Entities

A33. A special-purpose entity (sometimes referred to as a special-purpose vehicle) is an entity that is generally established for a narrow and well-defined purpose, such as to effect a lease or a securitization of financial assets, or to carry out research and

development activities. It may take the form of a corporation, trust, partnership or unincorporated entity. The entity on behalf of which the special-purpose entity has been created may often transfer assets to the latter (for example, as part of a derecognition transaction involving financial assets), obtain the right to use the latter's assets, or perform services for the latter, while other parties may provide the funding to the latter. As ISA (UK and Ireland) 550 indicates, in some circumstances, a special-purpose entity may be a related party of the entity.¹²

- A34. Financial reporting frameworks often specify detailed conditions that are deemed to amount to control, or circumstances under which the special-purpose entity should be considered for consolidation. The interpretation of the requirements of such frameworks often demands a detailed knowledge of the relevant agreements involving the special-purpose entity.

The Entity's Selection and Application of Accounting Policies (Ref: Para. 11(c))

- A35. An understanding of the entity's selection and application of accounting policies may encompass such matters as:
- The methods the entity uses to account for significant and unusual transactions.
 - The effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.
 - Changes in the entity's accounting policies.
 - Financial reporting standards and laws and regulations that are new to the entity and when and how the entity will adopt such requirements.

Objectives and Strategies and Related Business Risks (Ref: Para. 11(d))

- A36. The entity conducts its business in the context of industry, regulatory and other internal and external factors. To respond to these factors, the entity's management or those charged with governance define objectives, which are the overall plans for the entity. Strategies are the approaches by which management intends to achieve its objectives. The entity's objectives and strategies may change over time.
- A37. Business risk is broader than the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, though it includes the latter. Business risk may arise from change or complexity. A failure to recognize the need for change may also give rise to business risk. Business risk may arise, for example, from:
- The development of new products or services that may fail;
 - A market which, even if successfully developed, is inadequate to support a product or service; or
 - Flaws in a product or service that may result in liabilities and reputational risk.
- A38. An understanding of the business risks facing the entity increases the likelihood of identifying risks of material misstatement, since most business risks will eventually have financial consequences and, therefore, an effect on the financial statements. However, the auditor does not have a responsibility to identify or assess all business risks because not all business risks give rise to risks of material misstatement.

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 550, paragraph A7.

- A39. Examples of matters that the auditor may consider when obtaining an understanding of the entity's objectives, strategies and related business risks that may result in a risk of material misstatement of the financial statements include:
- Industry developments (a potential related business risk might be, for example, that the entity does not have the personnel or expertise to deal with the changes in the industry).
 - New products and services (a potential related business risk might be, for example, that there is increased product liability).
 - Expansion of the business (a potential related business risk might be, for example, that the demand has not been accurately estimated).
 - New accounting requirements (a potential related business risk might be, for example, incomplete or improper implementation, or increased costs).
 - Regulatory requirements (a potential related business risk might be, for example, that there is increased legal exposure).
 - Current and prospective financing requirements (a potential related business risk might be, for example, the loss of financing due to the entity's inability to meet requirements).
 - Use of IT (a potential related business risk might be, for example, that systems and processes are incompatible).
 - The effects of implementing a strategy, particularly any effects that will lead to new accounting requirements (a potential related business risk might be, for example, incomplete or improper implementation).
- A40. A business risk may have an immediate consequence for the risk of material misstatement for classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures at the assertion level or the financial statement level. For example, the business risk arising from a contracting customer base may increase the risk of material misstatement associated with the valuation of receivables. However, the same risk, particularly in combination with a contracting economy, may also have a longer-term consequence, which the auditor considers when assessing the appropriateness of the going concern assumption. Whether a business risk may result in a risk of material misstatement is, therefore, considered in light of the entity's circumstances. Examples of conditions and events that may indicate risks of material misstatement are indicated in Appendix 2.
- A41. Usually, management identifies business risks and develops approaches to address them. Such a risk assessment process is part of internal control and is discussed in paragraph 15 and paragraphs A87-A88.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A42. For the audits of public sector entities, "management objectives" may be influenced by concerns regarding public accountability and may include objectives which have their source in law, regulation or other authority.

Measurement and Review of the Entity's Financial Performance (Ref: Para.11(e))

- A43. Management and others will measure and review those things they regard as important. Performance measures, whether external or internal, create pressures on the entity. These pressures, in turn, may motivate management to take action to improve the

business performance or to misstate the financial statements. Accordingly, an understanding of the entity's performance measures assists the auditor in considering whether pressures to achieve performance targets may result in management actions that increase the risks of material misstatement, including those due to fraud. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 [\(Revised\)](#) for requirements and guidance in relation to the risks of fraud.

A44. The measurement and review of financial performance is not the same as the monitoring of controls (discussed as a component of internal control in paragraphs A106-A117), though their purposes may overlap:

- The measurement and review of performance is directed at whether business performance is meeting the objectives set by management (or third parties).
- Monitoring of controls is specifically concerned with the effective operation of internal control.

In some cases, however, performance indicators also provide information that enables management to identify deficiencies in internal control.

A45. Examples of internally-generated information used by management for measuring and reviewing financial performance, and which the auditor may consider, include:

- Key performance indicators (financial and non-financial) and key ratios, trends and operating statistics.
- Period-on-period financial performance analyses.
- Budgets, forecasts, variance analyses, segment information and divisional, departmental or other level performance reports.
- Employee performance measures and incentive compensation policies.
- Comparisons of an entity's performance with that of competitors.

A46. External parties may also measure and review the entity's financial performance. For example, external information such as analysts' reports and credit rating agency reports may represent useful information for the auditor. Such reports can often be obtained from the entity being audited.

A47. Internal measures may highlight unexpected results or trends requiring management to determine their cause and take corrective action (including, in some cases, the detection and correction of misstatements on a timely basis). Performance measures may also indicate to the auditor that risks of misstatement of related financial statement information do exist. For example, performance measures may indicate that the entity has unusually rapid growth or profitability when compared to that of other entities in the same industry. Such information, particularly if combined with other factors such as performance-based bonus or incentive remuneration, may indicate the potential risk of management bias in the preparation of the financial statements.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A48. Smaller entities often do not have processes to measure and review financial performance. Inquiry of management may reveal that it relies on certain key indicators for evaluating financial performance and taking appropriate action. If such inquiry indicates an absence of performance measurement or review, there may be an increased risk of misstatements not being detected and corrected.

The Entity's Internal Control (Ref: Para. 12)

- A49. An understanding of internal control assists the auditor in identifying types of potential misstatements and factors that affect the risks of material misstatement, and in designing the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures.
- A50. The following application material on internal control is presented in four sections, as follows:
- General Nature and Characteristics of Internal Control.
 - Controls Relevant to the Audit.
 - Nature and Extent of the Understanding of Relevant Controls.
 - Components of Internal Control.

General Nature and Characteristics of Internal Control

Purpose of Internal Control

- A51. Internal control is designed, implemented and maintained to address identified business risks that threaten the achievement of any of the entity's objectives that concern:
- The reliability of the entity's financial reporting;
 - The effectiveness and efficiency of its operations; and
 - Its compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The way in which internal control is designed, implemented and maintained varies with an entity's size and complexity.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

- A52. Smaller entities may use less structured means and simpler processes and procedures to achieve their objectives.

Limitations of Internal Control

- A53. Internal control, no matter how effective, can provide an entity with only reasonable assurance about achieving the entity's financial reporting objectives. The likelihood of their achievement is affected by the inherent limitations of internal control. These include the realities that human judgment in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns in internal control can occur because of human error. For example, there may be an error in the design of, or in the change to, a control. Equally, the operation of a control may not be effective, such as where information produced for the purposes of internal control (for example, an exception report) is not effectively used because the individual responsible for reviewing the information does not understand its purpose or fails to take appropriate action.
- A54. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the collusion of two or more people or inappropriate management override of internal control. For example, management may enter into side agreements with customers that alter the terms and conditions of the entity's standard sales contracts, which may result in improper revenue recognition. Also, edit checks in a software program that are designed to identify and report transactions that exceed specified credit limits may be overridden or disabled.

- A55. Further, in designing and implementing controls, management may make judgments on the nature and extent of the controls it chooses to implement, and the nature and extent of the risks it chooses to assume.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

- A56. Smaller entities often have fewer employees which may limit the extent to which segregation of duties is practicable. However, in a small owner-managed entity, the owner-manager may be able to exercise more effective oversight than in a larger entity. This oversight may compensate for the generally more limited opportunities for segregation of duties.
- A57. On the other hand, the owner-manager may be more able to override controls because the system of internal control is less structured. This is taken into account by the auditor when identifying the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Division of Internal Control into Components

- A58. The division of internal control into the following five components, for purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), provides a useful framework for auditors to consider how different aspects of an entity's internal control may affect the audit:

- (a) The control environment;
- (b) The entity's risk assessment process;
- (c) The information system, including the related business processes, relevant to financial reporting, and communication;
- (d) Control activities; and
- (e) Monitoring of controls.

The division does not necessarily reflect how an entity designs, implements and maintains internal control, or how it may classify any particular component. Auditors may use different terminology or frameworks to describe the various aspects of internal control, and their effect on the audit than those used in this ISA (UK and Ireland), provided all the components described in this ISA (UK and Ireland) are addressed.

- A59. Application material relating to the five components of internal control as they relate to a financial statement audit is set out in paragraphs A76-A117 below. Appendix 1 provides further explanation of these components of internal control.

Characteristics of Manual and Automated Elements of Internal Control Relevant to the Auditor's Risk Assessment

- A60. An entity's system of internal control contains manual elements and often contains automated elements. The characteristics of manual or automated elements are relevant to the auditor's risk assessment and further audit procedures based thereon.
- A61. The use of manual or automated elements in internal control also affects the manner in which transactions are initiated, recorded, processed, and reported:
- Controls in a manual system may include such procedures as approvals and reviews of transactions, and reconciliations and follow-up of reconciling items. Alternatively, an entity may use automated procedures to initiate, record, process, and report transactions, in which case records in electronic format replace paper documents.

- Controls in IT systems consist of a combination of automated controls (for example, controls embedded in computer programs) and manual controls. Further, manual controls may be independent of IT, may use information produced by IT, or may be limited to monitoring the effective functioning of IT and of automated controls, and to handling exceptions. When IT is used to initiate, record, process or report transactions, or other financial data for inclusion in financial statements, the systems and programs may include controls related to the corresponding assertions for material accounts or may be critical to the effective functioning of manual controls that depend on IT.

An entity's mix of manual and automated elements in internal control varies with the nature and complexity of the entity's use of IT.

A62. Generally, IT benefits an entity's internal control by enabling an entity to:

- Consistently apply predefined business rules and perform complex calculations in processing large volumes of transactions or data;
- Enhance the timeliness, availability, and accuracy of information;
- Facilitate the additional analysis of information;
- Enhance the ability to monitor the performance of the entity's activities and its policies and procedures;
- Reduce the risk that controls will be circumvented; and
- Enhance the ability to achieve effective segregation of duties by implementing security controls in applications, databases, and operating systems.

A63. IT also poses specific risks to an entity's internal control, including, for example:

- Reliance on systems or programs that are inaccurately processing data, processing inaccurate data, or both.
- Unauthorized access to data that may result in destruction of data or improper changes to data, including the recording of unauthorized or non-existent transactions, or inaccurate recording of transactions. Particular risks may arise where multiple users access a common database.
- The possibility of IT personnel gaining access privileges beyond those necessary to perform their assigned duties thereby breaking down segregation of duties.
- Unauthorized changes to data in master files.
- Unauthorized changes to systems or programs.
- Failure to make necessary changes to systems or programs.
- Inappropriate manual intervention.
- Potential loss of data or inability to access data as required.

A64. Manual elements in internal control may be more suitable where judgment and discretion are required such as for the following circumstances:

- Large, unusual or non-recurring transactions.
- Circumstances where errors are difficult to define, anticipate or predict.

- In changing circumstances that require a control response outside the scope of an existing automated control.
 - In monitoring the effectiveness of automated controls.
- A65. Manual elements in internal control may be less reliable than automated elements because they can be more easily bypassed, ignored, or overridden and they are also more prone to simple errors and mistakes. Consistency of application of a manual control element cannot therefore be assumed. Manual control elements may be less suitable for the following circumstances:
- High volume or recurring transactions, or in situations where errors that can be anticipated or predicted can be prevented, or detected and corrected, by control parameters that are automated.
 - Control activities where the specific ways to perform the control can be adequately designed and automated.
- A66. The extent and nature of the risks to internal control vary depending on the nature and characteristics of the entity's information system. The entity responds to the risks arising from the use of IT or from use of manual elements in internal control by establishing effective controls in light of the characteristics of the entity's information system.

Controls Relevant to the Audit

- A67. There is a direct relationship between an entity's objectives and the controls it implements to provide reasonable assurance about their achievement. The entity's objectives, and therefore controls, relate to financial reporting, operations and compliance; however, not all of these objectives and controls are relevant to the auditor's risk assessment.
- A68. Factors relevant to the auditor's judgment about whether a control, individually or in combination with others, is relevant to the audit may include such matters as the following:
- Materiality.
 - The significance of the related risk.
 - The size of the entity.
 - The nature of the entity's business, including its organization and ownership characteristics.
 - The diversity and complexity of the entity's operations.
 - Applicable legal and regulatory requirements.
 - The circumstances and the applicable component of internal control.
 - The nature and complexity of the systems that are part of the entity's internal control, including the use of service organizations.
 - Whether, and how, a specific control, individually or in combination with others, prevents, or detects and corrects, material misstatement.
- A69. Controls over the completeness and accuracy of information produced by the entity may be relevant to the audit if the auditor intends to make use of the information in designing and performing further procedures. Controls relating to operations and

compliance objectives may also be relevant to an audit if they relate to data the auditor evaluates or uses in applying audit procedures.

- A70. Internal control over safeguarding of assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition may include controls relating to both financial reporting and operations objectives. The auditor's consideration of such controls is generally limited to those relevant to the reliability of financial reporting.
- A71. An entity generally has controls relating to objectives that are not relevant to an audit and therefore need not be considered. For example, an entity may rely on a sophisticated system of automated controls to provide efficient and effective operations (such as an airline's system of automated controls to maintain flight schedules), but these controls ordinarily would not be relevant to the audit. Further, although internal control applies to the entire entity or to any of its operating units or business processes, an understanding of internal control relating to each of the entity's operating units and business processes may not be relevant to the audit.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A72. Public sector auditors often have additional responsibilities with respect to internal control, for example to report on compliance with an established code of practice. Public sector auditors can also have responsibilities to report on compliance with law, regulation or other authority. As a result, their review of internal control may be broader and more detailed.

Nature and Extent of the Understanding of Relevant Controls (Ref: Para. 13)

- A73. Evaluating the design of a control involves considering whether the control, individually or in combination with other controls, is capable of effectively preventing, or detecting and correcting, material misstatements. Implementation of a control means that the control exists and that the entity is using it. There is little point in assessing the implementation of a control that is not effective, and so the design of a control is considered first. An improperly designed control may represent a significant deficiency in internal control.
- A74. Risk assessment procedures to obtain audit evidence about the design and implementation of relevant controls may include:
- Inquiring of entity personnel.
 - Observing the application of specific controls.
 - Inspecting documents and reports.
 - Tracing transactions through the information system relevant to financial reporting.

Inquiry alone, however, is not sufficient for such purposes.

- A75. Obtaining an understanding of an entity's controls is not sufficient to test their operating effectiveness, unless there is some automation that provides for the consistent operation of the controls. For example, obtaining audit evidence about the implementation of a manual control at a point in time does not provide audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of the control at other times during the period under audit. However, because of the inherent consistency of IT processing (see paragraph A62), performing audit procedures to determine whether an automated control has been implemented may serve as a test of that control's operating effectiveness, depending on the auditor's

assessment and testing of controls such as those over program changes. Tests of the operating effectiveness of controls are further described in ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#).¹³

Components of Internal Control—Control Environment (Ref: Para. 14)

- A76. The control environment includes the governance and management functions and the attitudes, awareness, and actions of those charged with governance and management concerning the entity's internal control and its importance in the entity. The control environment sets the tone of an organization, influencing the control consciousness of its people.
- A77. Elements of the control environment that may be relevant when obtaining an understanding of the control environment include the following:
- (a) *Communication and enforcement of integrity and ethical values* – These are essential elements that influence the effectiveness of the design, administration and monitoring of controls.
 - (b) *Commitment to competence* – Matters such as management's consideration of the competence levels for particular jobs and how those levels translate into requisite skills and knowledge.
 - (c) *Participation by those charged with governance* – Attributes of those charged with governance such as:
 - Their independence from management.
 - Their experience and stature.
 - The extent of their involvement and the information they receive, and the scrutiny of activities.
 - The appropriateness of their actions, including the degree to which difficult questions are raised and pursued with management, and their interaction with internal and external auditors.
 - (d) *Management's philosophy and operating style* – Characteristics such as management's:
 - Approach to taking and managing business risks.
 - Attitudes and actions toward financial reporting.
 - Attitudes toward information processing and accounting functions and personnel.
 - (e) *Organizational structure* – The framework within which an entity's activities for achieving its objectives are planned, executed, controlled, and reviewed.
 - (f) *Assignment of authority and responsibility* – Matters such as how authority and responsibility for operating activities are assigned and how reporting relationships and authorization hierarchies are established.
 - (g) *Human resource policies and practices* – Policies and practices that relate to, for example, recruitment, orientation, training, evaluation, counselling, promotion, compensation, and remedial actions.

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), "The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks."

Audit Evidence for Elements of the Control Environment

- A78. Relevant audit evidence may be obtained through a combination of inquiries and other risk assessment procedures such as corroborating inquiries through observation or inspection of documents. For example, through inquiries of management and employees, the auditor may obtain an understanding of how management communicates to employees its views on business practices and ethical behavior. The auditor may then determine whether relevant controls have been implemented by considering, for example, whether management has a written code of conduct and whether it acts in a manner that supports the code.
- A79. The auditor may also consider how management has responded to the findings and recommendations of the internal audit function regarding identified deficiencies in internal control relevant to the audit, including whether and how such responses have been implemented, and whether they have been subsequently evaluated by the internal audit function.

Effect of the Control Environment on the Assessment of the Risks of Material Misstatement

- A80. Some elements of an entity's control environment have a pervasive effect on assessing the risks of material misstatement. For example, an entity's control consciousness is influenced significantly by those charged with governance, because one of their roles is to counterbalance pressures on management in relation to financial reporting that may arise from market demands or remuneration schemes. The effectiveness of the design of the control environment in relation to participation by those charged with governance is therefore influenced by such matters as:
- Their independence from management and their ability to evaluate the actions of management.
 - Whether they understand the entity's business transactions.
 - The extent to which they evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including whether the financial statements include adequate disclosures. [IAASB/Disclosures]
- A81. An active and independent board of directors may influence the philosophy and operating style of senior management. However, other elements may be more limited in their effect. For example, although human resource policies and practices directed toward hiring competent financial, accounting, and IT personnel may reduce the risk of errors in processing financial information, they may not mitigate a strong bias by top management to overstate earnings.
- A82. The existence of a satisfactory control environment can be a positive factor when the auditor assesses the risks of material misstatement. However, although it may help reduce the risk of fraud, a satisfactory control environment is not an absolute deterrent to fraud. Conversely, deficiencies in the control environment may undermine the effectiveness of controls, in particular in relation to fraud. For example, management's failure to commit sufficient resources to address IT security risks may adversely affect internal control by allowing improper changes to be made to computer programs or to data, or unauthorized transactions to be processed. As explained in ISA (UK and

Ireland) 330 (Revised), the control environment also influences the nature, timing, and extent of the auditor's further procedures.¹⁴

- A83. The control environment in itself does not prevent, or detect and correct, a material misstatement. It may, however, influence the auditor's evaluation of the effectiveness of other controls (for example, the monitoring of controls and the operation of specific control activities) and thereby, the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

- A84. The control environment within small entities is likely to differ from larger entities. For example, those charged with governance in small entities may not include an independent or outside member, and the role of governance may be undertaken directly by the owner-manager where there are no other owners. The nature of the control environment may also influence the significance of other controls, or their absence. For example, the active involvement of an owner-manager may mitigate certain of the risks arising from a lack of segregation of duties in a small entity; it may, however, increase other risks, for example, the risk of override of controls.
- A85. In addition, audit evidence for elements of the control environment in smaller entities may not be available in documentary form, in particular where communication between management and other personnel may be informal, yet effective. For example, small entities might not have a written code of conduct but, instead, develop a culture that emphasizes the importance of integrity and ethical behavior through oral communication and by management example.
- A86. Consequently, the attitudes, awareness and actions of management or the owner-manager are of particular importance to the auditor's understanding of a smaller entity's control environment.

Components of Internal Control—The Entity's Risk Assessment Process (Ref: Para. 15)

- A87. The entity's risk assessment process forms the basis for how management determines the risks to be managed. If that process is appropriate to the circumstances, including the nature, size and complexity of the entity, it assists the auditor in identifying risks of material misstatement. Whether the entity's risk assessment process is appropriate to the circumstances is a matter of judgment.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities (Ref: Para. 17)

- A88. There is unlikely to be an established risk assessment process in a small entity. In such cases, it is likely that management will identify risks through direct personal involvement in the business. Irrespective of the circumstances, however, inquiry about identified risks and how they are addressed by management is still necessary.

Components of Internal Control—The Information System, Including Related Business Processes, Relevant to Financial Reporting, and Communication

The Information System, Including Related Business Processes, Relevant to Financial Reporting (Ref: Para. 18)

- A89. The information system relevant to financial reporting objectives, which includes the accounting system, consists of the procedures and records designed and established to:

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraphs A2-A3.

- Initiate, record, process, and report entity transactions (as well as events and conditions) and to maintain accountability for the related assets, liabilities, and equity;
- Resolve incorrect processing of transactions, for example, automated suspense files and procedures followed to clear suspense items out on a timely basis;
- Process and account for system overrides or bypasses to controls;
- Transfer information from transaction processing systems to the general ledger;
- Capture information relevant to financial reporting for events and conditions other than transactions, such as the depreciation and amortization of assets and changes in the recoverability of accounts receivables; and
- Ensure information required to be disclosed by the applicable financial reporting framework is accumulated, recorded, processed, summarized and appropriately reported in the financial statements.

A89a. Financial statements may contain information that is obtained from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers. Examples of such information may include:

- Information obtained from lease agreements disclosed in the financial statements, such as renewal options or future lease payments.
- Information disclosed in the financial statements that is produced by an entity's risk management system.
- Fair value information produced by management's experts and disclosed in the financial statements.
- Information disclosed in the financial statements that has been obtained from models, or from other calculations used to develop estimates recognized or disclosed in the financial statements, including information relating to the underlying data and assumptions used in those models, such as:
 - Assumptions developed internally that may affect an asset's useful life; or
 - Data such as interest rates that are affected by factors outside the control of the entity.
- Information disclosed in the financial statements about sensitivity analyses derived from financial models that demonstrates that management has considered alternative assumptions.
- Information recognized or disclosed in the financial statements that has been obtained from an entity's tax returns and records.
- Information disclosed in the financial statements that has been obtained from analyses prepared to support management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, such as disclosures, if any, related to events or conditions that have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.¹⁵ [IAASB/Disclosures]

A89b. The understanding of the information system relevant to financial reporting required by paragraph 18 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) (including the understanding of relevant aspects of that system relating to information disclosed in the financial statements that

¹⁵ See paragraphs 19–20 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised).

is obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers) is a matter of the auditor's professional judgment. For example, certain amounts or disclosures in the entity's financial statements (such as disclosures about credit risk, liquidity risk, and market risk) may be based on information obtained from the entity's risk management system. However, the auditor is not required to understand all aspects of the risk management system, and uses professional judgment in determining the necessary understanding. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Journal entries

- A90. An entity's information system typically includes the use of standard journal entries that are required on a recurring basis to record transactions. Examples might be journal entries to record sales, purchases, and cash disbursements in the general ledger, or to record accounting estimates that are periodically made by management, such as changes in the estimate of uncollectible accounts receivable.
- A91. An entity's financial reporting process also includes the use of non-standard journal entries to record non-recurring, unusual transactions or adjustments. Examples of such entries include consolidating adjustments and entries for a business combination or disposal or non-recurring estimates such as the impairment of an asset. In manual general ledger systems, non-standard journal entries may be identified through inspection of ledgers, journals, and supporting documentation. When automated procedures are used to maintain the general ledger and prepare financial statements, such entries may exist only in electronic form and may therefore be more easily identified through the use of computer-assisted audit techniques.

Related business processes

- A92. An entity's business processes are the activities designed to:
- Develop, purchase, produce, sell and distribute an entity's products and services;
 - Ensure compliance with laws and regulations; and
 - Record information, including accounting and financial reporting information.

Business processes result in the transactions that are recorded, processed and reported by the information system. Obtaining an understanding of the entity's business processes, which include how transactions are originated, assists the auditor obtain an understanding of the entity's information system relevant to financial reporting in a manner that is appropriate to the entity's circumstances.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

- A93. The information systems, and related business processes, relevant to financial reporting in small entities, including relevant aspects of that system relating to information disclosed in the financial statements that is obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers, are likely to be less sophisticated than in larger entities, but ~~its~~their role is just as significant. Small entities with active management involvement may not need extensive descriptions of accounting procedures, sophisticated accounting records, or written policies. Understanding the entity's information systems relevant to financial reporting and processes may therefore be easier in an audit of smaller entities, and may be more dependent on inquiry than on review of documentation. The need to obtain an understanding, however, remains important. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Communication (Ref: Para. 19)

A94. Communication by the entity of the financial reporting roles and responsibilities and of significant matters relating to financial reporting involves providing an understanding of individual roles and responsibilities pertaining to internal control over financial reporting. It includes such matters as the extent to which personnel understand how their activities in the financial reporting information system relate to the work of others and the means of reporting exceptions to an appropriate higher level within the entity. Communication may take such forms as policy manuals and financial reporting manuals. Open communication channels help ensure that exceptions are reported and acted on.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

A95. Communication may be less structured and easier to achieve in a small entity than in a larger entity due to fewer levels of responsibility and management's greater visibility and availability.

Components of Internal Control—Control Activities Relevant to the Audit (Ref: Para. 20)

A96. Control activities are the policies and procedures that help ensure that management directives are carried out. Control activities, whether within IT or manual systems, have various objectives and are applied at various organizational and functional levels. Examples of specific control activities include those relating to the following:

- Authorization.
- Performance reviews.
- Information processing.
- Physical controls.
- Segregation of duties.

A97. Control activities that are relevant to the audit are:

- Those that are required to be treated as such, being control activities that relate to significant risks and those that relate to risks for which substantive procedures alone do not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence, as required by paragraphs 29 and 30, respectively; or
- Those that are considered to be relevant in the judgment of the auditor.

A98. The auditor's judgment about whether a control activity is relevant to the audit is influenced by the risk that the auditor has identified that may give rise to a material misstatement and whether the auditor thinks it is likely to be appropriate to test the operating effectiveness of the control in determining the extent of substantive testing.

A99. The auditor's emphasis may be on identifying and obtaining an understanding of control activities that address the areas where the auditor considers that risks of material misstatement are likely to be higher. When multiple control activities each achieve the same objective, it is unnecessary to obtain an understanding of each of the control activities related to such objective.

A99a. Control activities relevant to the audit may include controls established by management that address risks of material misstatement related to disclosures not being prepared in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, in addition to controls that address risks related to account balances and transactions. Such control activities

may relate to information included in the financial statements that is obtained from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A100. The auditor's knowledge about the presence or absence of control activities obtained from the understanding of the other components of internal control assists the auditor in determining whether it is necessary to devote additional attention to obtaining an understanding of control activities.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A101. The concepts underlying control activities in small entities are likely to be similar to those in larger entities, but the formality with which they operate may vary. Further, small entities may find that certain types of control activities are not relevant because of controls applied by management. For example, management's sole authority for granting credit to customers and approving significant purchases can provide strong control over important account balances and transactions, lessening or removing the need for more detailed control activities.

A102. Control activities relevant to the audit of a smaller entity are likely to relate to the main transaction cycles such as revenues, purchases and employment expenses.

Risks Arising from IT (Ref: Para. 21)

A103. The use of IT affects the way that control activities are implemented. From the auditor's perspective, controls over IT systems are effective when they maintain the integrity of information and the security of the data such systems process, and include effective general IT controls and application controls.

A104. General IT controls are policies and procedures that relate to many applications and support the effective functioning of application controls. They apply to mainframe, miniframe, and end-user environments. General IT controls that maintain the integrity of information and security of data commonly include controls over the following:

- Data center and network operations.
- System software acquisition, change and maintenance.
- Program change.
- Access security.
- Application system acquisition, development, and maintenance.

They are generally implemented to deal with the risks referred to in paragraph A63 above.

A105. Application controls are manual or automated procedures that typically operate at a business process level and apply to the processing of transactions by individual applications. Application controls can be preventive or detective in nature and are designed to ensure the integrity of the accounting records. Accordingly, application controls relate to procedures used to initiate, record, process and report transactions or other financial data. These controls help ensure that transactions occurred, are authorized, and are completely and accurately recorded and processed. Examples include edit checks of input data, and numerical sequence checks with manual follow-up of exception reports or correction at the point of data entry.

Components of Internal Control—Monitoring of Controls (Ref: Para. 22)

- A106. Monitoring of controls is a process to assess the effectiveness of internal control performance over time. It involves assessing the effectiveness of controls on a timely basis and taking necessary remedial actions. Management accomplishes monitoring of controls through ongoing activities, separate evaluations, or a combination of the two. Ongoing monitoring activities are often built into the normal recurring activities of an entity and include regular management and supervisory activities.
- A107. Management's monitoring activities may include using information from communications from external parties such as customer complaints and regulator comments that may indicate problems or highlight areas in need of improvement.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

- A108. Management's monitoring of control is often accomplished by management's or the owner-manager's close involvement in operations. This involvement often will identify significant variances from expectations and inaccuracies in financial data leading to remedial action to the control.

The Entity's Internal Audit Function (Ref: Para. 23)

- A109. If the entity has an internal audit function, obtaining an understanding of that function contributes to the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, in particular the role that the function plays in the entity's monitoring of internal control over financial reporting. This understanding, together with the information obtained from the auditor's inquiries in paragraph 6(a) of this ISA (UK and Ireland), may also provide information that is directly relevant to the auditor's identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement.
- A110. The objectives and scope of an internal audit function, the nature of its responsibilities and its status within the organization, including the function's authority and accountability, vary widely and depend on the size and structure of the entity and the requirements of management and, where applicable, those charged with governance. These matters may be set out in an internal audit charter or terms of reference.
- A111. The responsibilities of an internal audit function may include performing procedures and evaluating the results to provide assurance to management and those charged with governance regarding the design and effectiveness of risk management, internal control and governance processes. If so, the internal audit function may play an important role in the entity's monitoring of internal control over financial reporting. However, the responsibilities of the internal audit function may be focused on evaluating the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of operations and, if so, the work of the function may not directly relate to the entity's financial reporting.
- A112. The auditor's inquiries of appropriate individuals within the internal audit function in accordance with paragraph 6(a) of this ISA (UK and Ireland) help the auditor obtain an understanding of the nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities. If the auditor determines that the function's responsibilities are related to the entity's financial reporting, the auditor may obtain further understanding of the activities performed, or to be performed, by the internal audit function by reviewing the internal audit function's audit plan for the period, if any, and discussing that plan with the appropriate individuals within the function.

- A113. If the nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities and assurance activities are related to the entity's financial reporting, the auditor may also be able to use the work of the internal audit function to modify the nature or timing, or reduce the extent, of audit procedures to be performed directly by the auditor in obtaining audit evidence. Auditors may be more likely to be able to use the work of an entity's internal audit function when it appears, for example, based on experience in previous audits or the auditor's risk assessment procedures, that the entity has an internal audit function that is adequately and appropriately resourced relative to the size of the entity and the nature of its operations, and has a direct reporting relationship to those charged with governance.
- A114. If, based on the auditor's preliminary understanding of the internal audit function, the auditor expects to use the work of the internal audit function to modify the nature or timing, or reduce the extent, of audit procedures to be performed, ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013) applies.
- A115. As is further discussed in ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), the activities of an internal audit function are distinct from other monitoring controls that may be relevant to financial reporting, such as reviews of management accounting information that are designed to contribute to how the entity prevents or detects misstatements.
- A116. Establishing communications with the appropriate individuals within an entity's internal audit function early in the engagement, and maintaining such communications throughout the engagement, can facilitate effective sharing of information. It creates an environment in which the auditor can be informed of significant matters that may come to the attention of the internal audit function when such matters may affect the work of the auditor. ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised) discusses the importance of the auditor planning and performing the audit with professional skepticism, including being alert to information that brings into question the reliability of documents and responses to inquiries to be used as audit evidence. Accordingly, communication with the internal audit function throughout the engagement may provide opportunities for internal auditors to bring such information to the auditor's attention. The auditor is then able to take such information into account in the auditor's identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement.

Sources of Information (Ref: Para. 24)

- A117. Much of the information used in monitoring may be produced by the entity's information system. If management assumes that data used for monitoring are accurate without having a basis for that assumption, errors that may exist in the information could potentially lead management to incorrect conclusions from its monitoring activities. Accordingly, an understanding of:
- the sources of the information related to the entity's monitoring activities; and
 - the basis upon which management considers the information to be sufficiently reliable for the purpose,
- is required as part of the auditor's understanding of the entity's monitoring activities as a component of internal control.

Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

Assessment of Risks of Material Misstatement at the Financial Statement Level (Ref: Para. 25

(a))

- A118. Risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level refer to risks that relate pervasively to the financial statements as a whole and potentially affect many assertions. Risks of this nature are not necessarily risks identifiable with specific assertions at the class of transactions, account balance, or disclosure level. Rather, they represent circumstances that may increase the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level, for example, through management override of internal control. Financial statement level risks may be especially relevant to the auditor's consideration of the risks of material misstatement arising from fraud.
- A119. Risks at the financial statement level may derive in particular from a deficient control environment (although these risks may also relate to other factors, such as declining economic conditions). For example, deficiencies such as a management's lack of management competence or lack of oversight over the preparation of the financial statements may have a more pervasive effect on the financial statements and may require an overall response by the auditor. [IAASB/Disclosures]
- A120. The auditor's understanding of internal control may raise doubts about the auditability of an entity's financial statements. For example:
- Concerns about the integrity of the entity's management may be so serious as to cause the auditor to conclude that the risk of management misrepresentation in the financial statements is such that an audit cannot be conducted.
 - Concerns about the condition and reliability of an entity's records may cause the auditor to conclude that it is unlikely that sufficient appropriate audit evidence will be available to support an unmodified opinion on the financial statements.
- A121. ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised)¹⁶ establishes requirements and provides guidance in determining whether there is a need for the auditor to express a qualified opinion or disclaim an opinion or, as may be required in some cases, to withdraw from the engagement where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation.

Assessment of Risks of Material Misstatement at the Assertion Level (Ref: Para. 25(b))

- A122. Risks of material misstatement at the assertion level for classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures need to be considered because such consideration directly assists in determining the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures at the assertion level necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement at the assertion level, the auditor may conclude that the identified risks relate more pervasively to the financial statements as a whole and potentially affect many assertions.

The Use of Assertions

- A123. In representing that the financial statements are in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, management^{1a} implicitly or explicitly makes assertions regarding ~~the~~ recognition, measurement, and presentation of classes of transactions and

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report."

~~events, account balances and disclosure of the various elements of financial statements and related disclosures. [IAASB/Disclosures]~~

~~A1253a. The auditor may use the assertions as described in paragraph A124 (a)-(b) below^{above} or may express them differently provided all aspects described below^{above} have been covered. For example, the auditor may choose to combine the assertions about classes of transactions and events, and related disclosures, with the assertions about account balances, and related disclosures. [IAASB/Disclosures]~~

Assertions about classes of transaction, account balances, and related disclosures

A124. Assertions used by the auditor ~~into~~ considering the different types of potential misstatements that may occur may fall into the following ~~three categories and may take the following forms:~~

- (a) Assertions about classes of transactions and events, and related disclosures, for the period under audit:
 - (i) Occurrence—transactions and events that have been recorded or disclosed, have occurred, and such transactions and events pertain to the entity.
 - (ii) Completeness—all transactions and events that should have been recorded have been recorded, and all related disclosures that should have been included in the financial statements have been included.
 - (iii) Accuracy—amounts and other data relating to recorded transactions and events have been recorded appropriately, and related disclosures have been appropriately measured and described.
 - (iv) Cutoff—transactions and events have been recorded in the correct accounting period.
 - (v) Classification—transactions and events have been recorded in the proper accounts.
 - (vi) Presentation—transactions and events are appropriately aggregated or disaggregated and clearly described, and related disclosures are relevant and understandable in the context of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- (b) Assertions about account balances, and related disclosures, at the period end:
 - (i) Existence—assets, liabilities, and equity interests exist.
 - (ii) Rights and obligations—the entity holds or controls the rights to assets, and liabilities are the obligations of the entity.
 - (iii) Completeness—all assets, liabilities and equity interests that should have been recorded have been recorded, and all related disclosures that should have been included in the financial statements have been included.
 - (iv) Accuracy, Valuation and allocation—assets, liabilities, and equity interests ~~have been~~ included in the financial statements at appropriate amounts and any resulting valuation or allocation adjustments ~~have been~~ appropriately recorded, and related disclosures have been appropriately measured and described.
 - (v) Classification— assets, liabilities, and equity interests have been recorded in the proper accounts.

- (vi) Presentation— assets, liabilities, and equity interests are appropriately aggregated or disaggregated and clearly described, and related disclosures are relevant and understandable in the context of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- (c) ~~Assertions about presentation and disclosure:~~
- (i) ~~Occurrence and rights and obligations—disclosed events, transactions, and other matters have occurred and pertain to the entity.~~
 - (ii) ~~Completeness— all disclosures that should have been included in the financial statements have been included.~~
 - (iii) ~~Classification and understandability— financial information is appropriately presented and described, and disclosures are clearly expressed.~~
 - (iv) ~~Accuracy and valuation— financial and other information are disclosed fairly and at appropriate amounts. [IAASB/Disclosures]~~

Assertions about other disclosures

A124a. The assertions described in paragraph A124(a)-(b) above, adapted as appropriate, may also be used by the auditor in considering the different types of potential misstatements that may occur in disclosures not directly related to recorded classes of transactions, events, or account balances. As an example of such a disclosure, the entity may be required to describe its exposure to risks arising from financial instruments, including how the risks arise; the objectives, policies and processes for managing the risks; and the methods used to measure the risks. [IAASB/Disclosures]

~~A125. The auditor may use the assertions as described above or may express them differently provided all aspects described above have been covered. For example, the auditor may choose to combine the assertions about transactions and events with the assertions about account balances. [IAASB/Disclosures]~~

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A126. When making assertions about the financial statements of public sector entities, in addition to those assertions set out in paragraph A124, management^{1a} may often assert that transactions and events have been carried out in accordance with law, regulation or other authority. Such assertions may fall within the scope of the financial statement audit.

Process of Identifying Risks of Material Misstatement (Ref: Para. 26(a))

A127. Information gathered by performing risk assessment procedures, including the audit evidence obtained in evaluating the design of controls and determining whether they have been implemented, is used as audit evidence to support the risk assessment. The risk assessment determines the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures to be performed. In identifying the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, the auditor exercise professional skepticism in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised).¹⁷ [IAASB/Disclosures]

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 15.

A128. Appendix 2 provides examples of conditions and events that may indicate the existence of risks of material misstatement, including risks of material misstatement relating to disclosures.

A128a. As explained in ISA (UK and Ireland) 320,¹⁸ materiality and audit risk are considered when identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures. The auditor's determination of materiality is a matter of professional judgment, and is affected by the auditor's perception of the financial reporting needs of users of the financial statements.¹⁹ [IAASB/Disclosures]

A128b. The auditor's consideration of disclosures in the financial statements when identifying risks includes quantitative and qualitative disclosures, the misstatement of which could be material (i.e., in general, misstatements are considered to be material if they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements as a whole). Depending on the circumstances of the entity and the engagement, examples of disclosures that will have qualitative aspects and that may be relevant when assessing the risks of material misstatement include disclosures about:

- Liquidity and debt covenants of an entity in financial distress.
- Events or circumstances that have led to the recognition of an impairment loss.
- Key sources of estimation uncertainty, including assumptions about the future.
- The nature of a change in accounting policy, and other relevant disclosures required by the applicable financial reporting framework, where, for example, new financial reporting requirements are expected to have a significant impact on the financial position and financial performance of the entity.
- Share-based payment arrangements, including information about how any amounts recognized were determined, and other relevant disclosures.
- Related parties, and related party transactions.
- Sensitivity analysis, including the effects of changes in assumptions used in the entity's valuation techniques intended to enable users to understand the underlying measurement uncertainty of a recorded or disclosed amount. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Considerations specific to smaller entities

A128c. Disclosures in the financial statements of smaller entities may be less detailed or less complex (e.g., some financial reporting frameworks allow smaller entities to provide fewer disclosures in the financial statements). However, this does not relieve the auditor of the responsibility to obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, as it relates to disclosures. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Relating Controls to Assertions (Ref: Para. 26(c))

A129. In making risk assessments, the auditor may identify the controls that are likely to prevent, or detect and correct, material misstatement in specific assertions. Generally, it is useful to obtain an understanding of controls and relate them to assertions in the

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320, "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit," paragraph A1.

¹⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320, paragraph 4.

context of processes and systems in which they exist because individual control activities often do not in themselves address a risk. Often, only multiple control activities, together with other components of internal control, will be sufficient to address a risk.

- A130. Conversely, some control activities may have a specific effect on an individual assertion embodied in a particular class of transactions or account balance. For example, the control activities that an entity established to ensure that its personnel are properly counting and recording the annual physical inventory relate directly to the existence and completeness assertions for the inventory account balance.
- A131. Controls can be either directly or indirectly related to an assertion. The more indirect the relationship, the less effective that control may be in preventing, or detecting and correcting, misstatements in that assertion. For example, a sales manager's review of a summary of sales activity for specific stores by region ordinarily is only indirectly related to the completeness assertion for sales revenue. Accordingly, it may be less effective in reducing risk for that assertion than controls more directly related to that assertion, such as matching shipping documents with billing documents.

Material Misstatements

A131a. Potential misstatements in individual statements and disclosures may be judged to be material due to size, nature or circumstances. (Ref: Para. 26(d)) [IAASB/Disclosures]

Significant Risks

Identifying Significant Risks (Ref: Para. 28)

- A132. Significant risks often relate to significant non-routine transactions or judgmental matters. Non-routine transactions are transactions that are unusual, due to either size or nature, and that therefore occur infrequently. Judgmental matters may include the development of accounting estimates for which there is significant measurement uncertainty. Routine, non-complex transactions that are subject to systematic processing are less likely to give rise to significant risks.
- A133. Risks of material misstatement may be greater for significant non-routine transactions arising from matters such as the following:
- Greater management intervention to specify the accounting treatment.
 - Greater manual intervention for data collection and processing.
 - Complex calculations or accounting principles.
 - The nature of non-routine transactions, which may make it difficult for the entity to implement effective controls over the risks.
- A134. Risks of material misstatement may be greater for significant judgmental matters that require the development of accounting estimates, arising from matters such as the following:
- Accounting principles for accounting estimates or revenue recognition may be subject to differing interpretation.
 - Required judgment may be subjective or complex, or require assumptions about the effects of future events, for example, judgment about fair value.

A135. ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#) describes the consequences for further audit procedures of identifying a risk as significant.²⁰

Significant risks relating to the risks of material misstatement due to fraud

A136. ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 [\(Revised\)](#) provides further requirements and guidance in relation to the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.²¹

Understanding Controls Related to Significant Risks (Ref: Para. 29)

A137. Although risks relating to significant non-routine or judgmental matters are often less likely to be subject to routine controls, management may have other responses intended to deal with such risks. Accordingly, the auditor's understanding of whether the entity has designed and implemented controls for significant risks arising from non-routine or judgmental matters includes whether and how management responds to the risks. Such responses might include:

- Control activities such as a review of assumptions by senior management or experts.
- Documented processes for estimations.
- Approval by those charged with governance.

A138. For example, where there are one-off events such as the receipt of notice of a significant lawsuit, consideration of the entity's response may include such matters as whether it has been referred to appropriate experts (such as internal or external legal counsel), whether an assessment has been made of the potential effect, and how it is proposed that the circumstances are to be disclosed in the financial statements.

A139. In some cases, management may not have appropriately responded to significant risks of material misstatement by implementing controls over these significant risks. Failure by management to implement such controls is an indicator of a significant deficiency in internal control.²²
Risks for Which Substantive Procedures Alone Do Not Provide Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 30)

A140. Risks of material misstatement may relate directly to the recording of routine classes of transactions or account balances, and the preparation of reliable financial statements. Such risks may include risks of inaccurate or incomplete processing for routine and significant classes of transactions such as an entity's revenue, purchases, and cash receipts or cash payments.

A141. Where such routine business transactions are subject to highly automated processing with little or no manual intervention, it may not be possible to perform only substantive procedures in relation to the risk. For example, the auditor may consider this to be the case in circumstances where a significant amount of an entity's information is initiated, recorded, processed, or reported only in electronic form such as in an integrated system. In such cases:

²⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraphs 15 and 21.

²¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraphs 25-27.

²² ISA (UK and Ireland) 265, "Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management," paragraph A7.

- Audit evidence may be available only in electronic form, and its sufficiency and appropriateness usually depend on the effectiveness of controls over its accuracy and completeness.
- The potential for improper initiation or alteration of information to occur and not be detected may be greater if appropriate controls are not operating effectively.

A142. The consequences for further audit procedures of identifying such risks are described in ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#).²³

Revision of Risk Assessment (Ref: Para. 31)

A143. During the audit, information may come to the auditor's attention that differs significantly from the information on which the risk assessment was based. For example, the risk assessment may be based on an expectation that certain controls are operating effectively. In performing tests of those controls, the auditor may obtain audit evidence that they were not operating effectively at relevant times during the audit. Similarly, in performing substantive procedures the auditor may detect misstatements in amounts or frequency greater than is consistent with the auditor's risk assessments. In such circumstances, the risk assessment may not appropriately reflect the true circumstances of the entity and the further planned audit procedures may not be effective in detecting material misstatements. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#) for further guidance.

Documentation (Ref: Para. 32)

A144. The manner in which the requirements of paragraph 32 are documented is for the auditor to determine using professional judgment. For example, in audits of small entities the documentation may be incorporated in the auditor's documentation of the overall strategy and audit plan.²⁴ Similarly, for example, the results of the risk assessment may be documented separately, or may be documented as part of the auditor's documentation of further procedures.²⁵ The form and extent of the documentation is influenced by the nature, size and complexity of the entity and its internal control, availability of information from the entity and the audit methodology and technology used in the course of the audit.

A145. For entities that have uncomplicated businesses and processes relevant to financial reporting, the documentation may be simple in form and relatively brief. It is not necessary to document the entirety of the auditor's understanding of the entity and matters related to it. Key elements of understanding documented by the auditor include those on which the auditor based the assessment of the risks of material misstatement.

A146. The extent of documentation may also reflect the experience and capabilities of the members of the audit engagement team. Provided the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 [\(Revised\)](#) are always met, an audit undertaken by an engagement team comprising less experienced individuals may require more detailed documentation to assist them to obtain an appropriate understanding of the entity than one that includes experienced individuals.

²³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 8.

²⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 300, "Planning an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraphs 7 and 9.

²⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 28.

A147. For recurring audits, certain documentation may be carried forward, updated as necessary to reflect changes in the entity's business or processes.

Appendix 1

(Ref: Paras. 4(c), 14-24, A76-A117)

Internal Control Components

1. This appendix further explains the components of internal control, as set out in paragraphs 4(c), 14-24 and A76-A117, as they relate to a financial statement audit.

Control Environment

2. The control environment encompasses the following elements:
 - (a) *Communication and enforcement of integrity and ethical values.* The effectiveness of controls cannot rise above the integrity and ethical values of the people who create, administer, and monitor them. Integrity and ethical behavior are the product of the entity's ethical and behavioral standards, how they are communicated, and how they are reinforced in practice. The enforcement of integrity and ethical values includes, for example, management actions to eliminate or mitigate incentives or temptations that might prompt personnel to engage in dishonest, illegal, or unethical acts. The communication of entity policies on integrity and ethical values may include the communication of behavioral standards to personnel through policy statements and codes of conduct and by example.
 - (b) *Commitment to competence.* Competence is the knowledge and skills necessary to accomplish tasks that define the individual's job.
 - (c) *Participation by those charged with governance.* An entity's control consciousness is influenced significantly by those charged with governance. The importance of the responsibilities of those charged with governance is recognized in codes of practice and other laws and regulations or guidance produced for the benefit of those charged with governance. Other responsibilities of those charged with governance include oversight of the design and effective operation of whistle blower procedures and the process for reviewing the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
 - (d) *Management's philosophy and operating style.* Management's philosophy and operating style encompass a broad range of characteristics. For example, management's attitudes and actions toward financial reporting may manifest themselves through conservative or aggressive selection from available alternative accounting principles, or conscientiousness and conservatism with which accounting estimates are developed.
 - (e) *Organizational structure.* Establishing a relevant organizational structure includes considering key areas of authority and responsibility and appropriate lines of reporting. The appropriateness of an entity's organizational structure depends, in part, on its size and the nature of its activities.
 - (f) *Assignment of authority and responsibility.* The assignment of authority and responsibility may include policies relating to appropriate business practices, knowledge and experience of key personnel, and resources provided for carrying out duties. In addition, it may include policies and communications directed at ensuring that all personnel understand the entity's objectives, know how their

individual actions interrelate and contribute to those objectives, and recognize how and for what they will be held accountable.

- (g) *Human resource policies and practices.* Human resource policies and practices often demonstrate important matters in relation to the control consciousness of an entity. For example, standards for recruiting the most qualified individuals – with emphasis on educational background, prior work experience, past accomplishments, and evidence of integrity and ethical behavior – demonstrate an entity’s commitment to competent and trustworthy people. Training policies that communicate prospective roles and responsibilities and include practices such as training schools and seminars illustrate expected levels of performance and behavior. Promotions driven by periodic performance appraisals demonstrate the entity’s commitment to the advancement of qualified personnel to higher levels of responsibility.

Entity’s Risk Assessment Process

3. For financial reporting purposes, the entity’s risk assessment process includes how management identifies business risks relevant to the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the entity’s applicable financial reporting framework, estimates their significance, assesses the likelihood of their occurrence, and decides upon actions to respond to and manage them and the results thereof. For example, the entity’s risk assessment process may address how the entity considers the possibility of unrecorded transactions or identifies and analyzes significant estimates recorded in the financial statements.
4. Risks relevant to reliable financial reporting include external and internal events, transactions or circumstances that may occur and adversely affect an entity’s ability to initiate, record, process, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management^{1a} in the financial statements. Management may initiate plans, programs, or actions to address specific risks or it may decide to accept a risk because of cost or other considerations. Risks can arise or change due to circumstances such as the following:
 - *Changes in operating environment.* Changes in the regulatory or operating environment can result in changes in competitive pressures and significantly different risks.
 - *New personnel.* New personnel may have a different focus on or understanding of internal control.
 - *New or revamped information systems.* Significant and rapid changes in information systems can change the risk relating to internal control.
 - *Rapid growth.* Significant and rapid expansion of operations can strain controls and increase the risk of a breakdown in controls.
 - *New technology.* Incorporating new technologies into production processes or information systems may change the risk associated with internal control.
 - *New business models, products, or activities.* Entering into business areas or transactions with which an entity has little experience may introduce new risks associated with internal control.

- *Corporate restructurings.* Restructurings may be accompanied by staff reductions and changes in supervision and segregation of duties that may change the risk associated with internal control.
- *Expanded foreign operations.* The expansion or acquisition of foreign operations carries new and often unique risks that may affect internal control, for example, additional or changed risks from foreign currency transactions.
- *New accounting pronouncements.* Adoption of new accounting principles or changing accounting principles may affect risks in preparing financial statements.

Information System, Including the Related Business Processes, Relevant to Financial Reporting, and Communication

5. An information system consists of infrastructure (physical and hardware components), software, people, procedures, and data. Many information systems make extensive use of information technology (IT).
6. The information system relevant to financial reporting objectives, which includes the financial reporting system, encompasses methods and records that:
 - Identify and record all valid transactions.
 - Describe on a timely basis the transactions in sufficient detail to permit proper classification of transactions for financial reporting.
 - Measure the value of transactions in a manner that permits recording their proper monetary value in the financial statements.
 - Determine the time period in which transactions occurred to permit recording of transactions in the proper accounting period.
 - Present properly the transactions and related disclosures in the financial statements.
7. The quality of system-generated information affects management's ability to make appropriate decisions in managing and controlling the entity's activities and to prepare reliable financial reports.
8. Communication, which involves providing an understanding of individual roles and responsibilities pertaining to internal control over financial reporting, may take such forms as policy manuals, accounting and financial reporting manuals, and memoranda. Communication also can be made electronically, orally, and through the actions of management.

Control Activities

9. Generally, control activities that may be relevant to an audit may be categorized as policies and procedures that pertain to the following:
 - *Performance reviews.* These control activities include reviews and analyses of actual performance versus budgets, forecasts, and prior period performance; relating different sets of data – operating or financial – to one another, together with analyses of the relationships and investigative and corrective actions; comparing internal data with external sources of information; and review of functional or activity performance.

- *Information processing.* The two broad groupings of information systems control activities are application controls, which apply to the processing of individual applications, and general IT controls, which are policies and procedures that relate to many applications and support the effective functioning of application controls by helping to ensure the continued proper operation of information systems. Examples of application controls include checking the arithmetical accuracy of records, maintaining and reviewing accounts and trial balances, automated controls such as edit checks of input data and numerical sequence checks, and manual follow-up of exception reports. Examples of general IT controls are program change controls, controls that restrict access to programs or data, controls over the implementation of new releases of packaged software applications, and controls over system software that restrict access to or monitor the use of system utilities that could change financial data or records without leaving an audit trail.
- *Physical controls.* Controls that encompass:
 - The physical security of assets, including adequate safeguards such as secured facilities over access to assets and records.
 - The authorization for access to computer programs and data files.
 - The periodic counting and comparison with amounts shown on control records (for example, comparing the results of cash, security and inventory counts with accounting records).

The extent to which physical controls intended to prevent theft of assets are relevant to the reliability of financial statement preparation, and therefore the audit, depends on circumstances such as when assets are highly susceptible to misappropriation.

- *Segregation of duties.* Assigning different people the responsibilities of authorizing transactions, recording transactions, and maintaining custody of assets. Segregation of duties is intended to reduce the opportunities to allow any person to be in a position to both perpetrate and conceal errors or fraud in the normal course of the person's duties.
10. Certain control activities may depend on the existence of appropriate higher level policies established by management or those charged with governance. For example, authorization controls may be delegated under established guidelines, such as investment criteria set by those charged with governance; alternatively, non-routine transactions such as major acquisitions or divestments may require specific high level approval, including in some cases that of shareholders.

Monitoring of Controls

11. An important management responsibility is to establish and maintain internal control on an ongoing basis. Management's monitoring of controls includes considering whether they are operating as intended and that they are modified as appropriate for changes in conditions. Monitoring of controls may include activities such as management's review of whether bank reconciliations are being prepared on a timely basis, internal auditors' evaluation of sales personnel's compliance with the entity's policies on terms of sales contracts, and a legal department's oversight of compliance with the entity's ethical or business practice policies. Monitoring is done also to ensure

that controls continue to operate effectively over time. For example, if the timeliness and accuracy of bank reconciliations are not monitored, personnel are likely to stop preparing them.

12. Internal auditors or personnel performing similar functions may contribute to the monitoring of an entity's controls through separate evaluations. Ordinarily, they regularly provide information about the functioning of internal control, focusing considerable attention on evaluating the effectiveness of internal control, and communicate information about strengths and deficiencies in internal control and recommendations for improving internal control.
13. Monitoring activities may include using information from communications from external parties that may indicate problems or highlight areas in need of improvement. Customers implicitly corroborate billing data by paying their invoices or complaining about their charges. In addition, regulators may communicate with the entity concerning matters that affect the functioning of internal control, for example, communications concerning examinations by bank regulatory agencies. Also, management may consider communications relating to internal control from external auditors in performing monitoring activities.

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. A40, A128)

Conditions and Events That May Indicate Risks of Material Misstatement

The following are examples of conditions and events that may indicate the existence of risks of material misstatement in the financial statements. The examples provided cover a broad range of conditions and events; however, not all conditions and events are relevant to every audit engagement and the list of examples is not necessarily complete.

- Operations in regions that are economically unstable, for example, countries with significant currency devaluation or highly inflationary economies.
- Operations exposed to volatile markets, for example, futures trading.
- Operations that are subject to a high degree of complex regulation.
- Going concern and liquidity issues including loss of significant customers.
- Constraints on the availability of capital and credit.
- Changes in the industry in which the entity operates.
- Changes in the supply chain.
- Developing or offering new products or services, or moving into new lines of business.
- Expanding into new locations.
- Changes in the entity such as large acquisitions or reorganizations or other unusual events.
- Entities or business segments likely to be sold.
- The existence of complex alliances and joint ventures.
- Use of off balance sheet finance, special-purpose entities, and other complex financing arrangements.
- Significant transactions with related parties.
- Lack of personnel with appropriate accounting and financial reporting skills.
- Changes in key personnel including departure of key executives.
- Deficiencies in internal control, especially those not addressed by management.
- Incentives for management and employees to engage in fraudulent financial reporting.
 - Inconsistencies between the entity's IT strategy and its business strategies.
 - Changes in the IT environment.
 - Installation of significant new IT systems related to financial reporting.
 - Inquiries into the entity's operations or financial results by regulatory or government bodies.
 - Past misstatements, history of errors or a significant amount of adjustments at period end.
 - Significant amount of non-routine or non-systematic transactions including intercompany transactions and large revenue transactions at period end.

- Transactions that are recorded based on management's intent, for example, debt refinancing, assets to be sold and classification of marketable securities.
- Application of new accounting pronouncements.
- Accounting measurements that involve complex processes.
- Events or transactions that involve significant measurement uncertainty, including accounting estimates, and related disclosures.
- Omission, or obscuring, of significant information in disclosures.
- Pending litigation and contingent liabilities, for example, sales warranties, financial guarantees and environmental remediation.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 320 (REVISED)**

MATERIALITY IN PLANNING AND PERFORMING AN AUDIT

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~17 June 2016
~~December 2016~~)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 320 (Revised), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit” should be read in the context of ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor’s responsibility to apply the concept of materiality in planning and performing an audit of financial statements. ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised)¹ explains how materiality is applied in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements.

Materiality in the Context of an Audit

2. Financial reporting frameworks often discuss the concept of materiality in the context of the preparation and presentation of financial statements. Although financial reporting frameworks may discuss materiality in different terms, they generally explain that:
 - Misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements;
 - Judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both; and
 - Judgments about matters that are material to users of the financial statements are based on a consideration of the common financial information needs of users as a group.² The possible effect of misstatements on specific individual users, whose needs may vary widely, is not considered.
3. Such a discussion, if present in the applicable financial reporting framework, provides a frame of reference to the auditor in determining materiality for the audit. If the applicable financial reporting framework does not include a discussion of the concept of materiality, the characteristics referred to in paragraph 2 provide the auditor with such a frame of reference.
4. The auditor’s determination of materiality is a matter of professional judgment, and is affected by the auditor’s perception of the financial information needs of users of the financial statements. In this context, it is reasonable for the auditor to assume that users:
 - (a) Have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information in the financial statements with reasonable diligence;
 - (b) Understand that financial statements are prepared, presented and audited to levels of materiality;
 - (c) Recognize the uncertainties inherent in the measurement of amounts based on the use of estimates, judgment and the consideration of future events; and

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit.”

² For example, the “Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements,” adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board in April 2001, indicates that, for a profit-oriented entity, as investors are providers of risk capital to the enterprise, the provision of financial statements that meet their needs will also meet most of the needs of other users that financial statements can satisfy.

The “Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements,” has not been promulgated by the **FRCAPB** for application in the UK and Ireland.

- (d) Make reasonable economic decisions on the basis of the information in the financial statements.
- 5. The concept of materiality is applied by the auditor both in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements and in forming the opinion in the auditor’s report. (Ref: Para. A1)
- 6. In planning the audit, the auditor makes judgments about ~~the size of~~ misstatements that will be considered material. These judgments provide a basis for:
 - (a) Determining the nature, timing and extent of risk assessment procedures;
 - (b) Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement; and
 - (c) Determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.

The materiality determined when planning the audit does not necessarily establish an amount below which uncorrected misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, will always be evaluated as immaterial. The circumstances related to some misstatements may cause the auditor to evaluate them as material even if they are below materiality. ~~Although it~~ is not practicable to design audit procedures to detect all misstatements that could be material solely because of their nature. However consideration of the nature of potential misstatements in disclosures is relevant to the design of audit procedures to address risks of material misstatement.³ In addition, when evaluating the effect on the financial statements of all uncorrected misstatements, the auditor considers not only the size but also the nature of uncorrected misstatements, and the particular circumstances of their occurrence, ~~when evaluating their effect on the financial statements.~~⁴ (Ref: Para. A1a) [IAASB/Disclosures]

Effective Date

- 7. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

- 8. The objective of the auditor is to apply the concept of materiality appropriately in planning and performing the audit.

Definition

- 9. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), performance materiality means the amount or amounts set by the auditor at less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole. If applicable, performance materiality also refers to the amount or amounts set by the auditor at less than the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures.

³ See ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and its Environment*, paragraphs A128a-A128b

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), paragraph A16.

Requirements

Determining Materiality and Performance Materiality When Planning the Audit

10. When establishing the overall audit strategy, the auditor shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole. If, in the specific circumstances of the entity, there is one or more particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements, the auditor shall also determine the materiality level or levels to be applied to those particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures. (Ref: Para. A2-A11)
11. The auditor shall determine performance materiality for purposes of assessing the risks of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. (Ref: Para. A12)

Revision as the Audit Progresses

12. The auditor shall revise materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) in the event of becoming aware of information during the audit that would have caused the auditor to have determined a different amount (or amounts) initially. (Ref: Para. A13)
13. If the auditor concludes that a lower materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) than that initially determined is appropriate, the auditor shall determine whether it is necessary to revise performance materiality, and whether the nature, timing and extent of the further audit procedures remain appropriate.

Documentation

14. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation the following amounts and the factors considered in their determination:⁵
 - (a) Materiality for the financial statements as a whole (see paragraph 10);
 - (b) If applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures (see paragraph 10);
 - (c) Performance materiality (see paragraph 11); and
 - (d) Any revision of (a)-(c) as the audit progressed (see paragraphs 12-13).

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Materiality and Audit Risk (Ref: Para. 5)

- A1. In conducting an audit of financial statements, the overall objectives of the auditor are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, thereby enabling the

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), "Audit Documentation," paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

auditor to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework; and to report on the financial statements, and communicate as required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland), in accordance with the auditor’s findings.⁶ The auditor obtains reasonable assurance by obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level.⁷ Audit risk is the risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate audit opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated. Audit risk is a function of the risks of material misstatement and detection risk.⁸ Materiality and audit risk are considered throughout the audit, in particular, when:

- (a) Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement;⁹
- (b) Determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures;¹⁰ and
- (c) Evaluating the effect of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements¹¹ and in forming the opinion in the auditor’s report.¹²

Materiality in the Context of an Audit (Ref: Para. 6)

A1a. Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement¹³ involves the use of professional judgment to identify those classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures, including qualitative disclosures, the misstatement of which could be material (i.e., in general, misstatements are considered to be material if they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements as a whole). When considering whether misstatements in qualitative disclosures could be material, the auditor may identify relevant factors such as:

- The circumstances of the entity for the period (for example, the entity may have undertaken a significant business combination during the period).
- The applicable financial reporting framework, including changes therein (for example, a new financial reporting standard may require new qualitative disclosures that are significant to the entity).
- Qualitative disclosures that are important to users of the financial statements because of the nature of an entity (for example, liquidity risk disclosures may be

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 11.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 17.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 13(c).

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatements through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment.”

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks.”

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised).

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements.”

~~The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraph 8(b) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 requires evaluation of whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate.~~

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 25, requires the auditor to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion level.

important to users of the financial statements for a financial institution.
[IAASB/Disclosures]

Determining Materiality and Performance Materiality When Planning the Audit

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities (Ref: Para. 10)

A2. In the case of a public sector entity, legislators and regulators are often the primary users of its financial statements. Furthermore, the financial statements may be used to make decisions other than economic decisions. The determination of materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) in an audit of the financial statements of a public sector entity is therefore influenced by law, regulation or other authority, and by the financial information needs of legislators and the public in relation to public sector programs.

Use of Benchmarks in Determining Materiality for the Financial Statements as a Whole (Ref: Para. 10)

A3. Determining materiality involves the exercise of professional judgment. A percentage is often applied to a chosen benchmark as a starting point in determining materiality for the financial statements as a whole. Factors that may affect the identification of an appropriate benchmark include the following:

- The elements of the financial statements (for example, assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, expenses);
- Whether there are items on which the attention of the users of the particular entity's financial statements tends to be focused (for example, for the purpose of evaluating financial performance users may tend to focus on profit, revenue or net assets);
- The nature of the entity, where the entity is in its life cycle, and the industry and economic environment in which the entity operates;
- The entity's ownership structure and the way it is financed (for example, if an entity is financed solely by debt rather than equity, users may put more emphasis on assets, and claims on them, than on the entity's earnings); and
- The relative volatility of the benchmark.

A4. Examples of benchmarks that may be appropriate, depending on the circumstances of the entity, include categories of reported income such as profit before tax, total revenue, gross profit and total expenses, total equity or net asset value. Profit before tax from continuing operations is often used for profit-oriented entities. When profit before tax from continuing operations is volatile, other benchmarks may be more appropriate, such as gross profit or total revenues.

A5. In relation to the chosen benchmark, relevant financial data ordinarily includes prior periods' financial results and financial positions, the period-to-date financial results and financial position, and budgets or forecasts for the current period, adjusted for significant changes in the circumstances of the entity (for example, a significant business acquisition) and relevant changes of conditions in the industry or economic environment in which the entity operates. For example, when, as a starting point, materiality for the financial statements as a whole is determined for a particular entity based on a percentage of profit before tax from continuing operations, circumstances

that give rise to an exceptional decrease or increase in such profit may lead the auditor to conclude that materiality for the financial statements as a whole is more appropriately determined using a normalized profit before tax from continuing operations figure based on past results.

- A6. Materiality relates to the financial statements on which the auditor is reporting. Where the financial statements are prepared for a financial reporting period of more or less than twelve months, such as may be the case for a new entity or a change in the financial reporting period, materiality relates to the financial statements prepared for that financial reporting period.
- A7. Determining a percentage to be applied to a chosen benchmark involves the exercise of professional judgment. There is a relationship between the percentage and the chosen benchmark, such that a percentage applied to profit before tax from continuing operations will normally be higher than a percentage applied to total revenue. For example, the auditor may consider five percent of profit before tax from continuing operations to be appropriate for a profit-oriented entity in a manufacturing industry, while the auditor may consider one percent of total revenue or total expenses to be appropriate for a not-for-profit entity. Higher or lower percentages, however, may be deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

Considerations Specific to Small Entities

- A8. When an entity's profit before tax from continuing operations is consistently nominal, as might be the case for an owner-managed business where the owner takes much of the profit before tax in the form of remuneration, a benchmark such as profit before remuneration and tax may be more relevant.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A9. In an audit of a public sector entity, total cost or net cost (expenses less revenues or expenditure less receipts) may be appropriate benchmarks for program activities. Where a public sector entity has custody of public assets, assets may be an appropriate benchmark.

Materiality Level or Levels for Particular Classes of Transactions, Account Balances or Disclosures (Ref: Para. 10)

- A10. Factors that may indicate the existence of one or more particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements include the following:
- Whether law, regulation or the applicable financial reporting framework affect users' expectations regarding the measurement or disclosure of certain items (for example, related party transactions, and the remuneration of management and those charged with governance, and sensitivity analysis for fair value accounting estimates with high estimation uncertainty).
 - The key disclosures in relation to the industry in which the entity operates (for example, research and development costs for a pharmaceutical company).

- Whether attention is focused on a particular aspect of the entity’s business that is separately disclosed in the financial statements (for example, disclosures about segments or a significant newly-acquired business combination).

A11. In considering whether, in the specific circumstances of the entity, such classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures exist, the auditor may find it useful to obtain an understanding of the views and expectations of those charged with governance and management.

Performance Materiality (Ref: Para. 11)

A12. Planning the audit solely to detect individually material misstatements overlooks the fact that the aggregate of individually immaterial misstatements may cause the financial statements to be materially misstated, and leaves no margin for possible undetected misstatements. Performance materiality (which, as defined, is one or more amounts) is set to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements in the financial statements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole. Similarly, performance materiality relating to a materiality level determined for a particular class of transactions, account balance or disclosure is set to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements in that particular class of transactions, account balance or disclosure exceeds the materiality level for that particular class of transactions, account balance or disclosure. The determination of performance materiality is not a simple mechanical calculation and involves the exercise of professional judgment. It is affected by the auditor’s understanding of the entity, updated during the performance of the risk assessment procedures; and the nature and extent of misstatements identified in previous audits and thereby the auditor’s expectations in relation to misstatements in the current period.

Revision as the Audit Progresses (Ref: Para. 12)

A13. Materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) may need to be revised as a result of a change in circumstances that occurred during the audit (for example, a decision to dispose of a major part of the entity’s business), new information, or a change in the auditor’s understanding of the entity and its operations as a result of performing further audit procedures. For example, if during the audit it appears as though actual financial results are likely to be substantially different from the anticipated period end financial results that were used initially to determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole, the auditor revises that materiality.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 330 (REVISED)**

THE AUDITOR'S RESPONSES TO ASSESSED RISKS

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016
~~December 2010~~)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to design and implement responses to the risks of material misstatement identified and assessed by the auditor in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised)¹ in an audit of financial statements.

Effective Date

2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

3. The objective of the auditor is to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those risks.

Definitions

4. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Substantive procedure – An audit procedure designed to detect material misstatements at the assertion level. Substantive procedures comprise:
 - (i) Tests of details (of classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures); and
 - (ii) Substantive analytical procedures.
 - (b) Test of controls – An audit procedure designed to evaluate the operating effectiveness of controls in preventing, or detecting and correcting, material misstatements at the assertion level.

Requirements

Overall Responses

5. The auditor shall design and implement overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level. (Ref: Para. A1-A3)

Audit Procedures Responsive to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement at the Assertion Level

6. The auditor shall design and perform further audit procedures whose nature, timing, and extent are based on and are responsive to the assessed risks of material misstatement at the assertion level. (Ref: Para. A4-A8)
7. In designing the further audit procedures to be performed, the auditor shall:
 - (a) Consider the reasons for the assessment given to the risk of material misstatement at the assertion level for each class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure, including:

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment."

- (i) The likelihood of material misstatement due to the particular characteristics of the relevant class of transactions, account balance, or disclosure (that is, the inherent risk); and
 - (ii) Whether the risk assessment takes account of relevant controls (that is, the control risk), thereby requiring the auditor to obtain audit evidence to determine whether the controls are operating effectively (that is, the auditor intends to rely on the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the nature, timing and extent of substantive procedures); and (Ref: Para. A9-A18)
- (b) Obtain more persuasive audit evidence the higher the auditor’s assessment of risk. (Ref: Para. A19)

Tests of Controls

8. The auditor shall design and perform tests of controls to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence as to the operating effectiveness of relevant controls if:
- (a) The auditor’s assessment of risks of material misstatement at the assertion level includes an expectation that the controls are operating effectively (that is, the auditor intends to rely on the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the nature, timing and extent of substantive procedures); or
 - (b) Substantive procedures alone cannot provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence at the assertion level. (Ref: Para. A20-A24)
9. In designing and performing tests of controls, the auditor shall obtain more persuasive audit evidence the greater the reliance the auditor places on the effectiveness of a control. (Ref: Para. A25)

Nature and Extent of Tests of Controls

10. In designing and performing tests of controls, the auditor shall:
- (a) Perform other audit procedures in combination with inquiry to obtain audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of the controls, including:
 - (i) How the controls were applied at relevant times during the period under audit;
 - (ii) The consistency with which they were applied; and
 - (iii) By whom or by what means they were applied. (Ref: Para. A26-29)
 - (b) Determine whether the controls to be tested depend upon other controls (indirect controls) and, if so, whether it is necessary to obtain audit evidence supporting the effective operation of those indirect controls. (Ref: Para. A30-A31)

Timing of Tests of Controls

11. The auditor shall test controls for the particular time, or throughout the period, for which the auditor intends to rely on those controls, subject to paragraphs 12 and 15 below, in order to provide an appropriate basis for the auditor’s intended reliance. (Ref: Para. A32)

Using audit evidence obtained during an interim period

12. If the auditor obtains audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of controls during an interim period, the auditor shall:

- (a) Obtain audit evidence about significant changes to those controls subsequent to the interim period; and
- (b) Determine the additional audit evidence to be obtained for the remaining period.
(Ref: Para. A33-A34)

Using audit evidence obtained in previous audits

13. In determining whether it is appropriate to use audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of controls obtained in previous audits, and, if so, the length of the time period that may elapse before retesting a control, the auditor shall consider the following:
- (a) The effectiveness of other elements of internal control, including the control environment, the entity's monitoring of controls, and the entity's risk assessment process;
 - (b) The risks arising from the characteristics of the control, including whether it is manual or automated;
 - (c) The effectiveness of general IT-controls;
 - (d) The effectiveness of the control and its application by the entity, including the nature and extent of deviations in the application of the control noted in previous audits, and whether there have been personnel changes that significantly affect the application of the control;
 - (e) Whether the lack of a change in a particular control poses a risk due to changing circumstances; and
 - (f) The risks of material misstatement and the extent of reliance on the control. (Ref: Para. A35)
14. If the auditor plans to use audit evidence from a previous audit about the operating effectiveness of specific controls, the auditor shall establish the continuing relevance of that evidence by obtaining audit evidence about whether significant changes in those controls have occurred subsequent to the previous audit. The auditor shall obtain this evidence by performing inquiry combined with observation or inspection, to confirm the understanding of those specific controls, and:
- (a) If there have been changes that affect the continuing relevance of the audit evidence from the previous audit, the auditor shall test the controls in the current audit. (Ref: Para. A36)
 - (b) If there have not been such changes, the auditor shall test the controls at least once in every third audit, and shall test some controls each audit to avoid the possibility of testing all the controls on which the auditor intends to rely in a single audit period with no testing of controls in the subsequent two audit periods. (Ref: Para. A37-A39)

Controls over significant risks

15. If the auditor plans to rely on controls over a risk the auditor has determined to be a significant risk, the auditor shall test those controls in the current period.

Evaluating the Operating Effectiveness of Controls

16. When evaluating the operating effectiveness of relevant controls, the auditor shall evaluate whether misstatements that have been detected by substantive procedures

indicate that controls are not operating effectively. The absence of misstatements detected by substantive procedures, however, does not provide audit evidence that controls related to the assertion being tested are effective. (Ref: Para. A40)

17. If deviations from controls upon which the auditor intends to rely are detected, the auditor shall make specific inquiries to understand these matters and their potential consequences, and shall determine whether: (Ref: Para. A41)
 - (a) The tests of controls that have been performed provide an appropriate basis for reliance on the controls;
 - (b) Additional tests of controls are necessary; or
 - (c) The potential risks of misstatement need to be addressed using substantive procedures.

Substantive Procedures

18. Irrespective of the assessed risks of material misstatement, the auditor shall design and perform substantive procedures for each material class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure. (Ref: Para. A42-A47)
19. The auditor shall consider whether external confirmation procedures are to be performed as substantive audit procedures. (Ref: Para. A48-A51)

19R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor shall assess the valuation methods applied to the various items in the financial statements including any impact of changes of such methods. (Ref: Para. A51-1) [AR/Article 11.2(l)]

Substantive Procedures Related to the Financial Statement Closing Process

20. The auditor's substantive procedures shall include the following audit procedures related to the financial statement closing process:
 - (a) Agreeing or reconciling information in the financial statements with the underlying accounting records, including agreeing or reconciling information in disclosures, whether such information is obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers; and [IAASB/Disclosures]
 - (b) Examining material journal entries and other adjustments made during the course of preparing the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A52)

Substantive Procedures Responsive to Significant Risks

21. If the auditor has determined that an assessed risk of material misstatement at the assertion level is a significant risk, the auditor shall perform substantive procedures that are specifically responsive to that risk. When the approach to a significant risk consists only of substantive procedures, those procedures shall include tests of details. (Ref: Para. A53)

Timing of Substantive Procedures

22. If substantive procedures are performed at an interim date, the auditor shall cover the remaining period by performing:
 - (a) substantive procedures, combined with tests of controls for the intervening period; or
 - (b) if the auditor determines that it is sufficient, further substantive procedures only

that provide a reasonable basis for extending the audit conclusions from the interim date to the period end. (Ref: Para. A54-A57)

23. If misstatements that the auditor did not expect when assessing the risks of material misstatement are detected at an interim date, the auditor shall evaluate whether the related assessment of risk and the planned nature, timing, or extent of substantive procedures covering the remaining period need to be modified. (Ref: Para. A58)

Adequacy of Presentation ~~and Disclosure~~ of the Financial Statements

24. The auditor shall perform audit procedures to evaluate whether the overall presentation of the financial statements, ~~including the related disclosures~~, is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. In making this evaluation, the auditor shall consider whether the financial statements are presented in a manner that reflects the appropriate:

- Classification and description of financial information and the underlying transactions, events and conditions; and
- Presentation, structure and content of the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A59) [IAASB/Disclosures]

Evaluating the Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence

25. Based on the audit procedures performed and the audit evidence obtained, the auditor shall evaluate before the conclusion of the audit whether the assessments of the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level remain appropriate. (Ref: Para. A60-A61)
26. The auditor shall conclude whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained. In forming an opinion, the auditor shall consider all relevant audit evidence, regardless of whether it appears to corroborate or to contradict the assertions in the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A62)
27. If the auditor has not obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence as to a material financial statement assertion, the auditor shall attempt to obtain further audit evidence. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall express a qualified opinion or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements.

Documentation

28. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation:²
- (a) The overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level, and the nature, timing, and extent of the further audit procedures performed;
 - (b) The linkage of those procedures with the assessed risks at the assertion level; and
 - (c) The results of the audit procedures, including the conclusions where these are not otherwise clear. (Ref: Para. A63)
29. If the auditor plans to use audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of controls obtained in previous audits, the auditor shall include in the audit documentation the conclusions reached about relying on such controls that were tested in a previous audit.

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

30. The auditor's documentation shall demonstrate that information in the financial statements agrees or reconciles with the underlying accounting records, including agreeing or reconciling disclosures, whether such information is obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Overall Responses (Ref: Para. 5)

- A1. Overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level may include:
- Emphasizing to the audit team the need to maintain professional skepticism.
 - Assigning more experienced staff or those with special skills or using experts.
 - Providing more supervision.
 - Incorporating additional elements of unpredictability in the selection of further audit procedures to be performed.
 - Making general changes to the nature, timing, or extent of audit procedures, for example: performing substantive procedures at the period end instead of at an interim date; or modifying the nature of audit procedures to obtain more persuasive audit evidence.
- A2. The assessment of the risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level, and thereby the auditor's overall responses, is affected by the auditor's understanding of the control environment. An effective control environment may allow the auditor to have more confidence in internal control and the reliability of audit evidence generated internally within the entity and thus, for example, allow the auditor to conduct some audit procedures at an interim date rather than at the period end. Deficiencies in the control environment, however, have the opposite effect; for example, the auditor may respond to an ineffective control environment by:
- Conducting more audit procedures as of the period end rather than at an interim date.
 - Obtaining more extensive audit evidence from substantive procedures.
 - Increasing the number of locations to be included in the audit scope.
- A3. Such considerations, therefore, have a significant bearing on the auditor's general approach, for example, an emphasis on substantive procedures (substantive approach), or an approach that uses tests of controls as well as substantive procedures (combined approach).

Audit Procedures Responsive to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement at the Assertion Level

The Nature, Timing, and Extent of Further Audit Procedures (Ref: Para. 6)

- A4. The auditor's assessment of the identified risks at the assertion level provides a basis for considering the appropriate audit approach for designing and performing further audit procedures. For example, the auditor may determine that:
- (a) Only by performing tests of controls may the auditor achieve an effective response to the assessed risk of material misstatement for a particular assertion;

- (b) Performing only substantive procedures is appropriate for particular assertions and, therefore, the auditor excludes the effect of controls from the relevant risk assessment. This may be because the auditor's risk assessment procedures have not identified any effective controls relevant to the assertion, or because testing controls would be inefficient and therefore the auditor does not intend to rely on the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the nature, timing and extent of substantive procedures; or
- (c) A combined approach using both tests of controls and substantive procedures is an effective approach.

However, as required by paragraph 18, irrespective of the approach selected, the auditor designs and performs substantive procedures for each material class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure.

- A5. The nature of an audit procedure refers to its purpose (i.e., test of controls or substantive procedure) and its type (that is, inspection, observation, inquiry, confirmation, recalculation, reperformance, or analytical procedure). The nature of the audit procedures is of most importance in responding to the assessed risks.
- A6. Timing of an audit procedure refers to when it is performed, or the period or date to which the audit evidence applies.
- A7. Extent of an audit procedure refers to the quantity to be performed, for example, a sample size or the number of observations of a control activity.
- A8. Designing and performing further audit procedures whose nature, timing, and extent are based on and are responsive to the assessed risks of material misstatement at the assertion level provides a clear linkage between the auditor's further audit procedures and the risk assessment.

Responding to the Assessed Risks at the Assertion Level (Ref: Para. 7(a))

Nature

- A9. The auditor's assessed risks may affect both the types of audit procedures to be performed and their combination. For example, when an assessed risk is high, the auditor may confirm the completeness of the terms of a contract with the counterparty, in addition to inspecting the document. Further, certain audit procedures may be more appropriate for some assertions than others. For example, in relation to revenue, tests of controls may be most responsive to the assessed risk of misstatement of the completeness assertion, whereas substantive procedures may be most responsive to the assessed risk of misstatement of the occurrence assertion.
- A10. The reasons for the assessment given to a risk are relevant in determining the nature of audit procedures. For example, if an assessed risk is lower because of the particular characteristics of a class of transactions without consideration of the related controls, then the auditor may determine that substantive analytical procedures alone provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence. On the other hand, if the assessed risk is lower because of internal controls, and the auditor intends to base the substantive procedures on that low assessment, then the auditor performs tests of those controls, as required by paragraph 8(a). This may be the case, for example, for a class of transactions of reasonably uniform, non-complex characteristics that are routinely processed and controlled by the entity's information system.

Timing

- A11. The auditor may perform tests of controls or substantive procedures at an interim date or at the period end. The higher the risk of material misstatement, the more likely it is that the auditor may decide it is more effective to perform substantive procedures nearer to, or at, the period end rather than at an earlier date, or to perform audit procedures unannounced or at unpredictable times (for example, performing audit procedures at selected locations on an unannounced basis). This is particularly relevant when considering the response to the risks of fraud. For example, the auditor may conclude that, when the risks of intentional misstatement or manipulation have been identified, audit procedures to extend audit conclusions from interim date to the period end would not be effective.
- A12. On the other hand, performing audit procedures before the period end may assist the auditor in identifying significant matters at an early stage of the audit, and consequently resolving them with the assistance of management or developing an effective audit approach to address such matters.
- A13. In addition, certain audit procedures can be performed only at or after the period end, for example:
- Agreeing or reconciling information in the financial statements ~~with~~ the underlying accounting records, including agreeing or reconciling disclosures, whether such information is obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers;
 - Examining adjustments made during the course of preparing the financial statements; and
 - Procedures to respond to a risk that, at the period end, the entity may have entered into improper sales contracts, or transactions may not have been finalized. [IAASB/Disclosures]
- A14. Further relevant factors that influence the auditor’s consideration of when to perform audit procedures include the following:
- The control environment.
 - When relevant information is available (for example, electronic files may subsequently be overwritten, or procedures to be observed may occur only at certain times).
 - The nature of the risk (for example, if there is a risk of inflated revenues to meet earnings expectations by subsequent creation of false sales agreements, the auditor may wish to examine contracts available on the date of the period end).
 - The period or date to which the audit evidence relates.
 - The timing of the preparation of the financial statements, particularly for those disclosures that provide further explanation about amounts recorded in the statement of financial position, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity or the statement of cash flows. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Extent

- A15. The extent of an audit procedure judged necessary is determined after considering the materiality, the assessed risk, and the degree of assurance the auditor plans to obtain. When a single purpose is met by a combination of procedures, the extent of each procedure is considered separately. In general, the extent of audit procedures increases as the risk of material misstatement increases. For example, in response to the assessed risk of material misstatement due to fraud, increasing sample sizes or performing substantive analytical procedures at a more detailed level may be appropriate. However, increasing the extent of an audit procedure is effective only if the audit procedure itself is relevant to the specific risk.
- A16. The use of computer-assisted audit techniques (CAATs) may enable more extensive testing of electronic transactions and account files, which may be useful when the auditor decides to modify the extent of testing, for example, in responding to the risks of material misstatement due to fraud. Such techniques can be used to select sample transactions from key electronic files, to sort transactions with specific characteristics, or to test an entire population instead of a sample.

Considerations specific to public sector entities

- A17. For the audits of public sector entities, the audit mandate and any other special auditing requirements may affect the auditor's consideration of the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

- A18. In the case of very small entities, there may not be many control activities that could be identified by the auditor, or the extent to which their existence or operation have been documented by the entity may be limited. In such cases, it may be more efficient for the auditor to perform further audit procedures that are primarily substantive procedures. In some rare cases, however, the absence of control activities or of other components of control may make it impossible to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

Higher Assessments of Risk (Ref: Para 7(b))

- A19. When obtaining more persuasive audit evidence because of a higher assessment of risk, the auditor may increase the quantity of the evidence, or obtain evidence that is more relevant or reliable, for example, by placing more emphasis on obtaining third party evidence or by obtaining corroborating evidence from a number of independent sources.

Tests of Controls

Designing and Performing Tests of Controls (Ref: Para. 8)

- A20. Tests of controls are performed only on those controls that the auditor has determined are suitably designed to prevent, or detect and correct, a material misstatement in an assertion. If substantially different controls were used at different times during the period under audit, each is considered separately.
- A21. Testing the operating effectiveness of controls is different from obtaining an understanding of and evaluating the design and implementation of controls. However, the same types of audit procedures are used. The auditor may, therefore, decide it is efficient to test the operating effectiveness of controls at the same time as evaluating their design and determining that they have been implemented.

A22. Further, although some risk assessment procedures may not have been specifically designed as tests of controls, they may nevertheless provide audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of the controls and, consequently, serve as tests of controls. For example, the auditor’s risk assessment procedures may have included:

- Inquiring about management’s use of budgets.
- Observing management’s comparison of monthly budgeted and actual expenses.
- Inspecting reports pertaining to the investigation of variances between budgeted and actual amounts.

These audit procedures provide knowledge about the design of the entity’s budgeting policies and whether they have been implemented, but may also provide audit evidence about the effectiveness of the operation of budgeting policies in preventing or detecting material misstatements in the classification of expenses.

A23. In addition, the auditor may design a test of controls to be performed concurrently with a test of details on the same transaction. Although the purpose of a test of controls is different from the purpose of a test of details, both may be accomplished concurrently by performing a test of controls and a test of details on the same transaction, also known as a dual-purpose test. For example, the auditor may design, and evaluate the results of, a test to examine an invoice to determine whether it has been approved and to provide substantive audit evidence of a transaction. A dual-purpose test is designed and evaluated by considering each purpose of the test separately.

A24. In some cases, the auditor may find it impossible to design effective substantive procedures that by themselves provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence at the assertion level.³ This may occur when an entity conducts its business using IT and no documentation of transactions is produced or maintained, other than through the IT system. In such cases, paragraph 8(b) requires the auditor to perform tests of relevant controls.

Audit Evidence and Intended Reliance (Ref: Para. 9)

A25. A higher level of assurance may be sought about the operating effectiveness of controls when the approach adopted consists primarily of tests of controls, in particular where it is not possible or practicable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence only from substantive procedures.

Nature and Extent of Tests of Controls

Other audit procedures in combination with inquiry (Ref: Para. 10(a))

A26. Inquiry alone is not sufficient to test the operating effectiveness of controls. Accordingly, other audit procedures are performed in combination with inquiry. In this regard, inquiry combined with inspection or reperformance may provide more assurance than inquiry and observation, since an observation is pertinent only at the point in time at which it is made.

A27. The nature of the particular control influences the type of procedure required to obtain audit evidence about whether the control was operating effectively. For example, if operating effectiveness is evidenced by documentation, the auditor may decide to inspect it to obtain audit evidence about operating effectiveness. For other controls, however, documentation may not be available or relevant. For example, documentation of

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 30.

operation may not exist for some factors in the control environment, such as assignment of authority and responsibility, or for some types of control activities, such as control activities performed by a computer. In such circumstances, audit evidence about operating effectiveness may be obtained through inquiry in combination with other audit procedures such as observation or the use of CAATs.

Extent of tests of controls

A28. When more persuasive audit evidence is needed regarding the effectiveness of a control, it may be appropriate to increase the extent of testing of the control. As well as the degree of reliance on controls, matters the auditor may consider in determining the extent of tests of controls include the following:

- The frequency of the performance of the control by the entity during the period.
- The length of time during the audit period that the auditor is relying on the operating effectiveness of the control.
- The expected rate of deviation from a control.
- The relevance and reliability of the audit evidence to be obtained regarding the operating effectiveness of the control at the assertion level.
- The extent to which audit evidence is obtained from tests of other controls related to the assertion.

ISA (UK and Ireland) 530⁴ contains further guidance on the extent of testing.

A29. Because of the inherent consistency of IT processing, it may not be necessary to increase the extent of testing of an automated control. An automated control can be expected to function consistently unless the program (including the tables, files, or other permanent data used by the program) is changed. Once the auditor determines that an automated control is functioning as intended (which could be done at the time the control is initially implemented or at some other date), the auditor may consider performing tests to determine that the control continues to function effectively. Such tests might include determining that:

- Changes to the program are not made without being subject to the appropriate program change controls;
- The authorized version of the program is used for processing transactions; and
- Other relevant general controls are effective.

Such tests also might include determining that changes to the programs have not been made, as may be the case when the entity uses packaged software applications without modifying or maintaining them. For example, the auditor may inspect the record of the administration of IT security to obtain audit evidence that unauthorized access has not occurred during the period.

Testing of indirect controls (Ref: Para. 10(b))

A30. In some circumstances, it may be necessary to obtain audit evidence supporting the effective operation of indirect controls. For example, when the auditor decides to test the effectiveness of a user review of exception reports detailing sales in excess of authorized credit limits, the user review and related follow up is the control that is

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 530, “Audit Sampling.”

directly of relevance to the auditor. Controls over the accuracy of the information in the reports (for example, the general IT-controls) are described as “indirect” controls.

- A31. Because of the inherent consistency of IT processing, audit evidence about the implementation of an automated application control, when considered in combination with audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of the entity’s general controls (in particular, change controls), may also provide substantial audit evidence about its operating effectiveness.

Timing of Tests of Controls

Intended period of reliance (Ref: Para. 11)

- A32. Audit evidence pertaining only to a point in time may be sufficient for the auditor’s purpose, for example, when testing controls over the entity’s physical inventory counting at the period end. If, on the other hand, the auditor intends to rely on a control over a period, tests that are capable of providing audit evidence that the control operated effectively at relevant times during that period are appropriate. Such tests may include tests of the entity’s monitoring of controls.

Using audit evidence obtained during an interim period (Ref: Para. 12b)

- A33. Relevant factors in determining what additional audit evidence to obtain about controls that were operating during the period remaining after an interim period, include:
- The significance of the assessed risks of material misstatement at the assertion level.
 - The specific controls that were tested during the interim period, and significant changes to them since they were tested, including changes in the information system, processes, and personnel.
 - The degree to which audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of those controls was obtained.
 - The length of the remaining period.
 - The extent to which the auditor intends to reduce further substantive procedures based on the reliance of controls.
 - The control environment.

- A34. Additional audit evidence may be obtained, for example, by extending tests of controls over the remaining period or testing the entity’s monitoring of controls.

Using audit evidence obtained in previous audits (Ref: Para. 13)

- A35. In certain circumstances, audit evidence obtained from previous audits may provide audit evidence where the auditor performs audit procedures to establish its continuing relevance. For example, in performing a previous audit, the auditor may have determined that an automated control was functioning as intended. The auditor may obtain audit evidence to determine whether changes to the automated control have been made that affect its continued effective functioning through, for example, inquiries of management and the inspection of logs to indicate what controls have been changed. Consideration of audit evidence about these changes may support either increasing or decreasing the expected audit evidence to be obtained in the current period about the operating effectiveness of the controls.

Controls that have changed from previous audits (Ref: Para. 14(a))

A36. Changes may affect the relevance of the audit evidence obtained in previous audits such that there may no longer be a basis for continued reliance. For example, changes in a system that enable an entity to receive a new report from the system probably do not affect the relevance of audit evidence from a previous audit; however, a change that causes data to be accumulated or calculated differently does affect it.

Controls that have not changed from previous audits (Ref: Para. 14(b))

A37. The auditor's decision on whether to rely on audit evidence obtained in previous audits for controls that:

- (a) have not changed since they were last tested; and
- (b) are not controls that mitigate a significant risk,

is a matter of professional judgment. In addition, the length of time between retesting such controls is also a matter of professional judgment, but is required by paragraph 14 (b) to be at least once in every third year.

A38. In general, the higher the risk of material misstatement, or the greater the reliance on controls, the shorter the time period elapsed, if any, is likely to be. Factors that may decrease the period for retesting a control, or result in not relying on audit evidence obtained in previous audits at all, include the following:

- A deficient control environment.
- Deficient monitoring of controls.
- A significant manual element to the relevant controls.
- Personnel changes that significantly affect the application of the control.
- Changing circumstances that indicate the need for changes in the control.
- Deficient general IT-controls.

A39. When there are a number of controls for which the auditor intends to rely on audit evidence obtained in previous audits, testing some of those controls in each audit provides corroborating information about the continuing effectiveness of the control environment. This contributes to the auditor's decision about whether it is appropriate to rely on audit evidence obtained in previous audits.

Evaluating the Operating Effectiveness of Controls (Ref: Para. 16-17)

A40. A material misstatement detected by the auditor's procedures is a strong indicator of the existence of a significant deficiency in internal control.

A41. The concept of effectiveness of the operation of controls recognizes that some deviations in the way controls are applied by the entity may occur. Deviations from prescribed controls may be caused by such factors as changes in key personnel, significant seasonal fluctuations in volume of transactions and human error. The detected rate of deviation, in particular in comparison with the expected rate, may indicate that the control cannot be relied on to reduce risk at the assertion level to that assessed by the auditor.

Substantive Procedures (Ref: Para. 18)

A42. Paragraph 18 requires the auditor to design and perform substantive procedures for each material class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure, irrespective of the assessed risks of material misstatement. This requirement reflects the facts that: (a) the auditor’s assessment of risk is judgmental and so may not identify all risks of material misstatement; and (b) there are inherent limitations to internal control, including management override.

Nature and Extent of Substantive Procedures

A43. Depending on the circumstances, the auditor may determine that:

- Performing only substantive analytical procedures will be sufficient to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level. For example, where the auditor’s assessment of risk is supported by audit evidence from tests of controls.
- Only tests of details are appropriate.
- A combination of substantive analytical procedures and tests of details are most responsive to the assessed risks.

A44. Substantive analytical procedures are generally more applicable to large volumes of transactions that tend to be predictable over time. ISA (UK and Ireland) 520⁵ establishes requirements and provides guidance on the application of analytical procedures during an audit.

A45. The nature of the risk and assertion is relevant to the design of tests of details. For example, tests of details related to the existence or occurrence assertion may involve selecting from items contained in a financial statement amount and obtaining the relevant audit evidence. On the other hand, tests of details related to the completeness assertion may involve selecting from items that are expected to be included in the relevant financial statement amount and investigating whether they are included.

A46. Because the assessment of the risk of material misstatement takes account of internal control, the extent of substantive procedures may need to be increased when the results from tests of controls are unsatisfactory. However, increasing the extent of an audit procedure is appropriate only if the audit procedure itself is relevant to the specific risk.

A47. In designing tests of details, the extent of testing is ordinarily thought of in terms of the sample size. However, other matters are also relevant, including whether it is more effective to use other selective means of testing. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 500.⁶

Considering Whether External Confirmation Procedures Are to Be Performed (Ref: Para. 19)

A48. External confirmation procedures frequently are relevant when addressing assertions associated with account balances and their elements, but need not be restricted to these items. For example, the auditor may request external confirmation of the terms of agreements, contracts, or transactions between an entity and other parties. External confirmation procedures also may be performed to obtain audit evidence about the absence of certain conditions. For example, a request may specifically seek confirmation that no “side agreement” exists that may be relevant to an entity’s revenue

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 520, “Analytical Procedures.”

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 500, “Audit Evidence,” paragraph 10.

cut-off assertion. Other situations where external confirmation procedures may provide relevant audit evidence in responding to assessed risks of material misstatement include:

- Bank balances and other information relevant to banking relationships.
- Accounts receivable balances and terms.
- Inventories held by third parties at bonded warehouses for processing or on consignment.
- Property title deeds held by lawyers or financiers for safe custody or as security.
- Investments held for safekeeping by third parties, or purchased from stockbrokers but not delivered at the balance sheet date.
- Amounts due to lenders, including relevant terms of repayment and restrictive covenants.
- Accounts payable balances and terms.

A49. Although external confirmations may provide relevant audit evidence relating to certain assertions, there are some assertions for which external confirmations provide less relevant audit evidence. For example, external confirmations provide less relevant audit evidence relating to the recoverability of accounts receivable balances, than they do of their existence.

A50. The auditor may determine that external confirmation procedures performed for one purpose provide an opportunity to obtain audit evidence about other matters. For example, confirmation requests for bank balances often include requests for information relevant to other financial statement assertions. Such considerations may influence the auditor's decision about whether to perform external confirmation procedures.

A51. Factors that may assist the auditor in determining whether external confirmation procedures are to be performed as substantive audit procedures include:

- The confirming party's knowledge of the subject matter – responses may be more reliable if provided by a person at the confirming party who has the requisite knowledge about the information being confirmed.
- The ability or willingness of the intended confirming party to respond – for example, the confirming party:
 - May not accept responsibility for responding to a confirmation request;
 - May consider responding too costly or time consuming;
 - May have concerns about the potential legal liability resulting from responding;
 - May account for transactions in different currencies; or
 - May operate in an environment where responding to confirmation requests is not a significant aspect of day-to-day operations.

In such situations, confirming parties may not respond, may respond in a casual manner or may attempt to restrict the reliance placed on the response.

- The objectivity of the intended confirming party – if the confirming party is a related party of the entity, responses to confirmation requests may be less reliable.

Valuation Methods (Ref: Para. 19R-1)

A51-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{6a} requires the auditor to communicate in the additional report to the audit committee the auditor’s assessment of the valuation methods applied to the various items in the annual or consolidated financial statements including any impact of changes of such methods.

Substantive Procedures Related to the Financial Statement Closing Process (Ref: Para. 20(b))

A52. The nature, and also the extent, of the auditor’s substantive procedures related to the financial statement closing process~~examination of journal entries and other adjustments~~ depends on the nature and complexity of the entity’s financial reporting process and the related risks of material misstatement. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Substantive Procedures Responsive to Significant Risks (Ref: Para. 21)

A53. Paragraph 21 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) requires the auditor to perform substantive procedures that are specifically responsive to risks the auditor has determined to be significant risks. Audit evidence in the form of external confirmations received directly by the auditor from appropriate confirming parties may assist the auditor in obtaining audit evidence with the high level of reliability that the auditor requires to respond to significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. For example, if the auditor identifies that management is under pressure to meet earnings expectations, there may be a risk that management is inflating sales by improperly recognizing revenue related to sales agreements with terms that preclude revenue recognition or by invoicing sales before shipment. In these circumstances, the auditor may, for example, design external confirmation procedures not only to confirm outstanding amounts, but also to confirm the details of the sales agreements, including date, any rights of return and delivery terms. In addition, the auditor may find it effective to supplement such external confirmation procedures with inquiries of non-financial personnel in the entity regarding any changes in sales agreements and delivery terms.

Timing of Substantive Procedures (Ref: Para. 22-23)

A54. In most cases, audit evidence from a previous audit’s substantive procedures provides little or no audit evidence for the current period. There are, however, exceptions, for example, a legal opinion obtained in a previous audit related to the structure of a securitization to which no changes have occurred, may be relevant in the current period. In such cases, it may be appropriate to use audit evidence from a previous audit’s substantive procedures if that evidence and the related subject matter have not fundamentally changed, and audit procedures have been performed during the current period to establish its continuing relevance.

Using audit evidence obtained during an interim period (Ref: Para. 22)

A55. In some circumstances, the auditor may determine that it is effective to perform substantive procedures at an interim date, and to compare and reconcile information concerning the balance at the period end with the comparable information at the interim date to:

- (a) Identify amounts that appear unusual;

^{6a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged With Governance”, paragraph 16R-2(l)

- (b) Investigate any such amounts; and
- (c) Perform substantive analytical procedures or tests of details to test the intervening period.

A56. Performing substantive procedures at an interim date without undertaking additional procedures at a later date increases the risk that the auditor will not detect misstatements that may exist at the period end. This risk increases as the remaining period is lengthened. Factors such as the following may influence whether to perform substantive procedures at an interim date:

- The control environment and other relevant controls.
- The availability at a later date of information necessary for the auditor's procedures.
- The purpose of the substantive procedure.
- The assessed risk of material misstatement.
- The nature of the class of transactions or account balance and related assertions.
- The ability of the auditor to perform appropriate substantive procedures or substantive procedures combined with tests of controls to cover the remaining period in order to reduce the risk that misstatements that may exist at the period end will not be detected.

A57. Factors such as the following may influence whether to perform substantive analytical procedures with respect to the period between the interim date and the period end:

- Whether the period end balances of the particular classes of transactions or account balances are reasonably predictable with respect to amount, relative significance, and composition.
- Whether the entity's procedures for analyzing and adjusting such classes of transactions or account balances at interim dates and for establishing proper accounting cutoffs are appropriate.
- Whether the information system relevant to financial reporting will provide information concerning the balances at the period end and the transactions in the remaining period that is sufficient to permit investigation of:
 - (a) Significant unusual transactions or entries (including those at or near the period end);
 - (b) Other causes of significant fluctuations, or expected fluctuations that did not occur; and
 - (c) Changes in the composition of the classes of transactions or account balances.

Misstatements detected at an interim date (Ref: Para. 23)

A58. When the auditor concludes that the planned nature, timing, or extent of substantive procedures covering the remaining period need to be modified as a result of unexpected misstatements detected at an interim date, such modification may include extending or repeating the procedures performed at the interim date at the period end.

Adequacy of Presentation and Disclosure of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 24)

- A59. Evaluating the ~~appropriate overall~~ presentation, arrangement and content of the financial statements, ~~including the related disclosures, relates to whether the individual financial statements are presented in a manner that reflects the appropriate classification and description of financial information, and the form, arrangement, and content of the financial statements and their appended notes. This includes, for example, consideration of~~ the terminology used as required by the applicable financial reporting framework, the ~~level~~ amount of detail ~~provided~~ given, the ~~aggregation and disaggregation~~ classification of ~~amounts~~ items in the statements, and the bases of amounts set forth. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Evaluating the Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 25-27)

- A60. An audit of financial statements is a cumulative and iterative process. As the auditor performs planned audit procedures, the audit evidence obtained may cause the auditor to modify the nature, timing or extent of other planned audit procedures. Information may come to the auditor's attention that differs significantly from the information on which the risk assessment was based. For example:

- The extent of misstatements that the auditor detects by performing substantive procedures may alter the auditor's judgment about the risk assessments and may indicate a significant deficiency in internal control.
- The auditor may become aware of discrepancies in accounting records, or conflicting or missing evidence.
- Analytical procedures performed at the overall review stage of the audit may indicate a previously unrecognized risk of material misstatement.

In such circumstances, the auditor may need to reevaluate the planned audit procedures, based on the revised consideration of assessed risks for all or some of the classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosures and related assertions. ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised) contains further guidance on revising the auditor's risk assessment.⁷

- A61. The auditor cannot assume that an instance of fraud or error is an isolated occurrence. Therefore, the consideration of how the detection of a misstatement affects the assessed risks of material misstatement is important in determining whether the assessment remains appropriate.
- A62. The auditor's judgment as to what constitutes sufficient appropriate audit evidence is influenced by such factors as the following:
- Significance of the potential misstatement in the assertion and the likelihood of its having a material effect, individually or aggregated with other potential misstatements, on the financial statements.
 - Effectiveness of management's responses and controls to address the risks.
 - Experience gained during previous audits with respect to similar potential misstatements.
 - Results of audit procedures performed, including whether such audit procedures identified specific instances of fraud or error.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 31.

- Source and reliability of the available information.
- Persuasiveness of the audit evidence.
- Understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control.

Documentation (Ref: Para. 28)

A63. The form and extent of audit documentation is a matter of professional judgment, and is influenced by the nature, size and complexity of the entity and its internal control, availability of information from the entity and the audit methodology and technology used in the audit.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 450 (REVISED)**

EVALUATION OF MISSTATEMENTS IDENTIFIED DURING THE AUDIT

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~15 December
2019)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit” should be read in the context of ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to evaluate the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements. ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) deals with the auditor's responsibility, in forming an opinion on the financial statements, to conclude whether reasonable assurance has been obtained about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. The auditor's conclusion required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) takes into account the auditor's evaluation of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements, in accordance with this ISA (UK and Ireland).¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised)² deals with the auditor's responsibility to apply the concept of materiality appropriately in planning and performing an audit of financial statements.

Effective Date

2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ ~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

3. The objective of the auditor is to evaluate:
 - (a) The effect of identified misstatements on the audit; and
 - (b) The effect of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements.

Definitions

4. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Misstatement – A difference between the reported amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure of a ~~reported~~ financial statement item and the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure that is required for the item to be in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Misstatements can arise from error or fraud. (Ref: Para. A1) [\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)

When the auditor expresses an opinion on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view, misstatements also include those adjustments of amounts, classifications, presentation, or

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements," paragraphs 10-11.

~~The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, "The Auditor's Report on Financial Statements." Paragraph 8(b) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 requires evaluation of whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate.~~

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit."

disclosures that, in the auditor’s judgment, are necessary for the financial statements to be presented fairly, in all material respects, or to give a true and fair view.

- (b) Uncorrected misstatements – Misstatements that the auditor has accumulated during the audit and that have not been corrected.

Requirements

Accumulation of Identified Misstatements

- 5. The auditor shall accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial. (Ref: Para. A2-A3)

Consideration of Identified Misstatements as the Audit Progresses

- 6. The auditor shall determine whether the overall audit strategy and audit plan need to be revised if:
 - (a) The nature of identified misstatements and the circumstances of their occurrence indicate that other misstatements may exist that, when aggregated with misstatements accumulated during the audit, could be material; or (Ref: Para. A4)
 - (b) The aggregate of misstatements accumulated during the audit approaches materiality determined in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised). (Ref: Para. A5)
- 7. If, at the auditor’s request, management has examined a class of transactions, account balance or disclosure and corrected misstatements that were detected, the auditor shall perform additional audit procedures to determine whether misstatements remain. (Ref: Para. A6)

Communication and Correction of Misstatements

- 8. The auditor shall communicate on a timely basis all misstatements accumulated during the audit with the appropriate level of management, unless prohibited by law or regulation.³ The auditor shall request management to correct those misstatements. (Ref: Para. A7-A9)
- 9. If management refuses to correct some or all of the misstatements communicated by the auditor, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of management’s reasons for not making the corrections and shall take that understanding into account when evaluating whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. (Ref: Para. A10)

Evaluating the Effect of Uncorrected Misstatements

- 10. Prior to evaluating the effect of uncorrected misstatements, the auditor shall reassess materiality determined in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised) to confirm whether it remains appropriate in the context of the entity’s actual financial results. (Ref: Para. A11-A12)
- 11. The auditor shall determine whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate. In making this determination, the auditor shall consider:

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 7.

- (a) The size and nature of the misstatements, both in relation to particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures and the financial statements as a whole, and the particular circumstances of their occurrence; and (Ref: Para. A13-A17, A19-A20)
- (b) The effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. (Ref: Para. A18)

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

- 12. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance uncorrected misstatements and the effect that they, individually or in aggregate, may have on the opinion in the auditor’s report, unless prohibited by law or regulation.⁴ The auditor’s communication shall identify material uncorrected misstatements individually. The auditor shall request that uncorrected misstatements be corrected. (Ref: Para. A21-A23)
- 13. The auditor shall also communicate with those charged with governance the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole.

Written Representation

- 14. The auditor shall request a written representation from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance whether they believe the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A summary of such items shall be included in or attached to the written representation. (Ref: Para. A24 – A24-1)

Documentation

- 15. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation:⁵ (Ref: Para. A25)
 - (a) The amount below which misstatements would be regarded as clearly trivial (paragraph 5);
 - (b) All misstatements accumulated during the audit and whether they have been corrected (paragraphs 5, 8 and 12); and
 - (c) The auditor’s conclusion as to whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate, and the basis for that conclusion (paragraph 11).

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Definition of Misstatement (Ref: Para. 4(a))

- A1. Misstatements may result from:

⁴ See footnote 3.

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

- (a) An inaccuracy in gathering or processing data from which the financial statements are prepared;
- (b) An omission of an amount or disclosure, including inadequate or incomplete disclosures, and those disclosures required to meet disclosure objectives of certain financial reporting frameworks as applicable;⁶
- (c) An incorrect accounting estimate arising from overlooking, or clear misinterpretation of, facts; ~~and~~
- (d) Judgments of management concerning accounting estimates that the auditor considers unreasonable or the selection and application of accounting policies that the auditor considers inappropriate.
- (e) An inappropriate classification, aggregation or disaggregation, of information; and
- (f) For financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the omission of a disclosure necessary for the financial statements to achieve fair presentation beyond disclosures specifically required by the framework.⁷

Examples of misstatements arising from fraud are provided in ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised).⁸ [IAASB/Disclosures]

Accumulation of Identified Misstatements (Ref: Para. 5)

“Clearly Trivial”

A2. ~~The auditor may designate an amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial and would not need to be accumulated because the auditor expects that the accumulation of such amounts clearly would not have a material effect on the financial statements. Paragraph 5 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) requires the auditor to accumulate misstatements identified during the audit other than those that are clearly trivial. “Clearly trivial” is not another expression for “not material.” MisstatementsMatters that are clearly trivial will be of a wholly different (smaller) order of magnitude, or of a wholly different nature than those that would be determined to be material, and will be misstatements than materiality determined in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320, and will be matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any criteria of size, nature or circumstances. When there is any uncertainty about whether one or more items are clearly trivial, the misstatementmatter is considered not to be clearly trivial.~~ [IAASB/Disclosures]

⁶ For example, International Financial Reporting Standard 7 (IFRS), “Financial Instruments: Disclosures,” paragraph 42H states that “an entity shall disclose any additional information that it considers necessary to meet the disclosure objectives in paragraph...”

⁷ For example, IFRS requires an entity to provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRSs is insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity’s financial position and financial performance (International Accounting Standard 1, “Presentation of Financial Statements,” paragraph 17(c)).

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraphs A1-A6.

Misstatements in Individual Statements

A2a. The auditor may designate an amount below which misstatements of amounts in the individual statements would be clearly trivial, and would not need to be accumulated because the auditor expects that the accumulation of such amounts clearly would not have a material effect on the financial statements. However, misstatements of amounts that are above the designated amount are accumulated as required by paragraph 5 of this ISA (UK and Ireland). In addition, misstatements relating to amounts may not be clearly trivial when judged on criteria of nature or circumstances, and, if not, are accumulated as required by paragraph 5 of this ISA (UK and Ireland). [IAASB/Disclosures]

Misstatements in Disclosures

A2b. Misstatements in disclosures may also be clearly trivial whether taken individually or in aggregate, and whether judged by any criteria of size, nature or circumstances. Misstatements in disclosures that are not clearly trivial are also accumulated to assist the auditor in evaluating the effect of such misstatements on the relevant disclosures and the financial statements as a whole. Paragraph A13a of this ISA (UK and Ireland) provides examples of where misstatements in qualitative disclosures may be material. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Accumulation of Misstatements

A2c. Misstatements by nature or circumstances, accumulated as described in paragraphs A2a–A2b, cannot be added together as is possible in the case of misstatements of amounts. Nevertheless, the auditor is required by paragraph 11 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) to evaluate those misstatements individually and in aggregate (i.e., collectively with other misstatements) to determine whether they are material. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A3. To assist the auditor in evaluating the effect of misstatements accumulated during the audit and in communicating misstatements to management and those charged with governance, it may be useful to distinguish between factual misstatements, judgmental misstatements and projected misstatements.

- Factual misstatements are misstatements about which there is no doubt.
- Judgmental misstatements are differences arising from the judgments of management including those concerning recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure in the financial statements (including accounting estimates that the auditor considers unreasonable, or the selection or application of accounting policies) that the auditor considers unreasonable or inappropriate.
- Projected misstatements are the auditor’s best estimate of misstatements in populations, involving the projection of misstatements identified in audit samples to the entire populations from which the samples were drawn. Guidance on the determination of projected misstatements and evaluation of the results is set out in ISA (UK and Ireland) 530.⁹ [IAASB/Disclosures]

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 530, “Audit Sampling,” paragraphs 14-15.

Consideration of Identified Misstatements as the Audit Progresses (Ref: Para. 6-7)

- A4. A misstatement may not be an isolated occurrence. Evidence that other misstatements may exist include, for example, where the auditor identifies that a misstatement arose from a breakdown in internal control or from inappropriate assumptions or valuation methods that have been widely applied by the entity.
- A5. If the aggregate of misstatements accumulated during the audit approaches materiality determined in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), there may be a greater than acceptably low level of risk that possible undetected misstatements, when taken with the aggregate of misstatements accumulated during the audit, could exceed materiality. Undetected misstatements could exist because of the presence of sampling risk and non-sampling risk.¹⁰
- A6. The auditor may request management to examine a class of transactions, account balance or disclosure in order for management to understand the cause of a misstatement identified by the auditor, perform procedures to determine the amount of the actual misstatement in the class of transactions, account balance or disclosure, and to make appropriate adjustments to the financial statements. Such a request may be made, for example, based on the auditor's projection of misstatements identified in an audit sample to the entire population from which it was drawn.

Communication and Correction of Misstatements (Ref: Para. 8-9)

- A7. Timely communication of misstatements to the appropriate level of management is important as it enables management to evaluate whether the classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures are misstatements, inform the auditor if it disagrees, and take action as necessary. Ordinarily, the appropriate level of management is the one that has responsibility and authority to evaluate the misstatements and to take the necessary action. [IAASB/Disclosures]
- A8. Law or regulation may restrict the auditor's communication of certain misstatements to management, or others, within the entity. For example, laws or regulations may specifically prohibit a communication, or other action, that might prejudice an investigation by an appropriate authority into an actual, or suspected, illegal act. In some circumstances, potential conflicts between the auditor's obligations of confidentiality and obligations to communicate may be complex. In such cases, the auditor may consider seeking legal advice.
- A9. The correction by management of all misstatements, including those communicated by the auditor, enables management to maintain accurate accounting books and records and reduces the risks of material misstatement of future financial statements because of the cumulative effect of immaterial uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods.
- A10. ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) requires the auditor to evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared and presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 530, paragraph 5(c)-(d).

requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. This evaluation includes consideration of the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management's judgments,¹¹ which may be affected by the auditor's understanding of management's reasons for not making the corrections.

Evaluating the Effect of Uncorrected Misstatements (Ref: Para. 10-11)

- A11. The auditor's determination of materiality in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised) is often based on estimates of the entity's financial results, because the actual financial results may not yet be known. Therefore, prior to the auditor's evaluation of the effect of uncorrected misstatements, it may be necessary to revise materiality determined in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised) based on the actual financial results.
- A12. ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised) explains that, as the audit progresses, materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) is revised in the event of the auditor becoming aware of information during the audit that would have caused the auditor to have determined a different amount (or amounts) initially.¹² Thus, any significant revision is likely to have been made before the auditor evaluates the effect of uncorrected misstatements. However, if the auditor's reassessment of materiality determined in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised) (see paragraph 10 of this ISA (UK and Ireland)) gives rise to a lower amount (or amounts), then performance materiality and the appropriateness of the nature, timing and extent of the further audit procedures are reconsidered so as to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the audit opinion.
- A13. Each individual misstatement of an amount is considered to evaluate its effect on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, including whether the materiality level for that particular class of transactions, account balance or disclosure, if any, has been exceeded. [IAASB/Disclosures]
- A13a. In addition, each individual misstatement of a qualitative disclosure is considered to evaluate its effect on the relevant disclosure(s), as well as its overall effect on the financial statements as a whole. The determination of whether a misstatement(s) in a qualitative disclosure is material, in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework and the specific circumstances of the entity, is a matter that involves the exercise of professional judgment. Examples where such misstatements may be material include:
- Inaccurate or incomplete descriptions of information about the objectives, policies and processes for managing capital for entities with insurance and banking activities.

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), paragraph 12.

~~— The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, "The Auditor's Report on Financial Statements." Paragraph 8 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 includes requirements equivalent to those in paragraph 12 of ISA 700.~~

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), paragraph 12.

- The omission of information about the events or circumstances that have led to an impairment loss (e.g., a significant long-term decline in the demand for a metal or commodity) in an entity with mining operations.
- The incorrect description of an accounting policy relating to a significant item in the statement of financial position, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity or the statement of cash flows.
- The inadequate description of the sensitivity of an exchange rate in an entity that undertakes international trading activities. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A13b. In determining whether uncorrected misstatements by nature are material as required by paragraph 11 of this ISA (UK and Ireland), the auditor considers uncorrected misstatements in amounts and disclosures. Such misstatements may be considered material either individually, or when taken in combination with other misstatements. For example, depending on the misstatements identified in disclosures, the auditor may consider whether:

- (a) Identified errors are persistent or pervasive; or
- (b) A number of identified misstatements are relevant to the same matter, and considered collectively may affect the users' understanding of that matter.

This consideration of accumulated misstatements is also helpful when evaluating the financial statements in accordance with paragraph 13(d) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised),¹³ which requires the auditor to consider whether the overall presentation of the financial statements has been undermined by including information that is not relevant or that obscures a proper understanding of the matters disclosed. [IAASB/Disclosures]

- A14. If an individual misstatement is judged to be material, it is unlikely that it can be offset by other misstatements. For example, if revenue has been materially overstated, the financial statements as a whole will be materially misstated, even if the effect of the misstatement on earnings is completely offset by an equivalent overstatement of expenses. It may be appropriate to offset misstatements within the same account balance or class of transactions; however, the risk that further undetected misstatements may exist is considered before concluding that offsetting even immaterial misstatements is appropriate.¹⁴
- A15. Determining whether a classification misstatement is material involves the evaluation of qualitative considerations, such as the effect of the classification misstatement on debt or other contractual covenants, the effect on individual line items or sub-totals, or the effect on key ratios. There may be circumstances where the auditor concludes that a classification misstatement is not material in the context of the financial statements as a whole, even though it may exceed the materiality level or levels applied in evaluating other misstatements. For example, a misclassification between balance sheet line items may not be considered material in the context of the financial statements as a whole when the

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements."

¹⁴ The identification of a number of immaterial misstatements within the same account balance or class of transactions may require the auditor to reassess the risk of material misstatement for that account balance or class of transactions.

amount of the misclassification is small in relation to the size of the related balance sheet line items and the misclassification does not affect the income statement or any key ratios.

A16. The circumstances related to some misstatements may cause the auditor to evaluate them as material, individually or when considered together with other misstatements accumulated during the audit, even if they are lower than materiality for the financial statements as a whole. Circumstances that may affect the evaluation include the extent to which the misstatement:

- Affects compliance with regulatory requirements;
- Affects compliance with debt covenants or other contractual requirements;
- Relates to the incorrect selection or application of an accounting policy that has an immaterial effect on the current period's financial statements but is likely to have a material effect on future periods' financial statements;
- Masks a change in earnings or other trends, especially in the context of general economic and industry conditions;
- Affects ratios used to evaluate the entity's financial position, results of operations or cash flows;
- Affects segment information presented in the financial statements (for example, the significance of the matter to a segment or other portion of the entity's business that has been identified as playing a significant role in the entity's operations or profitability);
- Has the effect of increasing management compensation, for example, by ensuring that the requirements for the award of bonuses or other incentives are satisfied;
- Is significant having regard to the auditor's understanding of known previous communications to users, for example, in relation to forecast earnings;
- Relates to items involving particular parties (for example, whether external parties to the transaction are related to members of the entity's management);
- Is an omission of information not specifically required by the applicable financial reporting framework but which, in the judgment of the auditor, is important to the users' understanding of the financial position, financial performance or cash flows of the entity; or
- Affects other information ~~to be included that will be communicated~~ in ~~the entity's annual report documents containing the audited financial statements~~ (for example, information to be included in a "Management Discussion and Analysis" or an "Operating and Financial Review") that may reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of the users of the financial statements. ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised)¹⁵ deals with the auditor's ~~responsibilities relating to consideration of~~

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information ~~in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements~~."

~~other information, on which the auditor has no obligation to report, in documents containing audited financial statements. [IAASB/OI]~~

These circumstances are only examples; not all are likely to be present in all audits nor is the list necessarily complete. The existence of any circumstances such as these does not necessarily lead to a conclusion that the misstatement is material.

A17. ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised)¹⁶ explains how the implications of a misstatement that is, or may be, the result of fraud ought to be considered in relation to other aspects of the audit, even if the size of the misstatement is not material in relation to the financial statements. Depending on the circumstances, misstatements in disclosures could also be indicative of fraud, and, for example, may arise from:

- Misleading disclosures that have resulted from bias in management’s judgments; or
- Extensive duplicative or uninformative disclosures that are intended to obscure a proper understanding of matters in the financial statements.

When considering the implications of misstatements in classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures, the auditor exercises professional skepticism in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised).¹⁷ [IAASB/Disclosures]

A18. The cumulative effect of immaterial uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods may have a material effect on the current period’s financial statements. There are different acceptable approaches to the auditor’s evaluation of such uncorrected misstatements on the current period’s financial statements. Using the same evaluation approach provides consistency from period to period.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A19. In the case of an audit of a public sector entity, the evaluation whether a misstatement is material may also be affected by the auditor’s responsibilities established by law, regulation or other authority to report specific matters, including, for example, fraud.

A20. Furthermore, issues such as public interest, accountability, probity and ensuring effective legislative oversight, in particular, may affect the assessment whether an item is material by virtue of its nature. This is particularly so for items that relate to compliance with law, regulation or other authority.

Communication with Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 12)

A21. If uncorrected misstatements have been communicated with person(s) with management responsibilities, and those person(s) also have governance responsibilities, they need not be communicated again with those same person(s) in their governance role. The auditor nonetheless has to be satisfied that communication with person(s) with management responsibilities adequately informs all of those with whom the auditor would otherwise communicate in their governance capacity.¹⁸

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), paragraph 35.

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 15.

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 13.

- A22. Where there is a large number of individual immaterial uncorrected misstatements, the auditor may communicate the number and overall monetary effect of the uncorrected misstatements, rather than the details of each individual uncorrected misstatement.
- A23. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance the written representations the auditor is requesting (see paragraph 14 of this ISA (UK and Ireland)).¹⁹ The auditor may discuss with those charged with governance the reasons for, and the implications of, a failure to correct misstatements, having regard to the size and nature of the misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances, and possible implications in relation to future financial statements.

A23-1. If management have corrected material misstatements, communicating those corrections of which the auditor is aware to those charged with governance may assist them to fulfill their governance responsibilities, including reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control.

Written Representation (Ref: Para. 14)

- A24. Because the preparation of the financial statements requires management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance to adjust the financial statements to correct material misstatements, the auditor is required to request them to provide a written representation about uncorrected misstatements. In some circumstances, management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance may not believe that certain uncorrected misstatements are misstatements. For that reason, they may want to add to their written representation words such as: “We do not agree that items ... and ... constitute misstatements because [description of reasons].” Obtaining this representation does not, however, relieve the auditor of the need to form a conclusion on the effect of uncorrected misstatements.

A24-1 Requesting those charged with governance to provide written representations that set out their reasons for not correcting misstatements brought to their attention by the auditor may help focus the attention of those charged with governance on those misstatements and the circumstances giving rise to them.

Documentation (Ref: Para. 15)

- A25. The auditor’s documentation of uncorrected misstatements may take into account:
- (a) The consideration of the aggregate effect of uncorrected misstatements;
 - (b) The evaluation of whether the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, if any, have been exceeded; and
 - (c) The evaluation of the effect of uncorrected misstatements on key ratios or trends, and compliance with legal, regulatory and contractual requirements (for example, debt covenants).

¹⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 16(c)(ii).

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 500**

AUDIT EVIDENCE

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 500, “Audit Evidence” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 <u>(Revised)</u> , “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”
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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) explains what constitutes audit evidence in an audit of financial statements, and deals with the auditor's responsibility to design and perform audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to be able to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion.
2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is applicable to all the audit evidence obtained during the course of the audit. Other ISAs (UK and Ireland) deal with specific aspects of the audit (for example, ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#)¹), the audit evidence to be obtained in relation to a particular topic (for example, ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 [\(Revised\)](#)²), specific procedures to obtain audit evidence (for example, ISA (UK and Ireland) 520³), and the evaluation of whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained (ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#)⁴ and ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#)⁵).

Effective Date

3. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010.

Objective

4. The objective of the auditor is to design and perform audit procedures in such a way as to enable the auditor to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to be able to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion.

Definitions

5. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Accounting records – The records of initial accounting entries and supporting records, such as checks and records of electronic fund transfers; invoices; contracts; the general and subsidiary ledgers, journal entries and other adjustments to the financial statements that are not reflected in journal entries; and records such as work sheets and spreadsheets supporting cost allocations, computations, reconciliations and disclosures.
 - (b) Appropriateness (of audit evidence) – The measure of the quality of audit evidence; that is, its relevance and its reliability in providing support for the conclusions on which the auditor's opinion is based.
 - (c) Audit evidence – Information used by the auditor in arriving at the conclusions on which the auditor's opinion is based. Audit evidence includes both information

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment."

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 [\(Revised\)](#), "Going Concern."

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 520, "Analytical Procedures."

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#), "Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland)."

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), "The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks."

contained in the accounting records underlying the financial statements and ~~other~~ information obtained from other sources. [\[IAASB/OI\]](#)

- (d) Management's expert – An individual or organization possessing expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing, whose work in that field is used by the entity to assist the entity in preparing the financial statements.
- (e) Sufficiency (of audit evidence) – The measure of the quantity of audit evidence. The quantity of the audit evidence needed is affected by the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement and also by the quality of such audit evidence.

Requirements

Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence

- 6. The auditor shall design and perform audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence. (Ref: Para. A1-A25)

Information to Be Used as Audit Evidence

- 7. When designing and performing audit procedures, the auditor shall consider the relevance and reliability of the information to be used as audit evidence. (Ref: Para. A26-A33)
- 8. If information to be used as audit evidence has been prepared using the work of a management's expert, the auditor shall, to the extent necessary, having regard to the significance of that expert's work for the auditor's purposes, (Ref: Para. A34-A36)
 - (a) Evaluate the competence, capabilities and objectivity of that expert; (Ref: Para. A37-A43)
 - (b) Obtain an understanding of the work of that expert; and (Ref: Para. A44-A47)
 - (c) Evaluate the appropriateness of that expert's work as audit evidence for the relevant assertion. (Ref: Para. A48)
- 9. When using information produced by the entity, the auditor shall evaluate whether the information is sufficiently reliable for the auditor's purposes, including as necessary in the circumstances:
 - (a) Obtaining audit evidence about the accuracy and completeness of the information; and (Ref: Para. A49-A50)
 - (b) Evaluating whether the information is sufficiently precise and detailed for the auditor's purposes. (Ref: Para. A51)

Selecting Items for Testing to Obtain Audit Evidence

- 10. When designing tests of controls and tests of details, the auditor shall determine means of selecting items for testing that are effective in meeting the purpose of the audit procedure. (Ref: Para. A52-A56)

Inconsistency in, or Doubts over Reliability of, Audit Evidence

11. If:
- (a) audit evidence obtained from one source is inconsistent with that obtained from another; or
 - (b) the auditor has doubts over the reliability of information to be used as audit evidence,
- the auditor shall determine what modifications or additions to audit procedures are necessary to resolve the matter, and shall consider the effect of the matter, if any, on other aspects of the audit. (Ref: Para. A57)

Application and Other Explanatory Material**Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence** (Ref: Para. 6)

- A1. Audit evidence is necessary to support the auditor's opinion and report. It is cumulative in nature and is primarily obtained from audit procedures performed during the course of the audit. It may, however, also include information obtained from other sources such as previous audits (provided the auditor has determined whether changes have occurred since the previous audit that may affect its relevance to the current audit⁶) or a firm's quality control procedures for client acceptance and continuance. In addition to other sources inside and outside the entity, the entity's accounting records are an important source of audit evidence. Also, information that may be used as audit evidence may have been prepared using the work of a management's expert. Audit evidence comprises both information that supports and corroborates management's assertions, and any information that contradicts such assertions. In addition, in some cases the absence of information (for example, management's refusal to provide a requested representation) is used by the auditor, and therefore, also constitutes audit evidence.
- A2. Most of the auditor's work in forming the auditor's opinion consists of obtaining and evaluating audit evidence. Audit procedures to obtain audit evidence can include inspection, observation, confirmation, recalculation, reperformance and analytical procedures, often in some combination, in addition to inquiry. Although inquiry may provide important audit evidence, and may even produce evidence of a misstatement, inquiry alone ordinarily does not provide sufficient audit evidence of the absence of a material misstatement at the assertion level, nor of the operating effectiveness of controls.
- A3. As explained in ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#),⁷ reasonable assurance is obtained when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk (that is, the risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated) to an acceptably low level.
- A4. The sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence are interrelated. Sufficiency is the measure of the quantity of audit evidence. The quantity of audit evidence needed is affected by the auditor's assessment of the risks of misstatement (the higher the assessed risks, the more audit evidence is likely to be required) and also by the quality of such

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 9.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 5.

audit evidence (the higher the quality, the less may be required). Obtaining more audit evidence, however, may not compensate for its poor quality.

- A5. Appropriateness is the measure of the quality of audit evidence; that is, its relevance and its reliability in providing support for the conclusions on which the auditor's opinion is based. The reliability of evidence is influenced by its source and by its nature, and is dependent on the individual circumstances under which it is obtained.
- A6. ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#) requires the auditor to conclude whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained.⁸ Whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level, and thereby enable the auditor to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion, is a matter of professional judgment. ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 [\(Revised\)](#) contains discussion of such matters as the nature of audit procedures, the timeliness of financial reporting, and the balance between benefit and cost, which are relevant factors when the auditor exercises professional judgment regarding whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained.

Sources of Audit Evidence

- A7. Some audit evidence is obtained by performing audit procedures to test the accounting records, for example, through analysis and review, reperforming procedures followed in the financial reporting process, and reconciling related types and applications of the same information. Through the performance of such audit procedures, the auditor may determine that the accounting records are internally consistent and agree to the financial statements.
- A8. More assurance is ordinarily obtained from consistent audit evidence obtained from different sources or of a different nature than from items of audit evidence considered individually. For example, corroborating information obtained from a source independent of the entity may increase the assurance the auditor obtains from audit evidence that is generated internally, such as evidence existing within the accounting records, minutes of meetings, or a management representation.
- A9. Information from sources independent of the entity that the auditor may use as audit evidence may include confirmations from third parties, analysts' reports, and comparable data about competitors (benchmarking data).

Audit Procedures for Obtaining Audit Evidence

- A10. As required by, and explained further in, ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#) and ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), audit evidence to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion is obtained by performing:
- (a) Risk assessment procedures; and
 - (b) Further audit procedures, which comprise:
 - (i) Tests of controls, when required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland) or when the auditor has chosen to do so; and
 - (ii) Substantive procedures, including tests of details and substantive analytical procedures.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 26.

- A11. The audit procedures described in paragraphs A14-A25 below may be used as risk assessment procedures, tests of controls or substantive procedures, depending on the context in which they are applied by the auditor. As explained in ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), audit evidence obtained from previous audits may, in certain circumstances, provide appropriate audit evidence where the auditor performs audit procedures to establish its continuing relevance.⁹
- A12. The nature and timing of the audit procedures to be used may be affected by the fact that some of the accounting data and other information may be available only in electronic form or only at certain points or periods in time. For example, source documents, such as purchase orders and invoices, may exist only in electronic form when an entity uses electronic commerce, or may be discarded after scanning when an entity uses image processing systems to facilitate storage and reference.
- A13. Certain electronic information may not be retrievable after a specified period of time, for example, if files are changed and if backup files do not exist. Accordingly, the auditor may find it necessary as a result of an entity's data retention policies to request retention of some information for the auditor's review or to perform audit procedures at a time when the information is available.

Inspection

- A14. Inspection involves examining records or documents, whether internal or external, in paper form, electronic form, or other media, or a physical examination of an asset. Inspection of records and documents provides audit evidence of varying degrees of reliability, depending on their nature and source and, in the case of internal records and documents, on the effectiveness of the controls over their production. An example of inspection used as a test of controls is inspection of records for evidence of authorization.
- A15. Some documents represent direct audit evidence of the existence of an asset, for example, a document constituting a financial instrument such as a stock or bond. Inspection of such documents may not necessarily provide audit evidence about ownership or value. In addition, inspecting an executed contract may provide audit evidence relevant to the entity's application of accounting policies, such as revenue recognition.
- A16. Inspection of tangible assets may provide reliable audit evidence with respect to their existence, but not necessarily about the entity's rights and obligations or the valuation of the assets. Inspection of individual inventory items may accompany the observation of inventory counting.

Observation

- A17. Observation consists of looking at a process or procedure being performed by others, for example, the auditor's observation of inventory counting by the entity's personnel, or of the performance of control activities. Observation provides audit evidence about the performance of a process or procedure, but is limited to the point in time at which the observation takes place, and by the fact that the act of being observed may affect

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph A35.

how the process or procedure is performed. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 501 for further guidance on observation of the counting of inventory.¹⁰

External Confirmation

A18. An external confirmation represents audit evidence obtained by the auditor as a direct written response to the auditor from a third party (the confirming party), in paper form, or by electronic or other medium. External confirmation procedures frequently are relevant when addressing assertions associated with certain account balances and their elements. However, external confirmations need not be restricted to account balances only. For example, the auditor may request confirmation of the terms of agreements or transactions an entity has with third parties; the confirmation request may be designed to ask if any modifications have been made to the agreement and, if so, what the relevant details are. External confirmation procedures also are used to obtain audit evidence about the absence of certain conditions, for example, the absence of a “side agreement” that may influence revenue recognition. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 505 for further guidance.¹¹

Recalculation

A19. Recalculation consists of checking the mathematical accuracy of documents or records. Recalculation may be performed manually or electronically.

Reperformance

A20. Repformance involves the auditor’s independent execution of procedures or controls that were originally performed as part of the entity’s internal control.

Analytical Procedures

A21. Analytical procedures consist of evaluations of financial information through analysis of plausible relationships among both financial and non-financial data. Analytical procedures also encompass such investigation as is necessary of identified fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or that differ from expected values by a significant amount. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 520 for further guidance.

Inquiry

A22. Inquiry consists of seeking information of knowledgeable persons, both financial and non-financial, within the entity or outside the entity. Inquiry is used extensively throughout the audit in addition to other audit procedures. Inquiries may range from formal written inquiries to informal oral inquiries. Evaluating responses to inquiries is an integral part of the inquiry process.

A23. Responses to inquiries may provide the auditor with information not previously possessed or with corroborative audit evidence. Alternatively, responses might provide information that differs significantly from other information that the auditor has obtained, for example, information regarding the possibility of management override of controls. In some cases, responses to inquiries provide a basis for the auditor to modify or perform additional audit procedures.

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 501, “Audit Evidence—Specific Considerations for Selected Items.”

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 505, “External Confirmations.”

- A24. Although corroboration of evidence obtained through inquiry is often of particular importance, in the case of inquiries about management intent, the information available to support management's intent may be limited. In these cases, understanding management's past history of carrying out its stated intentions, management's stated reasons for choosing a particular course of action, and management's ability to pursue a specific course of action may provide relevant information to corroborate the evidence obtained through inquiry.
- A25. In respect of some matters, the auditor may consider it necessary to obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance to confirm responses to oral inquiries. See ISA (UK and Ireland) 580 for further guidance.¹²

Information to Be Used as Audit Evidence

Relevance and Reliability (Ref: Para. 7)

- A26. As noted in paragraph A1, while audit evidence is primarily obtained from audit procedures performed during the course of the audit, it may also include information obtained from other sources such as, for example, previous audits, in certain circumstances, and a firm's quality control procedures for client acceptance and continuance. The quality of all audit evidence is affected by the relevance and reliability of the information upon which it is based.

Relevance

- A27. Relevance deals with the logical connection with, or bearing upon, the purpose of the audit procedure and, where appropriate, the assertion under consideration. The relevance of information to be used as audit evidence may be affected by the direction of testing. For example, if the purpose of an audit procedure is to test for overstatement in the existence or valuation of accounts payable, testing the recorded accounts payable may be a relevant audit procedure. On the other hand, when testing for understatement in the existence or valuation of accounts payable, testing the recorded accounts payable would not be relevant, but testing such information as subsequent disbursements, unpaid invoices, suppliers' statements, and unmatched receiving reports may be relevant.
- A28. A given set of audit procedures may provide audit evidence that is relevant to certain assertions, but not others. For example, inspection of documents related to the collection of receivables after the period end may provide audit evidence regarding existence and valuation, but not necessarily cutoff. Similarly, obtaining audit evidence regarding a particular assertion, for example, the existence of inventory, is not a substitute for obtaining audit evidence regarding another assertion, for example, the valuation of that inventory. On the other hand, audit evidence from different sources or of a different nature may often be relevant to the same assertion.
- A29. Tests of controls are designed to evaluate the operating effectiveness of controls in preventing, or detecting and correcting, material misstatements at the assertion level. Designing tests of controls to obtain relevant audit evidence includes identifying conditions (characteristics or attributes) that indicate performance of a control, and

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, "Written Representations."

deviation conditions which indicate departures from adequate performance. The presence or absence of those conditions can then be tested by the auditor.

- A30. Substantive procedures are designed to detect material misstatements at the assertion level. They comprise tests of details and substantive analytical procedures. Designing substantive procedures includes identifying conditions relevant to the purpose of the test that constitute a misstatement in the relevant assertion.

Reliability

- A31. The reliability of information to be used as audit evidence, and therefore of the audit evidence itself, is influenced by its source and its nature, and the circumstances under which it is obtained, including the controls over its preparation and maintenance where relevant. Therefore, generalizations about the reliability of various kinds of audit evidence are subject to important exceptions. Even when information to be used as audit evidence is obtained from sources external to the entity, circumstances may exist that could affect its reliability. For example, information obtained from an independent external source may not be reliable if the source is not knowledgeable, or a management's expert may lack objectivity. While recognizing that exceptions may exist, the following generalizations about the reliability of audit evidence may be useful:

- The reliability of audit evidence is increased when it is obtained from independent sources outside the entity.
- The reliability of audit evidence that is generated internally is increased when the related controls, including those over its preparation and maintenance, imposed by the entity are effective.
- Audit evidence obtained directly by the auditor (for example, observation of the application of a control) is more reliable than audit evidence obtained indirectly or by inference (for example, inquiry about the application of a control).
- Audit evidence in documentary form, whether paper, electronic, or other medium, is more reliable than evidence obtained orally (for example, a contemporaneously written record of a meeting is more reliable than a subsequent oral representation of the matters discussed).
- Audit evidence provided by original documents is more reliable than audit evidence provided by photocopies or facsimiles, or documents that have been filmed, digitized or otherwise transformed into electronic form, the reliability of which may depend on the controls over their preparation and maintenance.

- A32. ISA (UK and Ireland) 520 provides further guidance regarding the reliability of data used for purposes of designing analytical procedures as substantive procedures.¹³

- A33. ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 **(Revised)** deals with circumstances where the auditor has reason to believe that a document may not be authentic, or may have been modified without that modification having been disclosed to the auditor.¹⁴

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 520, paragraph 5(a).

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 **(Revised)**, "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 13.

Reliability of Information Produced by a Management's Expert (Ref: Para. 8)

- A34. The preparation of an entity's financial statements may require expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing, such as actuarial calculations, valuations, or engineering data. The entity may employ or engage experts in these fields to obtain the needed expertise to prepare the financial statements. Failure to do so when such expertise is necessary increases the risks of material misstatement.
- A35. When information to be used as audit evidence has been prepared using the work of a management's expert, the requirement in paragraph 8 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) applies. For example, an individual or organization may possess expertise in the application of models to estimate the fair value of securities for which there is no observable market. If the individual or organization applies that expertise in making an estimate which the entity uses in preparing its financial statements, the individual or organization is a management's expert and paragraph 8 applies. If, on the other hand, that individual or organization merely provides price data regarding private transactions not otherwise available to the entity which the entity uses in its own estimation methods, such information, if used as audit evidence, is subject to paragraph 7 of this ISA (UK and Ireland), but is not the use of a management's expert by the entity.
- A36. The nature, timing and extent of audit procedures in relation to the requirement in paragraph 8 of this ISA (UK and Ireland), may be affected by such matters as:
- The nature and complexity of the matter to which the management's expert relates.
 - The risks of material misstatement in the matter.
 - The availability of alternative sources of audit evidence.
 - The nature, scope and objectives of the management's expert's work.
 - Whether the management's expert is employed by the entity, or is a party engaged by it to provide relevant services.
 - The extent to which management can exercise control or influence over the work of the management's expert.
 - Whether the management's expert is subject to technical performance standards or other professional or industry requirements.
 - The nature and extent of any controls within the entity over the management's expert's work.
 - The auditor's knowledge and experience of the management's expert's field of expertise.
 - The auditor's previous experience of the work of that expert.

The Competence, Capabilities and Objectivity of a Management's Expert (Ref: Para. 8(a))

- A37. Competence relates to the nature and level of expertise of the management's expert. Capability relates to the ability of the management's expert to exercise that competence in the circumstances. Factors that influence capability may include, for example, geographic location, and the availability of time and resources. Objectivity relates to the possible effects that bias, conflict of interest or the influence of others may have

on the professional or business judgment of the management's expert. The competence, capabilities and objectivity of a management's expert, and any controls within the entity over that expert's work, are important factors in relation to the reliability of any information produced by a management's expert.

- A38. Information regarding the competence, capabilities and objectivity of a management's expert may come from a variety of sources, such as:
- Personal experience with previous work of that expert.
 - Discussions with that expert.
 - Discussions with others who are familiar with that expert's work.
 - Knowledge of that expert's qualifications, membership of a professional body or industry association, license to practice, or other forms of external recognition.
 - Published papers or books written by that expert.
 - An auditor's expert, if any, who assists the auditor in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence with respect to information produced by the management's expert.
- A39. Matters relevant to evaluating the competence, capabilities and objectivity of a management's expert include whether that expert's work is subject to technical performance standards or other professional or industry requirements, for example, ethical standards and other membership requirements of a professional body or industry association, accreditation standards of a licensing body, or requirements imposed by law or regulation.
- A40. Other matters that may be relevant include:
- The relevance of the management's expert's competence to the matter for which that expert's work will be used, including any areas of specialty within that expert's field. For example, a particular actuary may specialize in property and casualty insurance, but have limited expertise regarding pension calculations.
 - The management's expert's competence with respect to relevant accounting requirements, for example, knowledge of assumptions and methods, including models where applicable, that are consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework.
 - Whether unexpected events, changes in conditions, or the audit evidence obtained from the results of audit procedures indicate that it may be necessary to reconsider the initial evaluation of the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the management's expert as the audit progresses.
- A41. A broad range of circumstances may threaten objectivity, for example, self-interest threats, advocacy threats, familiarity threats, self-review threats and intimidation threats. Safeguards may reduce such threats, and may be created either by external structures (for example, the management's expert's profession, legislation or regulation), or by the management's expert's work environment (for example, quality control policies and procedures).

- A42. Although safeguards cannot eliminate all threats to a management's expert's objectivity, threats such as intimidation threats may be of less significance to an expert engaged by the entity than to an expert employed by the entity, and the effectiveness of safeguards such as quality control policies and procedures may be greater. Because the threat to objectivity created by being an employee of the entity will always be present, an expert employed by the entity cannot ordinarily be regarded as being more likely to be objective than other employees of the entity.
- A43. When evaluating the objectivity of an expert engaged by the entity, it may be relevant to discuss with management and that expert any interests and relationships that may create threats to the expert's objectivity, and any applicable safeguards, including any professional requirements that apply to the expert; and to evaluate whether the safeguards are adequate. Interests and relationships creating threats may include:
- Financial interests.
 - Business and personal relationships.
 - Provision of other services.

Obtaining an Understanding of the Work of the Management's Expert (Ref: Para. 8(b))

- A44. An understanding of the work of the management's expert includes an understanding of the relevant field of expertise. An understanding of the relevant field of expertise may be obtained in conjunction with the auditor's determination of whether the auditor has the expertise to evaluate the work of the management's expert, or whether the auditor needs an auditor's expert for this purpose.¹⁵
- A45. Aspects of the management's expert's field relevant to the auditor's understanding may include:
- Whether that expert's field has areas of specialty within it that are relevant to the audit.
 - Whether any professional or other standards, and regulatory or legal requirements apply.
 - What assumptions and methods are used by the management's expert, and whether they are generally accepted within that expert's field and appropriate for financial reporting purposes.
 - The nature of internal and external data or information the auditor's expert uses.
- A46. In the case of a management's expert engaged by the entity, there will ordinarily be an engagement letter or other written form of agreement between the entity and that expert. Evaluating that agreement when obtaining an understanding of the work of the management's expert may assist the auditor in determining the appropriateness of the following for the auditor's purposes:
- The nature, scope and objectives of that expert's work;
 - The respective roles and responsibilities of management and that expert; and

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 620 (Revised), "Using the Work of an Auditor's Expert," paragraph 7.

- The nature, timing and extent of communication between management and that expert, including the form of any report to be provided by that expert.

A47. In the case of a management's expert employed by the entity, it is less likely there will be a written agreement of this kind. Inquiry of the expert and other members of management may be the most appropriate way for the auditor to obtain the necessary understanding.

Evaluating the Appropriateness of the Management's Expert's Work (Ref: Para. 8(c))

A48. Considerations when evaluating the appropriateness of the management's expert's work as audit evidence for the relevant assertion may include:

- The relevance and reasonableness of that expert's findings or conclusions, their consistency with other audit evidence, and whether they have been appropriately reflected in the financial statements;
- If that expert's work involves use of significant assumptions and methods, the relevance and reasonableness of those assumptions and methods; and
- If that expert's work involves significant use of source data the relevance, completeness, and accuracy of that source data.

Information Produced by the Entity and Used for the Auditor's Purposes (Ref: Para. 9(a)-(b))

A49. In order for the auditor to obtain reliable audit evidence, information produced by the entity that is used for performing audit procedures needs to be sufficiently complete and accurate. For example, the effectiveness of auditing revenue by applying standard prices to records of sales volume is affected by the accuracy of the price information and the completeness and accuracy of the sales volume data. Similarly, if the auditor intends to test a population (for example, payments) for a certain characteristic (for example, authorization), the results of the test will be less reliable if the population from which items are selected for testing is not complete.

A50. Obtaining audit evidence about the accuracy and completeness of such information may be performed concurrently with the actual audit procedure applied to the information when obtaining such audit evidence is an integral part of the audit procedure itself. In other situations, the auditor may have obtained audit evidence of the accuracy and completeness of such information by testing controls over the preparation and maintenance of the information. In some situations, however, the auditor may determine that additional audit procedures are needed.

A51. In some cases, the auditor may intend to use information produced by the entity for other audit purposes. For example, the auditor may intend to make use of the entity's performance measures for the purpose of analytical procedures, or to make use of the entity's information produced for monitoring activities, such as reports of the internal audit function. In such cases, the appropriateness of the audit evidence obtained is affected by whether the information is sufficiently precise or detailed for the auditor's purposes. For example, performance measures used by management may not be precise enough to detect material misstatements.

Selecting Items for Testing to Obtain Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 10)

A52. An effective test provides appropriate audit evidence to an extent that, taken with other audit evidence obtained or to be obtained, will be sufficient for the auditor's purposes. In selecting items for testing, the auditor is required by paragraph 7 to determine the relevance and reliability of information to be used as audit evidence; the other aspect of effectiveness (sufficiency) is an important consideration in selecting items to test. The means available to the auditor for selecting items for testing are:

- (a) Selecting all items (100% examination);
- (b) Selecting specific items; and
- (c) Audit sampling.

The application of any one or combination of these means may be appropriate depending on the particular circumstances, for example, the risks of material misstatement related to the assertion being tested, and the practicality and efficiency of the different means.

Selecting All Items

A53. The auditor may decide that it will be most appropriate to examine the entire population of items that make up a class of transactions or account balance (or a stratum within that population). 100% examination is unlikely in the case of tests of controls; however, it is more common for tests of details. 100% examination may be appropriate when, for example:

- The population constitutes a small number of large value items;
- There is a significant risk and other means do not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence; or
- The repetitive nature of a calculation or other process performed automatically by an information system makes a 100% examination cost effective.

Selecting Specific Items

A54. The auditor may decide to select specific items from a population. In making this decision, factors that may be relevant include the auditor's understanding of the entity, the assessed risks of material misstatement, and the characteristics of the population being tested. The judgmental selection of specific items is subject to non-sampling risk. Specific items selected may include:

- *High value or key items.* The auditor may decide to select specific items within a population because they are of high value, or exhibit some other characteristic, for example, items that are suspicious, unusual, particularly risk-prone or that have a history of error.
- *All items over a certain amount.* The auditor may decide to examine items whose recorded values exceed a certain amount so as to verify a large proportion of the total amount of a class of transactions or account balance.
- *Items to obtain information.* The auditor may examine items to obtain information about matters such as the nature of the entity or the nature of transactions.

- A55. While selective examination of specific items from a class of transactions or account balance will often be an efficient means of obtaining audit evidence, it does not constitute audit sampling. The results of audit procedures applied to items selected in this way cannot be projected to the entire population; accordingly, selective examination of specific items does not provide audit evidence concerning the remainder of the population.

Audit Sampling

- A56. Audit sampling is designed to enable conclusions to be drawn about an entire population on the basis of testing a sample drawn from it. Audit sampling is discussed in ISA (UK and Ireland) 530.¹⁶

Inconsistency in, or Doubts over Reliability of, Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 11)

- A57. Obtaining audit evidence from different sources or of a different nature may indicate that an individual item of audit evidence is not reliable, such as when audit evidence obtained from one source is inconsistent with that obtained from another. This may be the case when, for example, responses to inquiries of management, internal auditors, and others are inconsistent, or when responses to inquiries of those charged with governance made to corroborate the responses to inquiries of management are inconsistent with the response by management. ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (**Revised**) includes a specific documentation requirement if the auditor identified information that is inconsistent with the auditor's final conclusion regarding a significant matter.¹⁷

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 530, "Audit Sampling."

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (**Revised**), "Audit Documentation," paragraph 11.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 510 (REVISED)**

INITIAL AUDIT ENGAGEMENTS—OPENING BALANCES

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~17 June 2014
~~December 2010~~)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 510 <u>(Revised)</u> , “Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 <u>(Revised)</u> , “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”
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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to opening balances in an initial audit engagement. In addition to financial statement amounts, opening balances include matters requiring disclosure that existed at the beginning of the period, such as contingencies and commitments. When the financial statements include comparative financial information, the requirements and guidance in ISA (UK and Ireland) 710¹ also apply. ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised)² includes additional requirements and guidance regarding activities prior to starting an initial audit.

Effective Date

2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing ending~~ on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ ~~15 December 2010~~.

Objective

3. In conducting an initial audit engagement, the objective of the auditor with respect to opening balances is to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether:
 - (a) Opening balances contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements; and
 - (b) Appropriate accounting policies reflected in the opening balances have been consistently applied in the current period's financial statements, or changes thereto are appropriately accounted for and adequately presented and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Definitions

4. For the purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Initial audit engagement – An engagement in which either:
 - (i) The financial statements for the prior period were not audited; or
 - (ii) The financial statements for the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor.
 - (b) Opening balances – Those account balances that exist at the beginning of the period. Opening balances are based upon the closing balances of the prior period and reflect the effects of transactions and events of prior periods and accounting policies applied in the prior period. Opening balances also include matters requiring disclosure that existed at the beginning of the period, such as contingencies and commitments.
 - (c) Predecessor auditor – The auditor from a different audit firm, who audited the financial statements of an entity in the prior period and who has been replaced by the current auditor.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 710, "Comparative Information—Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements."

² ISA ~~300~~ (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised), "Planning an Audit of Financial Statements."

Requirements

Audit Procedures

Opening Balances

5. The auditor shall read the most recent financial statements, if any, and the predecessor auditor’s report thereon, if any, for information relevant to opening balances, including disclosures.
6. The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether the opening balances contain misstatements that materially affect the current period’s financial statements by: (Ref: Para. A1–A2)
 - (a) Determining whether the prior period’s closing balances have been correctly brought forward to the current period or, when appropriate, have been restated;
 - (b) Determining whether the opening balances reflect the application of appropriate accounting policies; and
 - (c) Performing one or more of the following: (Ref: Para. A3–A7)
 - (i) Where the prior year financial statements were audited, reviewing the predecessor auditor’s working papers to obtain evidence regarding the opening balances;
 - (ii) Evaluating whether audit procedures performed in the current period provide evidence relevant to the opening balances; or
 - (iii) Performing specific audit procedures to obtain evidence regarding the opening balances.
7. If the auditor obtains audit evidence that the opening balances contain misstatements that could materially affect the current period’s financial statements, the auditor shall perform such additional audit procedures as are appropriate in the circumstances to determine the effect on the current period’s financial statements. If the auditor concludes that such misstatements exist in the current period’s financial statements, the auditor shall communicate the misstatements with the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised).³

Consistency of Accounting Policies

8. The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether the accounting policies reflected in the opening balances have been consistently applied in the current period’s financial statements, and whether changes in the accounting policies have been appropriately accounted for and adequately presented and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Required Understanding of Prior Year Responses to Risks

8R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of the predecessor auditor’s methodology used to carry out the audit, sufficient to enable the auditor to communicate with those charged with

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit,” paragraphs 8 and 12.

governance those matters required by paragraph 16R-2(g) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised). (Ref: Para. A7-1) [AR/Article 11.2(g)]

Relevant Information in the Predecessor Auditor's Report

9. If the prior period's financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor and there was a modification to the opinion, the auditor shall evaluate the effect of the matter giving rise to the modification in assessing the risks of material misstatement in the current period's financial statements in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised).⁴

Audit Conclusions and Reporting

Opening Balances

10. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the opening balances, the auditor shall express a qualified opinion or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements, as appropriate, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).⁵ (Ref: Para. A8)
11. If the auditor concludes that the opening balances contain a misstatement that materially affects the current period's financial statements, and the effect of the misstatement is not appropriately accounted for or not adequately presented or disclosed, the auditor shall express a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion, as appropriate, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).

Consistency of Accounting Policies

12. If the auditor concludes that:
- (a) the current period's accounting policies are not consistently applied in relation to opening balances in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; or
 - (b) a change in accounting policies is not appropriately accounted for or not adequately presented or disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework,
- the auditor shall express a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion as appropriate in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).

Modification to the Opinion in the Predecessor Auditor's Report

13. If the predecessor auditor's opinion regarding the prior period's financial statements included a modification to the auditor's opinion that remains relevant and material to the current period's financial statements, the auditor shall modify the auditor's opinion on the current period's financial statements in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) and ISA (UK and Ireland) 710. (Ref: Para. A9)

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment."

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report."

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Audit Procedures

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities (Ref: Para. 6)

- A1. In the public sector, there may be legal or regulatory limitations on the information that the current auditor can obtain from a predecessor auditor. For example, if a public sector entity that has previously been audited by a statutorily appointed auditor (for example, an Auditor General, or other suitably qualified person appointed on behalf of the Auditor General) is privatized, the amount of access to working papers or other information that the statutorily appointed auditor can provide a newly-appointed auditor that is in the private sector may be constrained by privacy or secrecy laws or regulations. In situations where such communications are constrained, audit evidence may need to be obtained through other means and, if sufficient appropriate audit evidence cannot be obtained, consideration given to the effect on the auditor's opinion.
- A2. If the statutorily appointed auditor outsources an audit of a public sector entity to a private sector audit firm, and the statutorily appointed auditor appoints an audit firm other than the firm that audited the financial statements of the public sector entity in the prior period, this is not usually regarded as a change in auditors for the statutorily appointed auditor. Depending on the nature of the outsourcing arrangement, however, the audit engagement may be considered an initial audit engagement from the perspective of the private sector auditor in fulfilling their responsibilities, and therefore this ISA (UK and Ireland) applies.

Opening Balances (Ref: Para. 6(c))

- A3. The nature and extent of audit procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding opening balances depend on such matters as:
- The accounting policies followed by the entity.
 - The nature of the account balances, classes of transactions and disclosures and the risks of material misstatement in the current period's financial statements.
 - The significance of the opening balances relative to the current period's financial statements.
 - Whether the prior period's financial statements were audited and, if so, whether the predecessor auditor's opinion was modified.
- A4. If the prior period's financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor, the auditor may be able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the opening balances by reviewing the predecessor auditor's working papers. Whether such a review provides sufficient appropriate audit evidence is influenced by the professional competence and independence of the predecessor auditor.
- A5. Relevant ethical and professional requirements guide the current auditor's communications with the predecessor auditor.
- A5-1. In the UK and Ireland the relevant ethical guidance on proposed communications with a predecessor auditor is provided by the ethical pronouncements relating to the work of auditors issued by the auditor's relevant professional body.
- A6. For current assets and liabilities, some audit evidence about opening balances may be obtained as part of the current period's audit procedures. For example, the collection

(payment) of opening accounts receivable (accounts payable) during the current period will provide some audit evidence of their existence, rights and obligations, completeness and valuation at the beginning of the period. In the case of inventories, however, the current period's audit procedures on the closing inventory balance provide little audit evidence regarding inventory on hand at the beginning of the period. Therefore, additional audit procedures may be necessary, and one or more of the following may provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence:

- Observing a current physical inventory count and reconciling it to the opening inventory quantities.
- Performing audit procedures on the valuation of the opening inventory items.
- Performing audit procedures on gross profit and cutoff.

A7. For non-current assets and liabilities, such as property plant and equipment, investments and long-term debt, some audit evidence may be obtained by examining the accounting records and other information underlying the opening balances. In certain cases, the auditor may be able to obtain some audit evidence regarding opening balances through confirmation with third parties, for example, for long-term debt and investments. In other cases, the auditor may need to carry out additional audit procedures.

Required Understanding of Prior Year Responses to Risks (Ref: Para. 8R-1)

A7-1. In the UK and Ireland, where an auditor is replaced by another auditor, there are statutory obligations on the predecessor auditor to provide the auditor with access to all relevant information concerning the entity and the most recent audit of that entity.^{5a}

A7-2. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the Audit Regulation imposes a requirement on a predecessor auditor to grant the auditor access to the additional report to the audit committee^{5b} in respect of previous years.

Audit Conclusions and Reporting

Opening Balances (Ref: Para. 10)

A8. ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) establishes requirements and provides guidance on circumstances that may result in a modification to the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, the type of opinion appropriate in the circumstances, and the content of the auditor's report when the auditor's opinion is modified. The inability of the auditor to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding opening balances may result in one of the following modifications to the opinion in the auditor's report:

- (a) A qualified opinion or a disclaimer of opinion, as is appropriate in the circumstances; or
- (b) Unless prohibited by law or regulation, an opinion which is qualified or disclaimed, as appropriate, regarding the results of operations, and cash flows, where relevant, and unmodified regarding financial position.

^{5a} Article 23(3) of the Audit Directive.

^{5b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 16R-2.

The Appendix includes illustrative auditors' reports.^{5b5a}

Modification to the Opinion in the Predecessor Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 13)

- A9. In some situations, a modification to the predecessor auditor's opinion may not be relevant and material to the opinion on the current period's financial statements. This may be the case where, for example, there was a scope limitation in the prior period, but the matter giving rise to the scope limitation has been resolved in the current period.

^{5b} ~~The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.~~

^{5a} ~~The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland. Illustrative auditor's reports tailored for use with audits conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) are given in the current versions of the APB Compendia Auditor's Report Bulletins.~~

Appendix

(Ref: Para. A8)

Illustrations of Auditor's Reports with Modified Opinions

The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland. ~~Illustrative auditor's reports tailored for use with audits conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) are given in the current versions of the APB Compendia Auditor's Report Bulletins.~~

~~Note: Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the Opinion section has been positioned first in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised), and the Basis for Opinion section is positioned immediately after the Opinion section. Also, the first and last sentence that was included in the extant auditor's responsibilities section is now subsumed as part of the new Basis for Opinion section.~~

Illustration 1:

~~For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed described in paragraph A8(a) include the following:~~

- ~~• Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600⁶ does not apply).~~
- ~~• The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) (a general purpose framework).~~
- ~~• The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).⁷~~
- The auditor did not observe the counting of the physical inventory at the beginning of the current period and was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the opening balances of inventory.
- The possible effects of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding opening balances of inventory are deemed to be material but not pervasive to the entity's financial performance and cash flows.⁸
- The financial position at year end is fairly presented.
- ~~• In this particular jurisdiction, law and regulation prohibit the auditor from giving an opinion which is qualified regarding the financial performance and cash flows and unmodified regarding financial position.~~
- ~~• The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.~~
- ~~• Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570~~

⁶ ISA 600, "Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)"

⁷ ISA 210 (Revised), Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements

⁸ If the possible effects, in the auditor's judgment, are considered to be material and pervasive to the entity's financial performance and cash flows, the auditor would disclaim an opinion on the financial performance and cash flows.

(Revised).⁹The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.¹⁰

- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Corresponding figures are presented, and the prior period's financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor. The auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures and has decided to do so.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements¹¹

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the ~~balance sheet~~statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the ~~statement of comprehensive income statement~~, statement of changes in equity and ~~statement of cash flows statement~~ for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information~~.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion ~~section of our report~~paragraph, the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

We were appointed as auditors of the company on June 30, 20X1 and thus did not observe the counting of the physical inventories at the beginning of the year. We were unable to satisfy ourselves by alternative means concerning inventory quantities held at December 31, 20X0. Since opening inventories enter into the determination of the financial performance and cash flows, we were unable to determine whether adjustments might have been necessary in respect of the profit for the year reported in the statement of comprehensive income and the net cash flows from operating activities reported in the statement of cash flows.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial

⁹ ISA 570 (Revised), "Going Concern"

¹⁰ ISA 701, "Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report"

¹¹ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Other Matter

The financial statements of theABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X0 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on March 31, 20X1.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management^{2s12} and Those Charged with Governance^{Responsibility} for the Financial Statements¹³

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised)¹⁴ – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

~~Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,¹⁵ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.~~

Auditor’s Responsibilities~~y~~ for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation¹⁶ of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the~~

¹²—Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

¹³ Throughout these illustrative auditor’s reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

¹⁴ ISA 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements”

¹⁵—Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

¹⁶—In the case of footnote 9, this may read: “In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control.”

~~entity's internal control.¹⁷ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.~~

~~We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.~~

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

~~[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]~~

~~[Form and content of this section of the auditor's report will vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities.]~~

~~[Auditor's Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]~~

~~[Auditor's Aaddress]~~

~~[Date of the auditor's report]–~~

¹⁷—~~In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances." In the case of footnote 9, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."~~

Illustration 2:

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed described in paragraph A8(b) include the following:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor did not observe the counting of the physical inventory at the beginning of the current period and was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the opening balances of inventory.
- The possible effects of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding opening balances of inventory are deemed to be material but not pervasive to the entity’s financial performance and cash flows.¹⁸
- The financial position at year end is fairly presented.
- An opinion that is qualified regarding the financial performance and cash flows and unmodified regarding financial position is considered appropriate in the circumstances.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information
- Corresponding figures are presented, and the prior period’s financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor. The auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor’s report on the corresponding figures and has decided to do so.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

¹⁸ If the possible effects, in the auditor’s judgment, are considered to be material and pervasive to the entity’s financial performance and cash flows, the auditor would disclaim the opinion on the financial performance and cash flows.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements¹⁹

Opinions

We have audited the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the ~~statement of financial position~~~~balance sheet~~ as at December 31, 20X1, and the ~~income~~ statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows~~statement~~ for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies~~and other explanatory information~~.

Qualified Opinion on the Financial Performance and Cash Flows

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion ~~section of our report~~~~paragraph~~, the accompanying Income~~s~~ Statement of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flow~~s~~ Statement of Cash Flows present fairly, in all material respects (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial performance and cash flows of ~~the ABC~~ Company for the year ended December 31, 20X1 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Opinion on the Financial Position

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of financial position~~balance sheet~~ presents fairly, in all material respects (or *gives a true and fair view of*) the financial position of ~~the ABC~~ Company as at December 31, 20X1 in accordance with ~~International Financial Reporting Standards~~.

Basis for ~~Qualified Opinions, including basis for qualified opinion~~ on the Financial Performance and Cash Flows

We were appointed as auditors of the company on June 30, 20X1 and thus did not observe the counting of the physical inventories at the beginning of the year. We were unable to satisfy ourselves by alternative means concerning inventory quantities held at December 31, 20X0. Since opening inventories enter into the determination of the financial performance and cash flows, we were unable to determine whether adjustments might have been necessary in respect of the profit for the year reported in the ~~income~~ statement of comprehensive income and the net cash flows from operating activities reported in the statement of cash flows~~statement~~.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our unmodified opinion on the financial position and our qualified audit opinion on the financial performance and cash flows.

¹⁹ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

Other Matter

The financial statements of theABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X0 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on March 31, 20X1.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management’s²⁰ Responsibility and Those Charged With Governance for the Financial Statements²¹

[Reporting in accordance with ISA (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

~~Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,²² and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error~~

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation²³ of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control.²⁴ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting~~

²⁰—Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

²¹—Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

²²—Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such”

²³—In the case of footnote 15, this may read: “In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control.”

²⁴—In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: “In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.” In the case of footnote 15, this may read: “In making those risk assessments, the auditor

~~policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.~~

~~We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our unmodified opinion on the financial position and our qualified audit opinion on the financial performance and cash flows.~~

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

~~[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]~~

~~[Form and content of this section of the auditor's report will vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities.]~~

~~[Auditor's Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]~~

~~[Auditor's Aaddress]~~

~~-[Date of the auditor's report]~~

~~considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."~~

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 540 REVISED**

**AUDITING ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES, INCLUDING FAIR VALUE
ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES, AND RELATED DISCLOSURES**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after 17 June 2016~~15
December 2010~~)

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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor’s responsibilities relating to accounting estimates, including fair value accounting estimates, and related disclosures in an audit of financial statements. Specifically, it expands on how ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised)¹ and ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised)² and other relevant ISAs (UK and Ireland) are to be applied in relation to accounting estimates. It also includes requirements and guidance on misstatements of individual accounting estimates, and indicators of possible management bias.

Nature of Accounting Estimates

2. Some financial statement items cannot be measured precisely, but can only be estimated. For purposes of this ISA (UK and Ireland), such financial statement items are referred to as accounting estimates. The nature and reliability of information available to management to support the making of an accounting estimate varies widely, which thereby affects the degree of estimation uncertainty associated with accounting estimates. The degree of estimation uncertainty affects, in turn, the risks of material misstatement of accounting estimates, including their susceptibility to unintentional or intentional management bias. (Ref: Para. A1-A11)
3. The measurement objective of accounting estimates can vary depending on the applicable financial reporting framework and the financial item being reported. The measurement objective for some accounting estimates is to forecast the outcome of one or more transactions, events or conditions giving rise to the need for the accounting estimate. For other accounting estimates, including many fair value accounting estimates, the measurement objective is different, and is expressed in terms of the value of a current transaction or financial statement item based on conditions prevalent at the measurement date, such as estimated market price for a particular type of asset or liability. For example, the applicable financial reporting framework may require fair value measurement based on an assumed hypothetical current transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties (sometimes referred to as “marketplace participants” or equivalent) in an arm’s length transaction, rather than the settlement of a transaction at some past or future date.³
4. A difference between the outcome of an accounting estimate and the amount originally recognized or disclosed in the financial statements does not necessarily represent a misstatement of the financial statements. This is particularly the case for fair value accounting estimates, as any observed outcome is invariably affected by events or conditions subsequent to the date at which the measurement is estimated for purposes of the financial statements.

Effective Date

5. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016~~15 December 2010~~.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment.”

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks.”

³ Different definitions of fair value may exist among financial reporting frameworks.

Objective

6. The objective of the auditor is to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether:
- (a) accounting estimates, including fair value accounting estimates, in the financial statements, whether recognized or disclosed, are reasonable; and
 - (b) related disclosures in the financial statements are adequate, in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Definitions

7. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
- (a) Accounting estimate – An approximation of a monetary amount in the absence of a precise means of measurement. This term is used for an amount measured at fair value where there is estimation uncertainty, as well as for other amounts that require estimation. Where this ISA (UK and Ireland) addresses only accounting estimates involving measurement at fair value, the term “fair value accounting estimates” is used.
 - (b) Auditor’s point estimate or auditor’s range – The amount, or range of amounts, respectively, derived from audit evidence for use in evaluating management’s point estimate.
 - (c) Estimation uncertainty – The susceptibility of an accounting estimate and related disclosures to an inherent lack of precision in its measurement.
 - (d) Management bias – A lack of neutrality by management in the preparation of information.
 - (e) Management’s point estimate – The amount selected by management for recognition or disclosure in the financial statements as an accounting estimate.
 - (f) Outcome of an accounting estimate – The actual monetary amount which results from the resolution of the underlying transaction(s), event(s) or condition(s) addressed by the accounting estimate.

Requirements

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities

8. When performing risk assessment procedures and related activities to obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity’s internal control, as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised),⁴ the auditor shall obtain an understanding of the following in order to provide a basis for the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement for accounting estimates: (Ref: Para. A12)
- (a) The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework relevant to accounting estimates, including related disclosures. (Ref: Para. A13-A15)
 - (b) How management identifies those transactions, events and conditions that may give rise to the need for accounting estimates to be recognized or disclosed in the

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraphs 5-6 and 11-12.

financial statements. In obtaining this understanding, the auditor shall make inquiries of management about changes in circumstances that may give rise to new, or the need to revise existing, accounting estimates. (Ref: Para. A16-A21)

- (c) How management makes the accounting estimates, and an understanding of the data on which they are based, including: (Ref: Para. A22-A23)
 - (i) The method, including where applicable the model, used in making the accounting estimate; (Ref: Para. A24-A26-1)
 - (ii) Relevant controls; (Ref: Para. A27-A28)
 - (iii) Whether management has used an expert; (Ref: Para. A29-A30)
 - (iv) The assumptions underlying the accounting estimates; (Ref: Para. A31-A36)
 - (v) Whether there has been or ought to have been a change from the prior period in the methods for making the accounting estimates, and if so, why; and (Ref: Para. A37)
 - (vi) Whether and, if so, how management has assessed the effect of estimation uncertainty. (Ref: Para. A38)
9. The auditor shall review the outcome of accounting estimates included in the prior period financial statements, or, where applicable, their subsequent re-estimation for the purpose of the current period. The nature and extent of the auditor’s review takes account of the nature of the accounting estimates, and whether the information obtained from the review would be relevant to identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement of accounting estimates made in the current period financial statements. However, the review is not intended to call into question the judgments made in the prior periods that were based on information available at the time. (Ref: Para. A39-A44)

Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

- 10. In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement, as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised),⁵ the auditor shall evaluate the degree of estimation uncertainty associated with an accounting estimate. (Ref: Para. A45-A46)
- 11. The auditor shall determine whether, in the auditor’s judgment, any of those accounting estimates that have been identified as having high estimation uncertainty give rise to significant risks. (Ref: Para. A47-A51)

Responses to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement

- 12. Based on the assessed risks of material misstatement, the auditor shall determine: (Ref: Para. A52)
 - (a) Whether management has appropriately applied the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework relevant to the accounting estimate; and (Ref: Para. A53-A56)
 - (b) Whether the methods for making the accounting estimates are appropriate and have been applied consistently, and whether changes, if any, in accounting estimates or in the method for making them from the prior period are appropriate in the circumstances. (Ref: Para. A57-A58)

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 25.

13. In responding to the assessed risks of material misstatement, as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised),⁶ the auditor shall undertake one or more of the following, taking account of the nature of the accounting estimate: (Ref: Para. A59-A61)
- (a) Determine whether events occurring up to the date of the auditor’s report provide audit evidence regarding the accounting estimate. (Ref: Para. A62-A67)
 - (b) Test how management made the accounting estimate and the data on which it is based. In doing so, the auditor shall evaluate whether: (Ref: Para. A68-A70)
 - (i) The method of measurement used is appropriate in the circumstances; and (Ref: Para. A71-A76)
 - (ii) The assumptions used by management are reasonable in light of the measurement objectives of the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A77-A83)
 - (c) Test the operating effectiveness of the controls over how management made the accounting estimate, together with appropriate substantive procedures. (Ref: Para. A84-A86)
 - (d) Develop a point estimate or a range to evaluate management’s point estimate. For this purpose: (Ref: Para. A87-A91)
 - (i) If the auditor uses assumptions or methods that differ from management’s, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of management’s assumptions or methods sufficient to establish that the auditor’s point estimate or range takes into account relevant variables and to evaluate any significant differences from management’s point estimate. (Ref: Para. A92)
 - (ii) If the auditor concludes that it is appropriate to use a range, the auditor shall narrow the range, based on audit evidence available, until all outcomes within the range are considered reasonable. (Ref: Para. A93-A95)
14. In determining the matters identified in paragraph 12 or in responding to the assessed risks of material misstatement in accordance with paragraph 13, the auditor shall consider whether specialized skills or knowledge in relation to one or more aspects of the accounting estimates are required in order to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. (Ref: Para. A96-A101)

Further Substantive Procedures to Respond to Significant Risks

Estimation Uncertainty

15. For accounting estimates that give rise to significant risks, in addition to other substantive procedures performed to meet the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised),⁷ the auditor shall evaluate the following: (Ref: Para. A102)
- (a) How management has considered alternative assumptions or outcomes, and why it has rejected them, or how management has otherwise addressed estimation uncertainty in making the accounting estimate. (Ref: Para. A103-A106)
 - (b) Whether the significant assumptions used by management are reasonable. (Ref: Para. A107-A109)

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph 5.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph 18.

- (c) Where relevant to the reasonableness of the significant assumptions used by management or the appropriate application of the applicable financial reporting framework, management’s intent to carry out specific courses of action and its ability to do so. (Ref: Para. A110)
16. If, in the auditor’s judgment, management has not adequately addressed the effects of estimation uncertainty on the accounting estimates that give rise to significant risks, the auditor shall, if considered necessary, develop a range with which to evaluate the reasonableness of the accounting estimate. (Ref: Para. A111-A112)

Recognition and Measurement Criteria

17. For accounting estimates that give rise to significant risks, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether:
- (a) management’s decision to recognize, or to not recognize, the accounting estimates in the financial statements; and (Ref: Para. A113-A114)
 - (b) the selected measurement basis for the accounting estimates, (Ref: Para. A115)
- are in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Evaluating the Reasonableness of the Accounting Estimates, and Determining Misstatements

18. The auditor shall evaluate, based on the audit evidence, whether the accounting estimates in the financial statements are either reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, or are misstated. (Ref: Para. A116-A119)

Disclosures Related to Accounting Estimates

19. The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether the disclosures in the financial statements related to accounting estimates are in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A120-A121)
20. For accounting estimates that give rise to significant risks, the auditor shall also evaluate the adequacy of the disclosure of their estimation uncertainty in the financial statements in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A122-A123)

Indicators of Possible Management Bias

21. The auditor shall review the judgments and decisions made by management in the making of accounting estimates to identify whether there are indicators of possible management bias. Indicators of possible management bias do not themselves constitute misstatements for the purposes of drawing conclusions on the reasonableness of individual accounting estimates. (Ref: Para. A124-A125)

21D-1. In accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised),^{7a} the auditor shall maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit and in particular when reviewing management estimates relating to fair values, the impairment of assets, provisions, and

^{7a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 15.

future cash flow relevant to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
[AD/Article 21.2]

Written Representations

22. The auditor shall obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance whether they believe significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates are reasonable. (Ref: Para. A126-A127)

Documentation

23. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation:⁸
- (a) The basis for the auditor's conclusions about the reasonableness of accounting estimates and their disclosure that give rise to significant risks; and
 - (b) Indicators of possible management bias, if any. (Ref: Para. A128)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Nature of Accounting Estimates (Ref: Para. 2)

- A1. Because of the uncertainties inherent in business activities, some financial statement items can only be estimated. Further, the specific characteristics of an asset, liability or component of equity, or the basis of or method of measurement prescribed by the financial reporting framework, may give rise to the need to estimate a financial statement item. Some financial reporting frameworks prescribe specific methods of measurement and the disclosures that are required to be made in the financial statements, while other financial reporting frameworks are less specific. The Appendix to this ISA (UK and Ireland) discusses fair value measurements and disclosures under different financial reporting frameworks.
- A2. Some accounting estimates involve relatively low estimation uncertainty and may give rise to lower risks of material misstatements, for example:
- Accounting estimates arising in entities that engage in business activities that are not complex.
 - Accounting estimates that are frequently made and updated because they relate to routine transactions.
 - Accounting estimates derived from data that is readily available, such as published interest rate data or exchange-traded prices of securities. Such data may be referred to as “observable” in the context of a fair value accounting estimate.
 - Fair value accounting estimates where the method of measurement prescribed by the applicable financial reporting framework is simple and applied easily to the asset or liability requiring measurement at fair value.
 - Fair value accounting estimates where the model used to measure the accounting estimate is well-known or generally accepted, provided that the assumptions or inputs to the model are observable.
- A3. For some accounting estimates, however, there may be relatively high estimation uncertainty, particularly where they are based on significant assumptions, for example:

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

- Accounting estimates relating to the outcome of litigation.
 - Fair value accounting estimates for derivative financial instruments not publicly traded.
 - Fair value accounting estimates for which a highly specialized entity-developed model is used or for which there are assumptions or inputs that cannot be observed in the marketplace.
- A4. The degree of estimation uncertainty varies based on the nature of the accounting estimate, the extent to which there is a generally accepted method or model used to make the accounting estimate, and the subjectivity of the assumptions used to make the accounting estimate. In some cases, estimation uncertainty associated with an accounting estimate may be so great that the recognition criteria in the applicable financial reporting framework are not met and the accounting estimate cannot be made.
- A5. Not all financial statement items requiring measurement at fair value, involve estimation uncertainty. For example, this may be the case for some financial statement items where there is an active and open market that provides readily available and reliable information on the prices at which actual exchanges occur, in which case the existence of published price quotations ordinarily is the best audit evidence of fair value. However, estimation uncertainty may exist even when the valuation method and data are well defined. For example, valuation of securities quoted on an active and open market at the listed market price may require adjustment if the holding is significant in relation to the market or is subject to restrictions in marketability. In addition, general economic circumstances prevailing at the time, for example, illiquidity in a particular market, may impact estimation uncertainty.
- A6. Additional examples of situations where accounting estimates, other than fair value accounting estimates, may be required include:
- Allowance for doubtful accounts.
 - Inventory obsolescence.
 - Warranty obligations.
 - Depreciation method or asset useful life.
 - Provision against the carrying amount of an investment where there is uncertainty regarding its recoverability.
 - Outcome of long term contracts.
 - Costs arising from litigation settlements and judgments.
- A7. Additional examples of situations where fair value accounting estimates may be required include:
- Complex financial instruments, which are not traded in an active and open market.
 - Share-based payments.
 - Property or equipment held for disposal.
 - Certain assets or liabilities acquired in a business combination, including goodwill and intangible assets.

- Transactions involving the exchange of assets or liabilities between independent parties without monetary consideration, for example, a non-monetary exchange of plant facilities in different lines of business.
- A8. Estimation involves judgments based on information available when the financial statements are prepared. For many accounting estimates, these include making assumptions about matters that are uncertain at the time of estimation. The auditor is not responsible for predicting future conditions, transactions or events that, if known at the time of the audit, might have significantly affected management's actions or the assumptions used by management.

Management Bias

- A9. Financial reporting frameworks often call for neutrality, that is, freedom from bias. Accounting estimates are imprecise, however, and can be influenced by management judgment. Such judgment may involve unintentional or intentional management bias (for example, as a result of motivation to achieve a desired result). The susceptibility of an accounting estimate to management bias increases with the subjectivity involved in making it. Unintentional management bias and the potential for intentional management bias are inherent in subjective decisions that are often required in making an accounting estimate. For continuing audits, indicators of possible management bias identified during the audit of the preceding periods influence the planning and risk identification and assessment activities of the auditor in the current period.
- A10. Management bias can be difficult to detect at an account level. It may only be identified when considered in the aggregate of groups of accounting estimates or all accounting estimates, or when observed over a number of accounting periods. Although some form of management bias is inherent in subjective decisions, in making such judgments there may be no intention by management to mislead the users of financial statements. Where, however, there is intention to mislead, management bias is fraudulent in nature.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A11. Public sector entities may have significant holdings of specialized assets for which there are no readily available and reliable sources of information for purposes of measurement at fair value or other current value bases, or a combination of both. Often specialized assets held do not generate cash flows and do not have an active market. Measurement at fair value therefore ordinarily requires estimation and may be complex, and in some rare cases may not be possible at all.

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities (Ref: Para. 8)

- A12. The risk assessment procedures and related activities required by paragraph 8 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) assist the auditor in developing an expectation of the nature and type of accounting estimates that an entity may have. The auditor's primary consideration is whether the understanding that has been obtained is sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in relation to accounting estimates, and to plan the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.

Obtaining an Understanding of the Requirements of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 8(a))

- A13. Obtaining an understanding of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework assists the auditor in determining whether it, for example:

- Prescribes certain conditions for the recognition,⁹ or methods for the measurement, of accounting estimates.
- Specifies certain conditions that permit or require measurement at a fair value, for example, by referring to management’s intentions to carry out certain courses of action with respect to an asset or liability.
- Specifies required or permitted disclosures.

Obtaining this understanding also provides the auditor with a basis for discussion with management about how management has applied those requirements relevant to the accounting estimate, and the auditor’s determination of whether they have been applied appropriately.

- A14. Financial reporting frameworks may provide guidance for management on determining point estimates where alternatives exist. Some financial reporting frameworks, for example, require that the point estimate selected be the alternative that reflects management’s judgment of the most likely outcome.¹⁰ Others may require, for example, use of a discounted probability-weighted expected value. In some cases, management may be able to make a point estimate directly. In other cases, management may be able to make a reliable point estimate only after considering alternative assumptions or outcomes from which it is able to determine a point estimate.
- A15. Financial reporting frameworks may require the disclosure of information concerning the significant assumptions to which the accounting estimate is particularly sensitive. Furthermore, where there is a high degree of estimation uncertainty, some financial reporting frameworks do not permit an accounting estimate to be recognized in the financial statements, but certain disclosures may be required in the notes to the financial statements.

A15-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised)^{10a} requires the auditor to assess the valuation methods applied to the various items in the financial statements including any impact of changes of such methods. [AR/Article 11.2(1)]

Obtaining an Understanding of How Management Identifies the Need for Accounting Estimates (Ref: Para. 8(b))

- A16. The preparation of the financial statements requires management to determine whether a transaction, event or condition gives rise to the need to make an accounting estimate, and that all necessary accounting estimates have been recognized, measured and disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- A17. Management’s identification of transactions, events and conditions that give rise to the need for accounting estimates is likely to be based on:

⁹ Most financial reporting frameworks require incorporation in the balance sheet or income statement of items that satisfy their criteria for recognition. Disclosure of accounting policies or adding notes to the financial statements does not rectify a failure to recognize such items, including accounting estimates.

¹⁰ Different financial reporting frameworks may use different terminology to describe point estimates determined in this way.

^{10a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks”, paragraph 19R-1.

- Management’s knowledge of the entity’s business and the industry in which it operates.
- Management’s knowledge of the implementation of business strategies in the current period.
- Where applicable, management’s cumulative experience of preparing the entity’s financial statements in prior periods.

In such cases, the auditor may obtain an understanding of how management identifies the need for accounting estimates primarily through inquiry of management. In other cases, where management’s process is more structured, for example, when management has a formal risk management function, the auditor may perform risk assessment procedures directed at the methods and practices followed by management for periodically reviewing the circumstances that give rise to the accounting estimates and re-estimating the accounting estimates as necessary. The completeness of accounting estimates is often an important consideration of the auditor, particularly accounting estimates relating to liabilities.

A18. The auditor’s understanding of the entity and its environment obtained during the performance of risk assessment procedures, together with other audit evidence obtained during the course of the audit, assist the auditor in identifying circumstances, or changes in circumstances, that may give rise to the need for an accounting estimate.

A19. Inquiries of management about changes in circumstances may include, for example, inquiries about whether:

- The entity has engaged in new types of transactions that may give rise to accounting estimates.
- Terms of transactions that gave rise to accounting estimates have changed.
- Accounting policies relating to accounting estimates have changed, as a result of changes ~~within~~ the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework or otherwise.
- Regulatory or other changes outside the control of management have occurred that may require management to revise, or make new, accounting estimates.
- New conditions or events have occurred that may give rise to the need for new or revised accounting estimates. [\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)

A20. During the audit, the auditor may identify transactions, events and conditions that give rise to the need for accounting estimates that management failed to identify. ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised) deals with circumstances where the auditor identifies risks of material misstatement that management failed to identify, including determining whether there is a significant deficiency in internal control with regard to the entity’s risk assessment processes.¹¹

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A21. Obtaining this understanding for smaller entities is often less complex as their business activities are often limited and transactions are less complex. Further, often a single

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 16.

person, for example the owner-manager, identifies the need to make an accounting estimate and the auditor may focus inquiries accordingly.

Obtaining an Understanding of How Management Makes the Accounting Estimates (Ref: Para. 8(c))

A22. The preparation of the financial statements also requires management to establish financial reporting processes for making accounting estimates, including adequate internal control. Such processes include the following:

- Selecting appropriate accounting policies and prescribing estimation processes, including appropriate estimation or valuation methods, including, where applicable, models.
- Developing or identifying relevant data and assumptions that affect accounting estimates.
- Periodically reviewing the circumstances that give rise to the accounting estimates and re-estimating the accounting estimates as necessary.

A23. Matters that the auditor may consider in obtaining an understanding of how management makes the accounting estimates include, for example:

- The types of accounts or transactions to which the accounting estimates relate (for example, whether the accounting estimates arise from the recording of routine and recurring transactions or whether they arise from non-recurring or unusual transactions).
- Whether and, if so, how management has used recognized measurement techniques for making particular accounting estimates.
- Whether the accounting estimates were made based on data available at an interim date and, if so, whether and how management has taken into account the effect of events, transactions and changes in circumstances occurring between that date and the period end.

Method of Measurement, Including the Use of Models (Ref: Para. 8(c)(i))

A24. In some cases, the applicable financial reporting framework may prescribe the method of measurement for an accounting estimate, for example, a particular model that is to be used in measuring a fair value estimate. In many cases, however, the applicable financial reporting framework does not prescribe the method of measurement, or may specify alternative methods for measurement.

A25. When the applicable financial reporting framework does not prescribe a particular method to be used in the circumstances, matters that the auditor may consider in obtaining an understanding of the method or, where applicable the model, used to make accounting estimates include, for example:

- How management considered the nature of the asset or liability being estimated when selecting a particular method.
- Whether the entity operates in a particular business, industry or environment in which there are methods commonly used to make the particular type of accounting estimate.

A26. There may be greater risks of material misstatement, for example, in cases when management has internally developed a model to be used to make the accounting

estimate or is departing from a method commonly used in a particular industry or environment.

A26-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor assesses^{11a} and communicates^{11b} in the additional report to the audit committee the valuation methods applied to the various items in the financial statements.

Relevant Controls (Ref: Para. 8(c)(ii))

A27. Matters that the auditor may consider in obtaining an understanding of relevant controls include, for example, the experience and competence of those who make the accounting estimates, and controls related to:

- How management determines the completeness, relevance and accuracy of the data used to develop accounting estimates.
- The review and approval of accounting estimates, including the assumptions or inputs used in their development, by appropriate levels of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance.
- The segregation of duties between those committing the entity to the underlying transactions and those responsible for making the accounting estimates, including whether the assignment of responsibilities appropriately takes account of the nature of the entity and its products or services (for example, in the case of a large financial institution, relevant segregation of duties may include an independent function responsible for estimation and validation of fair value pricing of the entity’s proprietary financial products staffed by individuals whose remuneration is not tied to such products).

A28. Other controls may be relevant to making the accounting estimates depending on the circumstances. For example, if the entity uses specific models for making accounting estimates, management may put into place specific policies and procedures around such models. Relevant controls may include, for example, those established over:

- The design and development, or selection, of a particular model for a particular purpose.
- The use of the model.
- The maintenance and periodic validation of the integrity of the model.

Management’s Use of Experts (Ref: Para. 8(c)(iii))

A29. Management may have, or the entity may employ individuals with, the experience and competence necessary to make the required point estimates. In some cases, however, management may need to engage an expert to make, or assist in making, them. This need may arise because of, for example:

- The specialized nature of the matter requiring estimation, for example, the measurement of mineral or hydrocarbon reserves in extractive industries.

^{11a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks”, paragraph 19R-1

^{11b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance”, paragraph 16R-2(1)

- The technical nature of the models required to meet the relevant requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, as may be the case in certain measurements at fair value.
- The unusual or infrequent nature of the condition, transaction or event requiring an accounting estimate.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

A30. In smaller entities, the circumstances requiring an accounting estimate often are such that the owner-manager is capable of making the required point estimate. In some cases, however, an expert will be needed. Discussion with the owner-manager early in the audit process about the nature of any accounting estimates, the completeness of the required accounting estimates, and the adequacy of the estimating process may assist the owner-manager in determining the need to use an expert.

Assumptions (Ref: Para. 8(c)(iv))

A31. Assumptions are integral components of accounting estimates. Matters that the auditor may consider in obtaining an understanding of the assumptions underlying the accounting estimates include, for example:

- The nature of the assumptions, including which of the assumptions are likely to be significant assumptions.
- How management assesses whether the assumptions are relevant and complete (that is, that all relevant variables have been taken into account).
- Where applicable, how management determines that the assumptions used are internally consistent.
- Whether the assumptions relate to matters within the control of management (for example, assumptions about the maintenance programs that may affect the estimation of an asset's useful life), and how they conform to the entity's business plans and the external environment, or to matters that are outside its control (for example, assumptions about interest rates, mortality rates, potential judicial or regulatory actions, or the variability and the timing of future cash flows).
- The nature and extent of documentation, if any, supporting the assumptions.

Assumptions may be made or identified by an expert to assist management in making the accounting estimates. Such assumptions, when used by management, become management's assumptions.

A32. In some cases, assumptions may be referred to as inputs, for example, where management uses a model to make an accounting estimate, though the term inputs may also be used to refer to the underlying data to which specific assumptions are applied.

A33. Management may support assumptions with different types of information drawn from internal and external sources, the relevance and reliability of which will vary. In some cases, an assumption may be reliably based on applicable information from either external sources (for example, published interest rate or other statistical data) or internal sources (for example, historical information or previous conditions experienced by the entity). In other cases, an assumption may be more subjective, for example, where the entity has no experience or external sources from which to draw.

- A34. In the case of fair value accounting estimates, assumptions reflect, or are consistent with, what knowledgeable, willing arm's length parties (sometimes referred to as "marketplace participants" or equivalent) would use in determining fair value when exchanging an asset or settling a liability. Specific assumptions will also vary with the characteristics of the asset or liability being valued, the valuation method used (for example, a market approach, or an income approach) and the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- A35. With respect to fair value accounting estimates, assumptions or inputs vary in terms of their source and bases, as follows:
- (a) Those that reflect what marketplace participants would use in pricing an asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity (sometimes referred to as "observable inputs" or equivalent).
 - (b) Those that reflect the entity's own judgments about what assumptions marketplace participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances (sometimes referred to as "unobservable inputs" or equivalent).

In practice, however, the distinction between (a) and (b) is not always apparent. Further, it may be necessary for management to select from a number of different assumptions used by different marketplace participants.

- A36. The extent of subjectivity, such as whether an assumption or input is observable, influences the degree of estimation uncertainty and thereby the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement for a particular accounting estimate.

Changes in Methods for Making Accounting Estimates (Ref: Para. 8(c)(v))

- A37. In evaluating how management makes the accounting estimates, the auditor is required to understand whether there has been or ought to have been a change from the prior period in the methods for making the accounting estimates. A specific estimation method may need to be changed in response to changes in the environment or circumstances affecting the entity or in the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. If management has changed the method for making an accounting estimate, it is important that management can demonstrate that the new method is more appropriate, or is itself a response to such changes. For example, if management changes the basis of making an accounting estimate from a mark-to-market approach to using a model, the auditor challenges whether management's assumptions about the marketplace are reasonable in light of economic circumstances.

Estimation Uncertainty (Ref: Para. 8(c)(vi))

- A38. Matters that the auditor may consider in obtaining an understanding of whether and, if so, how management has assessed the effect of estimation uncertainty include, for example:
- Whether and, if so, how management has considered alternative assumptions or outcomes by, for example, performing a sensitivity analysis to determine the effect of changes in the assumptions on an accounting estimate.
 - How management determines the accounting estimate when analysis indicates a number of outcome scenarios.

- Whether management monitors the outcome of accounting estimates made in the prior period, and whether management has appropriately responded to the outcome of that monitoring procedure.

Reviewing Prior Period Accounting Estimates (Ref: Para. 9)

- A39. The outcome of an accounting estimate will often differ from the accounting estimate recognized in the prior period financial statements. By performing risk assessment procedures to identify and understand the reasons for such differences, the auditor may obtain:
- Information regarding the effectiveness of management’s prior period estimation process, from which the auditor can judge the likely effectiveness of management’s current process.
 - Audit evidence that is pertinent to the re-estimation, in the current period, of prior period accounting estimates.
 - Audit evidence of matters, such as estimation uncertainty, that may be required to be disclosed in the financial statements.
- A40. The review of prior period accounting estimates may also assist the auditor, in the current period, in identifying circumstances or conditions that increase the susceptibility of accounting estimates to, or indicate the presence of, possible management bias. The auditor’s professional skepticism assists in identifying such circumstances or conditions and in determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.
- A41. A retrospective review of management judgments and assumptions related to significant accounting estimates is also required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 240.¹² That review is conducted as part of the requirement for the auditor to design and perform procedures to review accounting estimates for biases that could represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud, in response to the risks of management override of controls. As a practical matter, the auditor’s review of prior period accounting estimates as a risk assessment procedure in accordance with this ISA (UK and Ireland) may be carried out in conjunction with the review required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 240.
- A42. The auditor may judge that a more detailed review is required for those accounting estimates that were identified during the prior period audit as having high estimation uncertainty, or for those accounting estimates that have changed significantly from the prior period. On the other hand, for example, for accounting estimates that arise from the recording of routine and recurring transactions, the auditor may judge that the application of analytical procedures as risk assessment procedures is sufficient for purposes of the review.
- A43. For fair value accounting estimates and other accounting estimates based on current conditions at the measurement date, more variation may exist between the fair value amount recognized in the prior period financial statements and the outcome or the amount re-estimated for the purpose of the current period. This is because the measurement objective for such accounting estimates deals with perceptions about value at a point in time, which may change significantly and rapidly as the environment in which the entity operates changes. The auditor may therefore focus the review on

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraph 32(b)(ii).

obtaining information that would be relevant to identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement. For example, in some cases obtaining an understanding of changes in marketplace participant assumptions which affected the outcome of a prior period fair value accounting estimate may be unlikely to provide relevant information for audit purposes. If so, then the auditor's consideration of the outcome of prior period fair value accounting estimates may be directed more towards understanding the effectiveness of management's prior estimation process, that is, management's track record, from which the auditor can judge the likely effectiveness of management's current process.

- A44. A difference between the outcome of an accounting estimate and the amount recognized in the prior period financial statements does not necessarily represent a misstatement of the prior period financial statements. However, it may do so if, for example, the difference arises from information that was available to management when the prior period's financial statements were finalized, or that could reasonably be expected to have been obtained and taken into account in the preparation of those financial statements. Many financial reporting frameworks contain guidance on distinguishing between changes in accounting estimates that constitute misstatements and changes that do not, and the accounting treatment required to be followed.

Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

Estimation Uncertainty (Ref: Para. 10)

- A45. The degree of estimation uncertainty associated with an accounting estimate may be influenced by factors such as:

- The extent to which the accounting estimate depends on judgment.
- The sensitivity of the accounting estimate to changes in assumptions.
- The existence of recognized measurement techniques that may mitigate the estimation uncertainty (though the subjectivity of the assumptions used as inputs may nevertheless give rise to estimation uncertainty).
- The length of the forecast period, and the relevance of data drawn from past events to forecast future events.
- The availability of reliable data from external sources.
- The extent to which the accounting estimate is based on observable or unobservable inputs.

The degree of estimation uncertainty associated with an accounting estimate may influence the estimate's susceptibility to bias.

- A46. Matters that the auditor considers in assessing the risks of material misstatement may also include:

- The actual or expected magnitude of an accounting estimate.
- The recorded amount of the accounting estimate (that is, management's point estimate) in relation to the amount expected by the auditor to be recorded.
- Whether management has used an expert in making the accounting estimate.
- The outcome of the review of prior period accounting estimates.

High Estimation Uncertainty and Significant Risks (Ref: Para. 11)

A47. Examples of accounting estimates that may have high estimation uncertainty include the following:

- Accounting estimates that are highly dependent upon judgment, for example, judgments about the outcome of pending litigation or the amount and timing of future cash flows dependent on uncertain events many years in the future.
- Accounting estimates that are not calculated using recognized measurement techniques.
- Accounting estimates where the results of the auditor’s review of similar accounting estimates made in the prior period financial statements indicate a substantial difference between the original accounting estimate and the actual outcome.
- Fair value accounting estimates for which a highly specialized entity-developed model is used or for which there are no observable inputs.

A48. A seemingly immaterial accounting estimate may have the potential to result in a material misstatement due to the estimation uncertainty associated with the estimation; that is, the size of the amount recognized or disclosed in the financial statements for an accounting estimate may not be an indicator of its estimation uncertainty.

A49. In some circumstances, the estimation uncertainty is so high that a reasonable accounting estimate cannot be made. The applicable financial reporting framework may, therefore, preclude recognition of the item in the financial statements, or its measurement at fair value. In such cases, the significant risks relate not only to whether an accounting estimate should be recognized, or whether it should be measured at fair value, but also to the adequacy of the disclosures. With respect to such accounting estimates, the applicable financial reporting framework may require disclosure of the accounting estimates and the high estimation uncertainty associated with them (see paragraphs A120-A123).

A50. If the auditor determines that an accounting estimate gives rise to a significant risk, the auditor is required to obtain an understanding of the entity’s controls, including control activities.¹³

A51. In some cases, the estimation uncertainty of an accounting estimate may cast significant doubt about the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised)¹⁴ establishes requirements and provides guidance in such circumstances.

Responses to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement (Ref: Para. 12)

A52. ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised) requires the auditor to design and perform audit procedures whose nature, timing and extent are responsive to the assessed risks of material misstatement in relation to accounting estimates at both the financial statement and assertion levels.¹⁵ Paragraphs A53-A115 focus on specific responses at the assertion level only.

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 29.

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), “Going Concern.”

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraphs 5-6.

Application of the Requirements of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 12(a))

- A53. Many financial reporting frameworks prescribe certain conditions for the recognition of accounting estimates and specify the methods for making them and required disclosures. Such requirements may be complex and require the application of judgment. Based on the understanding obtained in performing risk assessment procedures, the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework that may be susceptible to misapplication or differing interpretations become the focus of the auditor's attention.
- A54. Determining whether management has appropriately applied the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework is based, in part, on the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment. For example, the measurement of the fair value of some items, such as intangible assets acquired in a business combination, may involve special considerations that are affected by the nature of the entity and its operations.
- A55. In some situations, additional audit procedures, such as the inspection by the auditor of the current physical condition of an asset, may be necessary to determine whether management has appropriately applied the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- A56. The application of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework requires management to consider changes in the environment or circumstances that affect the entity. For example, the introduction of an active market for a particular class of asset or liability may indicate that the use of discounted cash flows to estimate the fair value of such asset or liability is no longer appropriate.

Consistency in Methods and Basis for Changes (Ref: Para. 12(b))

- A57. The auditor's consideration of a change in an accounting estimate, or in the method for making it from the prior period, is important because a change that is not based on a change in circumstances or new information is considered arbitrary. Arbitrary changes in an accounting estimate result in inconsistent financial statements over time and may give rise to a financial statement misstatement or be an indicator of possible management bias.
- A58. Management often is able to demonstrate good reason for a change in an accounting estimate or the method for making an accounting estimate from one period to another based on a change in circumstances. What constitutes a good reason, and the adequacy of support for management's contention that there has been a change in circumstances that warrants a change in an accounting estimate or the method for making an accounting estimate, are matters of judgment.

Responses to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatements (Ref: Para. 13)

- A59. The auditor's decision as to which response, individually or in combination, in paragraph 13 to undertake to respond to the risks of material misstatement may be influenced by such matters as:
- The nature of the accounting estimate, including whether it arises from routine or non routine transactions.
 - Whether the procedure(s) is expected to effectively provide the auditor with sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

- The assessed risk of material misstatement, including whether the assessed risk is a significant risk.
- A60. For example, when evaluating the reasonableness of the allowance for doubtful accounts, an effective procedure for the auditor may be to review subsequent cash collections in combination with other procedures. Where the estimation uncertainty associated with an accounting estimate is high, for example, an accounting estimate based on a proprietary model for which there are unobservable inputs, it may be that a combination of the responses to assessed risks in paragraph 13 is necessary in order to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.
- A61. Additional guidance explaining the circumstances in which each of the responses may be appropriate is provided in paragraphs A62-A95.

Events Occurring Up to the Date of the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 13(a))

- A62. Determining whether events occurring up to the date of the auditor’s report provide audit evidence regarding the accounting estimate may be an appropriate response when such events are expected to:
- Occur; and
 - Provide audit evidence that confirms or contradicts the accounting estimate.
- A63. Events occurring up to the date of the auditor’s report may sometimes provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence about an accounting estimate. For example, sale of the complete inventory of a superseded product shortly after the period end may provide audit evidence relating to the estimate of its net realizable value. In such cases, there may be no need to perform additional audit procedures on the accounting estimate, provided that sufficient appropriate evidence about the events is obtained.
- A64. For some accounting estimates, events occurring up to the date of the auditor’s report are unlikely to provide audit evidence regarding the accounting estimate. For example, the conditions or events relating to some accounting estimates develop only over an extended period. Also, because of the measurement objective of fair value accounting estimates, information after the period-end may not reflect the events or conditions existing at the balance sheet date and therefore may not be relevant to the measurement of the fair value accounting estimate. Paragraph 13 identifies other responses to the risks of material misstatement that the auditor may undertake.
- A65. In some cases, events that contradict the accounting estimate may indicate that management has ineffective processes for making accounting estimates, or that there is management bias in the making of accounting estimates.
- A66. Even though the auditor may decide not to undertake this approach in respect of specific accounting estimates, the auditor is required to comply with ISA (UK and Ireland) 560.¹⁶ The auditor is required to perform audit procedures designed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that all events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor’s report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements have been identified¹⁷ and appropriately reflected in the financial statements.¹⁸ Because the measurement of many accounting estimates, other

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events.”

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, paragraph 6.

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, paragraph 8.

than fair value accounting estimates, usually depends on the outcome of future conditions, transactions or events, the auditor’s work under ISA (UK and Ireland) 560 is particularly relevant.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

A67. When there is a longer period between the balance sheet date and the date of the auditor’s report, the auditor’s review of events in this period may be an effective response for accounting estimates other than fair value accounting estimates. This may particularly be the case in some smaller owner-managed entities, especially when management does not have formalized control procedures over accounting estimates.

Testing How Management Made the Accounting Estimate (Ref: Para. 13(b))

A68. Testing how management made the accounting estimate and the data on which it is based may be an appropriate response when the accounting estimate is a fair value accounting estimate developed on a model that uses observable and unobservable inputs. It may also be appropriate when, for example:

- The accounting estimate is derived from the routine processing of data by the entity’s accounting system.
- The auditor’s review of similar accounting estimates made in the prior period financial statements suggests that management’s current period process is likely to be effective.
- The accounting estimate is based on a large population of items of a similar nature that individually are not significant.

A69. Testing how management made the accounting estimate may involve, for example:

- Testing the extent to which data on which the accounting estimate is based is accurate, complete and relevant, and whether the accounting estimate has been properly determined using such data and management assumptions.
- Considering the source, relevance and reliability of external data or information, including that received from external experts engaged by management to assist in making an accounting estimate.
- Recalculating the accounting estimate, and reviewing information about an accounting estimate for internal consistency.
- Considering management’s review and approval processes.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

A70. In smaller entities, the process for making accounting estimates is likely to be less structured than in larger entities. Smaller entities with active management involvement may not have extensive descriptions of accounting procedures, sophisticated accounting records, or written policies. Even if the entity has no formal established process, it does not mean that management is not able to provide a basis upon which the auditor can test the accounting estimate.

Evaluating the method of measurement (Ref: Para. 13(b)(i))

A71. When the applicable financial reporting framework does not prescribe the method of measurement, evaluating whether the method used, including any applicable model, is appropriate in the circumstances is a matter of professional judgment.

- A72. For this purpose, matters that the auditor may consider include, for example, whether:
- Management’s rationale for the method selected is reasonable.
 - Management has sufficiently evaluated and appropriately applied the criteria, if any, provided in the applicable financial reporting framework to support the selected method.
 - The method is appropriate in the circumstances given the nature of the asset or liability being estimated and the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework relevant to accounting estimates.
 - The method is appropriate in relation to the business, industry and environment in which the entity operates.
- A73. In some cases, management may have determined that different methods result in a range of significantly different estimates. In such cases, obtaining an understanding of how the entity has investigated the reasons for these differences may assist the auditor in evaluating the appropriateness of the method selected.

Evaluating the use of models

- A74. In some cases, particularly when making fair value accounting estimates, management may use a model. Whether the model used is appropriate in the circumstances may depend on a number of factors, such as the nature of the entity and its environment, including the industry in which it operates, and the specific asset or liability being measured.
- A75. The extent to which the following considerations are relevant depends on the circumstances, including whether the model is one that is commercially available for use in a particular sector or industry, or a proprietary model. In some cases, an entity may use an expert to develop and test a model.
- A76. Depending on the circumstances, matters that the auditor may also consider in testing the model include, for example, whether:
- The model is validated prior to usage, with periodic reviews to ensure it is still suitable for its intended use. The entity’s validation process may include evaluation of:
 - The model’s theoretical soundness and mathematical integrity, including the appropriateness of model parameters.
 - The consistency and completeness of the model’s inputs with market practices.
 - The model’s output as compared to actual transactions.
 - Appropriate change control policies and procedures exist.
 - The model is periodically calibrated and tested for validity, particularly when inputs are subjective.
 - Adjustments are made to the output of the model, including in the case of fair value accounting estimates, whether such adjustments reflect the assumptions marketplace participants would use in similar circumstances.

- The model is adequately documented, including the model's intended applications and limitations and its key parameters, required inputs, and results of any validation analysis performed.

Assumptions used by management (Ref: Para. 13(b)(ii))

A77. The auditor's evaluation of the assumptions used by management is based only on information available to the auditor at the time of the audit. Audit procedures dealing with management assumptions are performed in the context of the audit of the entity's financial statements, and not for the purpose of providing an opinion on assumptions themselves.

A78. Matters that the auditor may consider in evaluating the reasonableness of the assumptions used by management include, for example:

- Whether individual assumptions appear reasonable.
- Whether the assumptions are interdependent and internally consistent.
- Whether the assumptions appear reasonable when considered collectively or in conjunction with other assumptions, either for that accounting estimate or for other accounting estimates.
- In the case of fair value accounting estimates, whether the assumptions appropriately reflect observable marketplace assumptions.

A79. The assumptions on which accounting estimates are based may reflect what management expects will be the outcome of specific objectives and strategies. In such cases, the auditor may perform audit procedures to evaluate the reasonableness of such assumptions by considering, for example, whether the assumptions are consistent with:

- The general economic environment and the entity's economic circumstances.
- The plans of the entity.
- Assumptions made in prior periods, if relevant.
- Experience of, or previous conditions experienced by, the entity, to the extent this historical information may be considered representative of future conditions or events.
- Other assumptions used by management relating to the financial statements.

A80. The reasonableness of the assumptions used may depend on management's intent and ability to carry out certain courses of action. Management often documents plans and intentions relevant to specific assets or liabilities and the financial reporting framework may require it to do so. Although the extent of audit evidence to be obtained about management's intent and ability is a matter of professional judgment, the auditor's procedures may include the following:

- Review of management's history of carrying out its stated intentions.
- Review of written plans and other documentation, including, where applicable, formally approved budgets, authorizations or minutes.
- Inquiry of management about its reasons for a particular course of action.
- Review of events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and up to the date of the auditor's report.

- Evaluation of the entity’s ability to carry out a particular course of action given the entity’s economic circumstances, including the implications of its existing commitments.

Certain financial reporting frameworks, however, may not permit management’s intentions or plans to be taken into account when making an accounting estimate. This is often the case for fair value accounting estimates because their measurement objective requires that assumptions reflect those used by marketplace participants.

A81. Matters that the auditor may consider in evaluating the reasonableness of assumptions used by management underlying fair value accounting estimates, in addition to those discussed above where applicable, may include, for example:

- Where relevant, whether and, if so, how management has incorporated market-specific inputs into the development of assumptions.
- Whether the assumptions are consistent with observable market conditions, and the characteristics of the asset or liability being measured at fair value.
- Whether the sources of market-participant assumptions are relevant and reliable, and how management has selected the assumptions to use when a number of different market participant assumptions exist.
- Where appropriate, whether and, if so, how management considered assumptions used in, or information about, comparable transactions, assets or liabilities.

A82. Further, fair value accounting estimates may comprise observable inputs as well as unobservable inputs. Where fair value accounting estimates are based on unobservable inputs, matters that the auditor may consider include, for example, how management supports the following:

- The identification of the characteristics of marketplace participants relevant to the accounting estimate.
- Modifications it has made to its own assumptions to reflect its view of assumptions marketplace participants would use.
- Whether it has incorporated the best information available in the circumstances.
- Where applicable, how its assumptions take account of comparable transactions, assets or liabilities.

If there are unobservable inputs, it is more likely that the auditor’s evaluation of the assumptions will need to be combined with other responses to assessed risks in paragraph 13 in order to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. In such cases, it may be necessary for the auditor to perform other audit procedures, for example, examining documentation supporting the review and approval of the accounting estimate by appropriate levels of management and, where appropriate, by those charged with governance.

A83. In evaluating the reasonableness of the assumptions supporting an accounting estimate, the auditor may identify one or more significant assumptions. If so, it may indicate that the accounting estimate has high estimation uncertainty and may, therefore, give rise to a significant risk. Additional responses to significant risks are described in paragraphs A102-A115.

Testing the Operating Effectiveness of Controls (Ref: Para. 13(c))

A84. Testing the operating effectiveness of the controls over how management made the accounting estimate may be an appropriate response when management's process has been well-designed, implemented and maintained, for example:

- Controls exist for the review and approval of the accounting estimates by appropriate levels of management and, where appropriate, by those charged with governance.
- The accounting estimate is derived from the routine processing of data by the entity's accounting system.

A85. Testing the operating effectiveness of the controls is required when:

- (a) The auditor's assessment of risks of material misstatement at the assertion level includes an expectation that controls over the process are operating effectively; or
- (b) Substantive procedures alone do not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence at the assertion level.¹⁹

Considerations specific to smaller entities

A86. Controls over the process to make an accounting estimate may exist in smaller entities, but the formality with which they operate varies. Further, smaller entities may determine that certain types of controls are not necessary because of active management involvement in the financial reporting process. In the case of very small entities, however, there may not be many controls that the auditor can identify. For this reason, the auditor's response to the assessed risks is likely to be substantive in nature, with the auditor performing one or more of the other responses in paragraph 13.

Developing a Point Estimate or Range (Ref: Para. 13(d))

A87. Developing a point estimate or a range to evaluate management's point estimate may be an appropriate response where, for example:

- An accounting estimate is not derived from the routine processing of data by the accounting system.
- The auditor's review of similar accounting estimates made in the prior period financial statements suggests that management's current period process is unlikely to be effective.
- The entity's controls within and over management's processes for determining accounting estimates are not well designed or properly implemented.
- Events or transactions between the period end and the date of the auditor's report contradict management's point estimate.
- There are alternative sources of relevant data available to the auditor which can be used in making a point estimate or a range.

A88. Even where the entity's controls are well designed and properly implemented, developing a point estimate or a range may be an effective or efficient response to the assessed risks. In other situations, the auditor may consider this approach as part of determining whether further procedures are necessary and, if so, their nature and extent.

¹⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph 8.

- A89. The approach taken by the auditor in developing either a point estimate or a range may vary based on what is considered most effective in the circumstances. For example, the auditor may initially develop a preliminary point estimate, and then assess its sensitivity to changes in assumptions to ascertain a range with which to evaluate management's point estimate. Alternatively, the auditor may begin by developing a range for purposes of determining, where possible, a point estimate.
- A90. The ability of the auditor to make a point estimate, as opposed to a range, depends on several factors, including the model used, the nature and extent of data available and the estimation uncertainty involved with the accounting estimate. Further, the decision to develop a point estimate or range may be influenced by the applicable financial reporting framework, which may prescribe the point estimate that is to be used after consideration of the alternative outcomes and assumptions, or prescribe a specific measurement method (for example, the use of a discounted probability-weighted expected value).
- A91. The auditor may develop a point estimate or a range in a number of ways, for example, by:
- Using a model, for example, one that is commercially available for use in a particular sector or industry, or a proprietary or auditor-developed model.
 - Further developing management's consideration of alternative assumptions or outcomes, for example, by introducing a different set of assumptions.
 - Employing or engaging a person with specialized expertise to develop or execute the model, or to provide relevant assumptions.
 - Making reference to other comparable conditions, transactions or events, or, where relevant, markets for comparable assets or liabilities.

Understanding Management's Assumptions or Method (Ref: Para. 13(d)(i))

- A92. When the auditor makes a point estimate or a range and uses assumptions or a method different from those used by management, paragraph 13(d)(i) requires the auditor to obtain a sufficient understanding of the assumptions or method used by management in making the accounting estimate. This understanding provides the auditor with information that may be relevant to the auditor's development of an appropriate point estimate or range. Further, it assists the auditor to understand and evaluate any significant differences from management's point estimate. For example, a difference may arise because the auditor used different, but equally valid, assumptions as compared with those used by management. This may reveal that the accounting estimate is highly sensitive to certain assumptions and therefore subject to high estimation uncertainty, indicating that the accounting estimate may be a significant risk. Alternatively, a difference may arise as a result of a factual error made by management. Depending on the circumstances, the auditor may find it helpful in drawing conclusions to discuss with management the basis for the assumptions used and their validity, and the difference, if any, in the approach taken to making the accounting estimate.

Narrowing a Range (Ref: Para. 13(d)(ii))

- A93. When the auditor concludes that it is appropriate to use a range to evaluate the reasonableness of management's point estimate (the auditor's range), paragraph 13(d)(ii) requires that range to encompass all "reasonable outcomes" rather than all possible outcomes. The range cannot be one that comprises all possible outcomes if it

is to be useful, as such a range would be too wide to be effective for purposes of the audit. The auditor's range is useful and effective when it is sufficiently narrow to enable the auditor to conclude whether the accounting estimate is misstated.

- A94. Ordinarily, a range that has been narrowed to be equal to or less than performance materiality is adequate for the purposes of evaluating the reasonableness of management's point estimate. However, particularly in certain industries, it may not be possible to narrow the range to below such an amount. This does not necessarily preclude recognition of the accounting estimate. It may indicate, however, that the estimation uncertainty associated with the accounting estimate is such that it gives rise to a significant risk. Additional responses to significant risks are described in paragraphs A102-A115.
- A95. Narrowing the range to a position where all outcomes within the range are considered reasonable may be achieved by:
- (a) Eliminating from the range those outcomes at the extremities of the range judged by the auditor to be unlikely to occur; and
 - (b) Continuing to narrow the range, based on audit evidence available, until the auditor concludes that all outcomes within the range are considered reasonable. In some rare cases, the auditor may be able to narrow the range until the audit evidence indicates a point estimate.

Considering whether Specialized Skills or Knowledge Are Required (Ref: Para. 14)

- A96. In planning the audit, the auditor is required to ascertain the nature, timing and extent of resources necessary to perform the audit engagement.²⁰ This may include, as necessary, the involvement of those with specialized skills or knowledge. In addition, ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) requires the engagement partner to be satisfied that the engagement team, and any auditor's external experts who are not part of the engagement team, collectively have the appropriate competence and capabilities to perform the audit engagement.²¹ During the course of the audit of accounting estimates the auditor may identify, in light of the experience of the auditor and the circumstances of the engagement, the need for specialized skills or knowledge to be applied in relation to one or more aspects of the accounting estimates.
- A97. Matters that may affect the auditor's consideration of whether specialized skills or knowledge is required include, for example:
- The nature of the underlying asset, liability or component of equity in a particular business or industry (for example, mineral deposits, agricultural assets, complex financial instruments).
 - A high degree of estimation uncertainty.
 - Complex calculations or specialized models are involved, for example, when estimating fair values when there is no observable market.
 - The complexity of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework relevant to accounting estimates, including whether there are areas

²⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised), "Planning an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 8(e).

²¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), "Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 14.

known to be subject to differing interpretation or practice is inconsistent or developing.

- The procedures the auditor intends to undertake in responding to assessed risks.
- A98. For the majority of accounting estimates, even when there is estimation uncertainty, it is unlikely that specialized skills or knowledge will be required. For example, it is unlikely that specialized skills or knowledge would be necessary for an auditor to evaluate an allowance for doubtful accounts.
- A99. However, the auditor may not possess the specialized skills or knowledge required when the matter involved is in a field other than accounting or auditing and may need to obtain it from an auditor's expert. ISA (UK and Ireland) 620²² establishes requirements and provides guidance in determining the need to employ or engage an auditor's expert and the auditor's responsibilities when using the work of an auditor's expert.
- A100. Further, in some cases, the auditor may conclude that it is necessary to obtain specialized skills or knowledge related to specific areas of accounting or auditing. Individuals with such skills or knowledge may be employed by the auditor's firm or engaged from an external organization outside of the auditor's firm. Where such individuals perform audit procedures on the engagement, they are part of the engagement team and accordingly, they are subject to the requirements in ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised).
- A101. Depending on the auditor's understanding and experience of working with the auditor's expert or those other individuals with specialized skills or knowledge, the auditor may consider it appropriate to discuss matters such as the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework with the individuals involved to establish that their work is relevant for audit purposes.

Further Substantive Procedures to Respond to Significant Risks (Ref: Para. 15)

- A102. In auditing accounting estimates that give rise to significant risks, the auditor's further substantive procedures are focused on the evaluation of:
- (a) How management has assessed the effect of estimation uncertainty on the accounting estimate, and the effect such uncertainty may have on the appropriateness of the recognition of the accounting estimate in the financial statements; and
 - (b) The adequacy of related disclosures.

Estimation Uncertainty

Management's Consideration of Estimation Uncertainty (Ref: Para. 15(a))

- A103. Management may evaluate alternative assumptions or outcomes of the accounting estimates through a number of methods, depending on the circumstances. One possible method used by management is to undertake a sensitivity analysis. This might involve determining how the monetary amount of an accounting estimate varies with different assumptions. Even for accounting estimates measured at fair value there can be variation because different market participants will use different assumptions. A sensitivity analysis could lead to the development of a number of outcome scenarios,

²² ISA (UK and Ireland) 620 (Revised), "Using the Work of an Auditor's Expert."

sometimes characterized as a range of outcomes by management, such as “pessimistic” and “optimistic” scenarios.

- A104. A sensitivity analysis may demonstrate that an accounting estimate is not sensitive to changes in particular assumptions. Alternatively, it may demonstrate that the accounting estimate is sensitive to one or more assumptions that then become the focus of the auditor’s attention.
- A105. This is not intended to suggest that one particular method of addressing estimation uncertainty (such as sensitivity analysis) is more suitable than another, or that management’s consideration of alternative assumptions or outcomes needs to be conducted through a detailed process supported by extensive documentation. Rather, it is whether management has assessed how estimation uncertainty may affect the accounting estimate that is important, not the specific manner in which it is done. Accordingly, where management has not considered alternative assumptions or outcomes, it may be necessary for the auditor to discuss with management, and request support for, how it has addressed the effects of estimation uncertainty on the accounting estimate.

Considerations specific to smaller entities

- A106. Smaller entities may use simple means to assess the estimation uncertainty. In addition to the auditor’s review of available documentation, the auditor may obtain other audit evidence of management consideration of alternative assumptions or outcomes by inquiry of management. In addition, management may not have the expertise to consider alternative outcomes or otherwise address the estimation uncertainty of the accounting estimate. In such cases, the auditor may explain to management the process or the different methods available for doing so, and the documentation thereof. This would not, however, change the responsibilities of management^a for the preparation of the financial statements.

Significant Assumptions (Ref: Para. 15(b))

- A107. An assumption used in making an accounting estimate may be deemed to be significant if a reasonable variation in the assumption would materially affect the measurement of the accounting estimate.
- A108. Support for significant assumptions derived from management’s knowledge may be obtained from management’s continuing processes of strategic analysis and risk management. Even without formal established processes, such as may be the case in smaller entities, the auditor may be able to evaluate the assumptions through inquiries of and discussions with management, along with other audit procedures in order to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.
- A109. The auditor’s considerations in evaluating assumptions made by management are described in paragraphs A77-A83.

Management Intent and Ability (Ref: Para. 15(c))

- A110. The auditor’s considerations in relation to assumptions made by management and management’s intent and ability are described in paragraphs A13 and A80.

Development of a Range (Ref: Para. 16)

- A111. In preparing the financial statements, management may be satisfied that it has adequately addressed the effects of estimation uncertainty on the accounting estimates

that give rise to significant risks. In some circumstances, however, the auditor may view the efforts of management as inadequate. This may be the case, for example, where, in the auditor’s judgment:

- Sufficient appropriate audit evidence could not be obtained through the auditor’s evaluation of how management has addressed the effects of estimation uncertainty.
- It is necessary to explore further the degree of estimation uncertainty associated with an accounting estimate, for example, where the auditor is aware of wide variation in outcomes for similar accounting estimates in similar circumstances.
- It is unlikely that other audit evidence can be obtained, for example, through the review of events occurring up to the date of the auditor’s report.
- Indicators of management bias in the making of accounting estimates may exist.

A112. The auditor’s considerations in determining a range for this purpose are described in paragraphs A87-A95.

Recognition and Measurement Criteria

Recognition of the Accounting Estimates in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 17(a))

A113. Where management has recognized an accounting estimate in the financial statements, the focus of the auditor’s evaluation is on whether the measurement of the accounting estimate is sufficiently reliable to meet the recognition criteria of the applicable financial reporting framework.

A114. With respect to accounting estimates that have not been recognized, the focus of the auditor’s evaluation is on whether the recognition criteria of the applicable financial reporting framework have in fact been met. Even where an accounting estimate has not been recognized, and the auditor concludes that this treatment is appropriate, there may be a need for disclosure of the circumstances in the notes to the financial statements. ~~Where applicable, the auditor may also determine that an accounting estimate that has been identified as having a high estimation uncertainty is a key audit matter to be communicated in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701,²³ or may consider it necessary to include by adding an Emphasis of Matter paragraph into the auditor’s report- (see ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised)²⁴. If the matter is determined to be a key audit matter, ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised) prohibits the auditor from including an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report establishes requirements and provides guidance concerning such paragraphs.²⁵ [IAASB/AR]~~

Measurement Basis for the Accounting Estimates (Ref: Para. 17(b))

A115. With respect to fair value accounting estimates, some financial reporting frameworks presume that fair value can be measured reliably as a prerequisite to either requiring or permitting fair value measurements and disclosures. In some cases, this presumption may be overcome when, for example, there is no appropriate method or basis for measurement. In such cases, the focus of the auditor’s evaluation is on whether

²³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report”

²⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

²⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), paragraph 8(b)

management’s basis for overcoming the presumption relating to the use of fair value set forth under the applicable financial reporting framework is appropriate.

Evaluating the Reasonableness of the Accounting Estimates, and Determining Misstatements (Ref: Para. 18)

- A116. Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor may conclude that the evidence points to an accounting estimate that differs from management’s point estimate. Where the audit evidence supports a point estimate, the difference between the auditor’s point estimate and management’s point estimate constitutes a misstatement. Where the auditor has concluded that using the auditor’s range provides sufficient appropriate audit evidence, a management point estimate that lies outside the auditor’s range would not be supported by audit evidence. In such cases, the misstatement is no less than the difference between management’s point estimate and the nearest point of the auditor’s range.
- A117. Where management has changed an accounting estimate, or the method in making it, from the prior period based on a subjective assessment that there has been a change in circumstances, the auditor may conclude based on the audit evidence that the accounting estimate is misstated as a result of an arbitrary change by management, or may regard it as an indicator of possible management bias (see paragraphs A124-A125).
- A118. ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised)²⁶ provides guidance on distinguishing misstatements for purposes of the auditor’s evaluation of the effect of uncorrected misstatements on the financial statements. In relation to accounting estimates, a misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error, may arise as a result of:
- Misstatements about which there is no doubt (factual misstatements).
 - Differences arising from management’s judgments concerning accounting estimates that the auditor considers unreasonable, or the selection or application of accounting policies that the auditor considers inappropriate (judgmental misstatements).
 - The auditor’s best estimate of misstatements in populations, involving the projection of misstatements identified in audit samples to the entire populations from which the samples were drawn (projected misstatements).

In some cases involving accounting estimates, a misstatement could arise as a result of a combination of these circumstances, making separate identification difficult or impossible.

- A119. Evaluating the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures included in the notes to the financial statements, whether required by the applicable financial reporting framework or disclosed voluntarily, involves essentially the same types of considerations applied when auditing an accounting estimate recognized in the financial statements.

Disclosures Related to Accounting Estimates

Disclosures in Accordance with the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 19)

- A120. The presentation of financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework includes adequate disclosure of material matters. The applicable

²⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit.”

financial reporting framework may permit, or prescribe, disclosures related to accounting estimates, and some entities may disclose voluntarily additional information in the notes to the financial statements. These disclosures may include, for example:

- The assumptions used.
- The method of estimation used, including any applicable model.
- The basis for the selection of the method of estimation.
- The effect of any changes to the method of estimation from the prior period.
- The sources and implications of estimation uncertainty.

Such disclosures are relevant to users in understanding the accounting estimates recognized or disclosed in the financial statements, and sufficient appropriate audit evidence needs to be obtained about whether the disclosures are in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.

A121. In some cases, the applicable financial reporting framework may require specific disclosures regarding uncertainties. For example, some financial reporting frameworks prescribe:

- The disclosure of key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities. Such requirements may be described using terms such as “Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty” or “Critical Accounting Estimates.”
- The disclosure of the range of possible outcomes, and the assumptions used in determining the range.
- The disclosure of information regarding the significance of fair value accounting estimates to the entity’s financial position and performance.
- Qualitative disclosures such as the exposures to risk and how they arise, the entity’s objectives, policies and procedures for managing the risk and the methods used to measure the risk and any changes from the previous period of these qualitative concepts.
- Quantitative disclosures such as the extent to which the entity is exposed to risk, based on information provided internally to the entity’s key management personnel, including credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk.

Disclosures of Estimation Uncertainty for Accounting Estimates that Give Rise to Significant Risks (Ref: Para. 20)

A122. In relation to accounting estimates having significant risk, even where the disclosures are in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, the auditor may conclude that the disclosure of estimation uncertainty is inadequate in light of the circumstances and facts involved. The auditor’s evaluation of the adequacy of disclosure of estimation uncertainty increases in importance the greater the range of possible outcomes of the accounting estimate is in relation to materiality (see related discussion in paragraph A94).

A123. In some cases, the auditor may consider it appropriate to encourage management to describe, in the notes to the financial statements, the circumstances relating to the

estimation uncertainty. ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised)²⁷ provides guidance on the implications for the auditor’s opinion when the auditor believes that management’s disclosure of estimation uncertainty in the financial statements is inadequate or misleading.

Indicators of Possible Management Bias (Ref: Para. 21)

A124. During the audit, the auditor may become aware of judgments and decisions made by management which give rise to indicators of possible management bias. Such indicators may affect the auditor’s conclusion as to whether the auditor’s risk assessment and related responses remain appropriate, and the auditor may need to consider the implications for the rest of the audit. Further, they may affect the auditor’s evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, as discussed in ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised).²⁸

A125. Examples of indicators of possible management bias with respect to accounting estimates include:

- Changes in an accounting estimate, or the method for making it, where management has made a subjective assessment that there has been a change in circumstances.
- Use of an entity’s own assumptions for fair value accounting estimates when they are inconsistent with observable marketplace assumptions.
- Selection or construction of significant assumptions that yield a point estimate favorable for management objectives.
- Selection of a point estimate that may indicate a pattern of optimism or pessimism.

Written Representations (Ref: Para. 22)

A126. ISA (UK and Ireland) 580²⁹ discusses the use of written representations. Depending on the nature, materiality and extent of estimation uncertainty, written representations about accounting estimates recognized or disclosed in the financial statements may include representations:

- About the appropriateness of the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, used by management in determining accounting estimates in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, and the consistency in application of the processes.
- That the assumptions appropriately reflect management’s intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, where relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures.

²⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

²⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements.”

~~The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraph 8(b) of ISA (UK and Ireland) requires the auditor’s evaluation of whether uncorrected misstatements are material. This evaluation is required to include consideration of possible indicators of management bias.~~

²⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, “Written Representations.”

- That disclosures related to accounting estimates are complete and appropriate under the applicable financial reporting framework.
- That no subsequent event requires adjustment to the accounting estimates and disclosures included in the financial statements.

A127. For those accounting estimates not recognized or disclosed in the financial statements, written representations may also include representations about:

- The appropriateness of the basis used by management for determining that the recognition or disclosure criteria of the applicable financial reporting framework have not been met (see paragraph A114).
- The appropriateness of the basis used by management to overcome the presumption relating to the use of fair value set forth under the entity's applicable financial reporting framework, for those accounting estimates not measured or disclosed at fair value (see paragraph A115).

Documentation (Ref: Para. 23)

A128. Documentation of indicators of possible management bias identified during the audit assists the auditor in concluding whether the auditor's risk assessment and related responses remain appropriate, and in evaluating whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. See paragraph A125 for examples of indicators of possible management bias.

Appendix

(Ref: Para. A1)

Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures under Different Financial Reporting Frameworks

The purpose of this appendix is only to provide a general discussion of fair value measurements and disclosures under different financial reporting frameworks, for background and context.

1. Different financial reporting frameworks require or permit a variety of fair value measurements and disclosures in financial statements. They also vary in the level of guidance that they provide on the basis for measuring assets and liabilities or the related disclosures. Some financial reporting frameworks give prescriptive guidance, others give general guidance, and some give no guidance at all. In addition, certain industry-specific measurement and disclosure practices for fair values also exist.
2. Definitions of fair value may differ among financial reporting frameworks, or for different assets, liabilities or disclosures within a particular framework. For example, International Accounting Standard (IAS) 39³⁰ defines fair value as “the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm’s length transaction.” The concept of fair value ordinarily assumes a current transaction, rather than settlement at some past or future date. Accordingly, the process of measuring fair value would be a search for the estimated price at which that transaction would occur. Additionally, different financial reporting frameworks may use such terms as “entity-specific value,” “value in use,” or similar terms, but may still fall within the concept of fair value in this ISA (UK and Ireland).
3. Financial reporting frameworks may treat changes in fair value measurements that occur over time in different ways. For example, a particular financial reporting framework may require that changes in fair value measurements of certain assets or liabilities be reflected directly in equity, while such changes might be reflected in income under another framework. In some frameworks, the determination of whether to use fair value accounting or how it is applied is influenced by management’s intent to carry out certain courses of action with respect to the specific asset or liability.
4. Different financial reporting frameworks may require certain specific fair value measurements and disclosures in financial statements and prescribe or permit them in varying degrees. The financial reporting frameworks may:
 - Prescribe measurement, presentation and disclosure requirements for certain information included in the financial statements or for information disclosed in notes to financial statements or presented as supplementary information;
 - Permit certain measurements using fair values at the option of an entity or only when certain criteria have been met;
 - Prescribe a specific method for determining fair value, for example, through the use of an independent appraisal or specified ways of using discounted cash flows;
 - Permit a choice of method for determining fair value from among several alternative methods (the criteria for selection may or may not be provided by the financial reporting framework); or

³⁰ IAS 39, “Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.”

- Provide no guidance on the fair value measurements or disclosures of fair value other than their use being evident through custom or practice, for example, an industry practice.
5. Some financial reporting frameworks presume that fair value can be measured reliably for assets or liabilities as a prerequisite to either requiring or permitting fair value measurements or disclosures. In some cases, this presumption may be overcome when an asset or liability does not have a quoted market price in an active market and for which other methods of reasonably estimating fair value are clearly inappropriate or unworkable. Some financial reporting frameworks may specify a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes inputs for use in arriving at fair values ranging from those that involve clearly “observable inputs” based on quoted prices and active markets and those “unobservable inputs” that involve an entity’s own judgments about assumptions that marketplace participants would use.
 6. Some financial reporting frameworks require certain specified adjustments or modifications to valuation information, or other considerations unique to a particular asset or liability. For example, accounting for investment properties may require adjustments to be made to an appraised market value, such as adjustments for estimated closing costs on sale, adjustments related to the property’s condition and location, and other matters. Similarly, if the market for a particular asset is not an active market, published price quotations may have to be adjusted or modified to arrive at a more suitable measure of fair value. For example, quoted market prices may not be indicative of fair value if there is infrequent activity in the market, the market is not well established, or small volumes of units are traded relative to the aggregate number of trading units in existence. Accordingly, such market prices may have to be adjusted or modified. Alternative sources of market information may be needed to make such adjustments or modifications. Further, in some cases, collateral assigned (for example, when collateral is assigned for certain types of investment in debt) may need to be considered in determining the fair value or possible impairment of an asset or liability.
 7. In most financial reporting frameworks, underlying the concept of fair value measurements is a presumption that the entity is a going concern without any intention or need to liquidate, curtail materially the scale of its operations, or undertake a transaction on adverse terms. Therefore, in this case, fair value would not be the amount that an entity would receive or pay in a forced transaction, involuntary liquidation, or distress sale. On the other hand, general economic conditions or economic conditions specific to certain industries may cause illiquidity in the marketplace and require fair values to be predicated upon depressed prices, potentially significantly depressed prices. An entity, however, may need to take its current economic or operating situation into account in determining the fair values of its assets and liabilities if prescribed or permitted to do so by its financial reporting framework and such framework may or may not specify how that is done. For example, management’s plan to dispose of an asset on an accelerated basis to meet specific business objectives may be relevant to the determination of the fair value of that asset.

Prevalence of Fair Value Measurements

8. Measurements and disclosures based on fair value are becoming increasingly prevalent in financial reporting frameworks. Fair values may occur in, and affect the determination of, financial statements in a number of ways, including the measurement at fair value of the following:

- Specific assets or liabilities, such as marketable securities or liabilities to settle an obligation under a financial instrument, routinely or periodically “marked-to-market.”
- Specific components of equity, for example when accounting for the recognition, measurement and presentation of certain financial instruments with equity features, such as a bond convertible by the holder into common shares of the issuer.
- Specific assets or liabilities acquired in a business combination. For example, the initial determination of goodwill arising on the purchase of an entity in a business combination usually is based on the fair value measurement of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired and the fair value of the consideration given.
- Specific assets or liabilities adjusted to fair value on a one-time basis. Some financial reporting frameworks may require the use of a fair value measurement to quantify an adjustment to an asset or a group of assets as part of an asset impairment determination, for example, a test of impairment of goodwill acquired in a business combination based on the fair value of a defined operating entity or reporting unit, the value of which is then allocated among the entity’s or unit’s group of assets and liabilities in order to derive an implied goodwill for comparison to the recorded goodwill.
- Aggregations of assets and liabilities. In some circumstances, the measurement of a class or group of assets or liabilities calls for an aggregation of fair values of some of the individual assets or liabilities in such class or group. For example, under an entity’s applicable financial reporting framework, the measurement of a diversified loan portfolio might be determined based on the fair value of some categories of loans comprising the portfolio.
- Information disclosed in notes to financial statements or presented as supplementary information, but not recognized in the financial statements.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 560**

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 560, “Subsequent Events” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised) , “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”
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Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to subsequent events in an audit of financial statements. It does not deal with matters relating to the auditor's responsibilities for other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report, which are addressed in ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised).¹ However, such other information may bring to light a subsequent event that is within the scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland). (Ref: Para. A1) [IAASB/OI]

Subsequent Events

2. Financial statements may be affected by certain events that occur after the date of the financial statements. Many financial reporting frameworks specifically refer to such events.² Such financial reporting frameworks ordinarily identify two types of events:
 - (a) Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the date of the financial statements; and
 - (b) Those that provide evidence of conditions that arose after the date of the financial statements.

ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) explains that the date of the auditor's report informs the reader that the auditor has considered the effect of events and transactions of which the auditor becomes aware and that occurred up to that date.³

Effective Date

3. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements are appropriately reflected in those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information"

² For example, International Accounting Standard (IAS) 10, "Events After the Reporting Period" deals with the treatment in financial statements of events, both favorable and unfavorable, that occur between the date of the financial statements (referred to as the "end of the reporting period" in the IAS) and the date when the financial statements are authorized for issue.

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements," paragraph A6138.

~~The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, "The Auditor's Report on Financial Statements." Paragraph A19 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 explains that the date of the auditor's report informs the reader that the auditor has considered the effect of events and transactions of which the auditor becomes aware and that occurred up to that date.~~

- (b) To respond appropriately to facts that become known to the auditor after the date of the auditor's report, that, had they been known to the auditor at that date, may have caused the auditor to amend the auditor's report.

Definitions

- 5. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Date of the financial statements – The date of the end of the latest period covered by the financial statements.
 - (b) Date of approval of the financial statements – The date on which all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements. (Ref: Para. A2)
 - (c) Date of the auditor's report – The date the auditor dates the report on the financial statements in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised). (Ref: Para. A3)
 - (d) Date the financial statements are issued – The date that the auditor's report and audited financial statements are made available to third parties. (Ref: Para. A4-A5)
 - (e) Subsequent events – Events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report, and facts that become known to the auditor after the date of the auditor's report.

Requirements

Events Occurring between the Date of the Financial Statements and the Date of the Auditor's Report

- 6. The auditor shall perform audit procedures designed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that all events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements have been identified. The auditor is not, however, expected to perform additional audit procedures on matters to which previously applied audit procedures have provided satisfactory conclusions. (Ref: Para. A6)
- 7. The auditor shall perform the procedures required by paragraph 6 so that they cover the period from the date of the financial statements to the date of the auditor's report, or as near as practicable thereto. The auditor shall take into account the auditor's risk assessment in determining the nature and extent of such audit procedures, which shall include the following: (Ref: Para. A7-A8)
 - (a) Obtaining an understanding of any procedures management has established to ensure that subsequent events are identified.
 - (b) Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance as to whether any subsequent events have occurred which might affect the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A9)
 - (c) Reading minutes, if any, of the meetings, of the entity's owners, management and those charged with governance, that have been held after the date of the financial statements and inquiring about matters discussed at any such meetings for which minutes are not yet available. (Ref: Para. A10)

- (d) Reading the entity's latest subsequent interim financial statements, if any.
8. If, as a result of the procedures performed as required by paragraphs 6 and 7, the auditor identifies events that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements, the auditor shall determine whether each such event is appropriately reflected in those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Written Representations

9. The auditor shall request management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, to provide a written representation in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 580⁴ that all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Facts Which Become Known to the Auditor after the Date of the Auditor's Report but before the Date the Financial Statements Are Issued

10. The auditor has no obligation to perform any audit procedures regarding the financial statements after the date of the auditor's report. However, if, after the date of the auditor's report but before the date the financial statements are issued, a fact becomes known to the auditor that, had it been known to the auditor at the date of the auditor's report, may have caused the auditor to amend the auditor's report, the auditor shall: (Ref: Para. A11)
- (a) Discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance.
 - (b) Determine whether the financial statements need amendment and, if so,
 - (c) Inquire how management intends to address the matter in the financial statements.
11. If management^{4a} amends the financial statements, the auditor shall:
- (a) Carry out the audit procedures necessary in the circumstances on the amendment.
 - (b) Unless the circumstances in paragraph 12 apply:
 - (i) Extend the audit procedures referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 to the date of the new auditor's report; and
 - (ii) Provide a new auditor's report on the amended financial statements. The new auditor's report shall not be dated earlier than the date of approval of the amended financial statements.
12. Where law, regulation or the financial reporting framework does not prohibit management^{3a} from restricting the amendment of the financial statements to the effects of the subsequent event or events causing that amendment and those responsible for approving the financial statements are not prohibited from restricting their approval to that amendment, the auditor is permitted to restrict the audit procedures on subsequent

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, "Written Representations."

^{4a} In the UK and Ireland the responsibility for amending the financial statements rests with those charged with governance.

events required in paragraph 11(b)(i) to that amendment. In such cases, the auditor shall either:

- (a) Amend the auditor's report to include an additional date restricted to that amendment that thereby indicates that the auditor's procedures on subsequent events are restricted solely to the amendment of the financial statements described in the relevant note to the financial statements; or (Ref: Para. A12)
 - (b) Provide a new or amended auditor's report that includes a statement in an Emphasis of Matter paragraph⁵ or Other Matter paragraph that conveys that the auditor's procedures on subsequent events are restricted solely to the amendment of the financial statements as described in the relevant note to the financial statements.
13. In some jurisdictions, management^{3a} may not be required by law, regulation or the financial reporting framework to issue amended financial statements and, accordingly, the auditor need not provide an amended or new auditor's report. However, if management does not amend the financial statements in circumstances where the auditor believes they need to be amended, then: (Ref: Para. A13-A14)
- (a) If the auditor's report has not yet been provided to the entity, the auditor shall modify the opinion as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised)⁶ and then provide the auditor's report; or
 - (b) If the auditor's report has already been provided to the entity, the auditor shall notify management and, unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, those charged with governance, not to issue the financial statements to third parties before the necessary amendments have been made. If the financial statements are nevertheless subsequently issued without the necessary amendments, the auditor shall take appropriate action, to seek to prevent reliance on the auditor's report. (Ref: Para: A15-A16)

Facts Which Become Known to the Auditor after the Financial Statements Have Been Issued

14. After the financial statements have been issued, the auditor has no obligation to perform any audit procedures regarding such financial statements. However, if, after the financial statements have been issued, a fact becomes known to the auditor that, had it been known to the auditor at the date of the auditor's report, may have caused the auditor to amend the auditor's report, the auditor shall:
- (a) Discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance;
 - (b) Determine whether the financial statements need amendment; and, if so,
 - (c) Inquire how management intends to address the matter in the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A16-1 – A16-3)

⁵ See ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), "Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report."

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report."

15. If management^{3a} amends the financial statements^{6a}, the auditor shall: (Ref: Para. A17)
- (a) Carry out the audit procedures necessary in the circumstances on the amendment.
 - (b) Review the steps taken by management to ensure that anyone in receipt of the previously issued financial statements together with the auditor's report thereon is informed of the situation.
 - (c) Unless the circumstances in paragraph 12 apply:
 - (i) Extend the audit procedures referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 to the date of the new auditor's report, and date the new auditor's report no earlier than the date of approval of the amended financial statements; and
 - (ii) Provide a new auditor's report on the amended financial statements.
 - (d) When the circumstances in paragraph 12 apply, amend the auditor's report, or provide a new auditor's report as required by paragraph 12.
16. The auditor shall include in the new or amended auditor's report an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter(s) paragraph referring to a note to the financial statements that more extensively discusses the reason for the amendment of the previously issued financial statements and to the earlier report provided by the auditor.
17. If management^{6b} does not take the necessary steps to ensure that anyone in receipt of the previously issued financial statements is informed of the situation and does not amend the financial statements in circumstances where the auditor believes they need to be amended, the auditor shall notify management and, unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity⁷, those charged with governance, that the auditor will seek to prevent future reliance on the auditor's report. If, despite such notification, management or those charged with governance do not take these necessary steps, the auditor shall take appropriate action to seek to prevent reliance on the auditor's report. (Ref: Para. A18 – A18-1)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland) (Ref: Para. 1)

A1. When the audited financial statements are included in other documents subsequent to the issuance of the financial statements (other than annual reports that would be within the scope of ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised)), the auditor may have additional responsibilities relating to subsequent events that the auditor may need to consider, such as legal or regulatory requirements involving the offering of securities to the public in jurisdictions in which the securities are being offered. For example, the auditor may be required to perform additional audit procedures to the date of the final offering document. These procedures may include those referred to in

^{6a} In the UK the detailed regulations governing revised financial statements and directors' reports, where the revision is voluntary, are set out in section 454 of the Companies Act 2006. There are no provisions in the Companies Acts of the Republic of Ireland for revising financial statements.

^{6b} In the UK and Ireland, those charged with governance have responsibility for taking the steps referred to in paragraph 17.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), "Communication with Those Charged with Governance," paragraph 13.

paragraphs 6 and 7 performed up to a date at or near the effective date of the final offering document, and reading the offering document to assess whether the other information in the offering document is consistent with the financial information with which the auditor is associated.⁸ [\[IAASB/OI\]](#)

Definitions

Date of Approval of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 5(b))

A2. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation identifies the individuals or bodies (for example, management or those charged with governance) that are responsible for concluding that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared, and specifies the necessary approval process. In other jurisdictions, the approval process is not prescribed in law or regulation and the entity follows its own procedures in preparing and finalizing its financial statements in view of its management and governance structures. In some jurisdictions, final approval of the financial statements by shareholders is required. In these jurisdictions, final approval by shareholders is not necessary for the auditor to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the auditor's opinion on the financial statements has been obtained. The date of approval of the financial statements for purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland) is the earlier date on which those with the recognized authority determine that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and that those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements.

Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 5(c))

A3. The auditor's report cannot be dated earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the opinion on the financial statements including evidence that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and that those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements.⁹ Consequently, the date of the auditor's report cannot be earlier than the date of approval of the financial statements as defined in paragraph 5(b). A time period may elapse due to administrative issues between the date of the auditor's report as defined in paragraph 5(c) and the date the auditor's report is provided to the entity.

⁸ See ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 ([Revised](#)), "Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing ([UK and Ireland](#))," paragraph 2.

In the UK and Ireland, standards and guidance for accountants engaged to prepare a report and/or letter for inclusion in, or in connection with, an investment circular are set out in [the FRCAPB's](#) Statements of Investment Circular Reporting Standards (SIRS).

⁹ ISA ([UK and Ireland](#)) 700 ([Revised](#)), paragraph 41. In some cases, law or regulation also identifies the point in the financial statement reporting process at which the audit is expected to be complete.

~~The APB has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, "The Auditor's Report on Financial Statements." Paragraph 24 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 establishes requirements regarding dating of the auditor's report, including that this shall not be earlier than the date the auditor has considered all necessary available evidence.~~

Date the Financial Statements Are Issued (Ref: Para. 5(d))

- A4. The date the financial statements are issued generally depends on the regulatory environment of the entity. In some circumstances, the date the financial statements are issued may be the date that they are filed with a regulatory authority. Since audited financial statements cannot be issued without an auditor's report, the date that the audited financial statements are issued must not only be at or later than the date of the auditor's report, but must also be at or later than the date the auditor's report is provided to the entity.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A5. In the case of the public sector, the date the financial statements are issued may be the date the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon are presented to the legislature or otherwise made public.

Events Occurring between the Date of the Financial Statements and the Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 6-9)

- A6. Depending on the auditor's risk assessment, the audit procedures required by paragraph 6 may include procedures, necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, involving the review or testing of accounting records or transactions occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report. The audit procedures required by paragraphs 6 and 7 are in addition to procedures that the auditor may perform for other purposes that, nevertheless, may provide evidence about subsequent events (for example, to obtain audit evidence for account balances as at the date of the financial statements, such as cut-off procedures or procedures in relation to subsequent receipts of accounts receivable).
- A7. Paragraph 7 stipulates certain audit procedures in this context that the auditor is required to perform pursuant to paragraph 6. The subsequent events procedures that the auditor performs may, however, depend on the information that is available and, in particular, the extent to which the accounting records have been prepared since the date of the financial statements. Where the accounting records are not up-to-date, and accordingly no interim financial statements (whether for internal or external purposes) have been prepared, or minutes of meetings of management or those charged with governance have not been prepared, relevant audit procedures may take the form of inspection of available books and records, including bank statements. Paragraph A8 gives examples of some of the additional matters that the auditor may consider in the course of these inquiries.
- A8. In addition to the audit procedures required by paragraph 7, the auditor may consider it necessary and appropriate to:
- Read the entity's latest available budgets, cash flow forecasts and other related management reports for periods after the date of the financial statements;
 - Inquire, or extend previous oral or written inquiries, of the entity's legal counsel concerning litigation and claims; or
 - Consider whether written representations covering particular subsequent events may be necessary to support other audit evidence and thereby obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

Inquiry (Ref. Para. 7(b))

A9. In inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether any subsequent events have occurred that might affect the financial statements, the auditor may inquire as to the current status of items that were accounted for on the basis of preliminary or inconclusive data and may make specific inquiries about the following matters:

- Whether new commitments, borrowings or guarantees have been entered into.
- Whether sales or acquisitions of assets have occurred or are planned.
- Whether there have been increases in capital or issuance of debt instruments, such as the issue of new shares or debentures, or an agreement to merge or liquidate has been made or is planned.
- Whether any assets have been appropriated by government or destroyed, for example, by fire or flood.
- Whether there have been any developments regarding contingencies.
- Whether any unusual accounting adjustments have been made or are contemplated.
- Whether any events have occurred or are likely to occur that will bring into question the appropriateness of accounting policies used in the financial statements, as would be the case, for example, if such events call into question the validity of the going concern assumption.
- Whether any events have occurred that are relevant to the measurement of estimates or provisions made in the financial statements.
- Whether any events have occurred that are relevant to the recoverability of assets.

Reading Minutes (Ref. Para. 7(c))

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A10. In the public sector, the auditor may read the official records of relevant proceedings of the legislature and inquire about matters addressed in proceedings for which official records are not yet available.

Implications of Other Information Obtained after the Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 10)

A10a. While the auditor has no obligation to perform any audit procedures regarding the financial statements after the date of the auditor's report but before the date the financial statements are issued, ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised) contains requirements and guidance with respect to other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report, which might include other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report, but before the date the financial statements are issued. [IAASB/OI]

Facts Which Become Known to the Auditor after the Date of the Auditor’s Report but before the Date the Financial Statements Are Issued

Management Responsibility towards Auditor (Ref: Para. 10)

A11. As explained in ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 *(Revised)*, the terms of the audit engagement include the agreement of management^{9a} to inform the auditor of facts that may affect the financial statements, of which management may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor’s report to the date the financial statements are issued.¹⁰

Dual Dating (Ref: Para. 12(a))

A12. When, in the circumstances described in paragraph 12(a), the auditor amends the auditor’s report to include an additional date restricted to that amendment, the date of the auditor’s report on the financial statements prior to their subsequent amendment by management^{3a} remains unchanged because this date informs the reader as to when the audit work on those financial statements was completed. However, an additional date is included in the auditor’s report to inform users that the auditor’s procedures subsequent to that date were restricted to the subsequent amendment of the financial statements. The following is an illustration of such an additional date:

“(Date of auditor’s report), except as to Note Y, which is as of (date of completion of audit procedures restricted to amendment described in Note Y).”

No Amendment of Financial Statements by Management (Ref: Para. 13)

A13. In some jurisdictions, management^{3a} may not be required by law, regulation or the financial reporting framework to issue amended financial statements. This is often the case when issuance of the financial statements for the following period is imminent, provided appropriate disclosures are made in such statements.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A14. In the public sector, the actions taken in accordance with paragraph 13 when management does not amend the financial statements may also include reporting separately to the legislature, or other relevant body in the reporting hierarchy, on the implications of the subsequent event for the financial statements and the auditor’s report.

Auditor Action to Seek to Prevent Reliance on Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 13(b))

A15. The auditor may need to fulfill additional legal obligations even when the auditor has notified management not to issue the financial statements and management has agreed to this request.

A16. Where management has issued the financial statements despite the auditor’s notification not to issue the financial statements to third parties, the auditor’s course of action to prevent reliance on the auditor’s report on the financial statements depends upon the auditor’s legal rights and obligations. Consequently, the auditor may consider it appropriate to seek legal advice.

^{9a} In the UK and Ireland the responsibility to inform the auditor of facts which may affect the financial statements usually rests with those charged with governance.

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 *(Revised)*, “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements,” paragraph A23.

Facts Which Become Known to the Auditor after the Financial Statements Have Been Issued

Implications of Other Information Received after the Financial Statements Have Been Issued (Ref: Para. 14)

A16a. The auditor's obligations regarding other information received after the date of the auditor's report are addressed in ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised). While the auditor has no obligation to perform any audit procedures regarding the financial statements after the financial statements have been issued, ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised) contains requirements and guidance with respect to other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report. [IAASB/OI]

A16-1. When issuing a new report the auditor has regard to the regulations relating to reports on revised annual financial statements and directors' reports^{56a}.

A16-2. Where the auditor becomes aware of a fact relevant to the audited financial statements which did not exist at the date of the auditor's report there are no statutory provisions for revising financial statements. The auditor discusses with those charged with governance whether they should withdraw the financial statements and where those charged with governance decide not to do so the auditor may wish to take advice on whether it might be possible to withdraw their report. In both cases, other possible courses of action include the making of a statement by those charged with governance or the auditor at the annual general meeting. In any event legal advice may be helpful.

A16-3. In the UK or the Republic of Ireland the auditor of a company has a statutory right to attend the Annual General Meeting and be heard on any part of the business of the meeting which concerns them as auditor. This right could include making a statement about facts discovered after the date of the auditor's report and where subsequent events come to the attention of the auditor, the auditor needs to consider what to do in relation to them.

No Amendment of Financial Statements by Management (Ref: Para. 15)

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A17. In some jurisdictions, entities in the public sector may be prohibited from issuing amended financial statements by law or regulation. In such circumstances, the appropriate course of action for the auditor may be to report to the appropriate statutory body.

Auditor Action to Seek to Prevent Reliance on Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 17)

A18. Where the auditor believes that management, or those charged with governance, have failed to take the necessary steps to prevent reliance on the auditor's report on financial statements previously issued by the entity despite the auditor's prior notification that the auditor will take action to seek to prevent such reliance, the auditor's course of action depends upon the auditor's legal rights and obligations. Consequently, the auditor may consider it appropriate to seek legal advice.

A18-1. Where the financial statements of companies are issued but have not yet been laid before the members or equivalent, or if those charged with governance do not intend to make an appropriate statement at the annual general meeting, then the auditor may consider making an appropriate statement at the annual general meeting. The auditor does not have a statutory right to communicate directly in writing with the members

although, if the auditor resigns or is removed or is not reappointed, the auditor has, for example, various duties under company law^{10a}.

^{10a} The auditor of a limited company in Great Britain who ceases to hold office as auditor is required to comply with the requirements of section 519 of the Companies Act 2006 regarding the statement to be made by the auditor in relation to ceasing to hold office. Equivalent requirements for the Republic of Ireland, are contained in section 185 of the Companies Act 1990.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 570 (REVISED ~~SEPTEMBER 2014~~)**

GOING CONCERN

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after ~~17 June 2014~~ October 2014)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 570 (Revised), “Going Concern” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Interpreting the term ‘going concern’ in this ISA (UK and Ireland)

The financial reporting frameworks applicable in the UK and Ireland generally require the adoption of the *going concern basis of accounting* in financial statements, except in circumstances where management intends to liquidate the entity or to cease trading, or has no realistic alternative to liquidation or cessation of operations. In effect, an entity that does not meet the threshold for that exception is described as a *going concern*. This requirement applies even when there are uncertainties about events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in the future. Such uncertainties are required to be disclosed in the financial statements when they are material.

The term *going concern assumption* is the defining assumption about the condition of an entity for which adoption of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate: that the entity is, and will be able to continue as, a going concern. Accordingly, as used in this ISA (UK and Ireland):

- A. The term ‘going concern’ applies to any entity unless its management intends to liquidate the entity or to cease trading, or has no realistic alternative to liquidation or cessation of operations; and
- B. The term ‘ability to continue as a going concern’ is equivalent to the term ‘ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting’ in the future.

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor’s responsibilities in the audit of financial statements relating to ~~management’s use of the going concern and the implications for the auditor’s report assumption in the preparation of the financial statements.~~ (Ref: Para. A1) [IAASB/AR]

Going Concern Basis of Accounting Assumption

2. Under the going concern basis of accounting assumption, the financial statements are prepared on the assumption that the entity is a going concern and will continue its operations ~~an entity is viewed as continuing in business~~ for the foreseeable future. General purpose financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis of accounting, unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Special purpose financial statements may or may not be prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework for which the going concern basis of accounting is relevant (e.g. for example, the going concern basis is not relevant for some financial statements prepared on a tax basis in particular jurisdictions). When the use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption is appropriate, assets and liabilities are recorded on the basis that the entity will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. (Ref: Para. A2+) [IAASB/AR]

Responsibility for Assessment of the Entity’s Ability to Continue as a Going Concern

3. Some financial reporting frameworks contain an explicit requirement for management^{1a} to make a specific assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, and standards regarding matters to be considered and disclosures to be made in connection with going concern. For example, International Accounting Standard (IAS) 1 requires management to make an assessment of an entity’s ability to continue as a going concern.¹ The detailed requirements regarding management’s responsibility to assess the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and related financial statement disclosures may also be set out in law or regulation.
4. In other financial reporting frameworks, there may be no explicit requirement for management to make a specific assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, wheresinee the going concern basis of accounting assumption is a fundamental principle in the preparation of financial statements as discussed in paragraph 2, the preparation of the financial statements requires management to assess the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern even if the financial reporting framework does not include an explicit requirement to do so. [IAASB/AR]
5. Management’s^{1a} assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern involves making a judgment, at a particular point in time, about inherently uncertain future outcomes of events or conditions. The following factors are relevant to that judgment:

^{1a} In the UK and Ireland those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and the assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

¹ IAS 1, “Presentation of Financial Statements” as at 1 January 2009, paragraphs 25-26.

- The degree of uncertainty associated with the outcome of an event or condition increases significantly the further into the future an event or condition or the outcome occurs. For that reason, most financial reporting frameworks that require an explicit management assessment specify the period for which management is required to take into account all available information.
- The size and complexity of the entity, the nature and condition of its business and the degree to which it is affected by external factors affect the judgment regarding the outcome of events or conditions.
- Any judgment about the future is based on information available at the time at which the judgment is made. Subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgments that were reasonable at the time they were made.

Responsibilities of the Auditor

6. The auditor’s responsibilities ~~are~~ to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence ~~regarding, and conclude on, about~~ the appropriateness of management’s^{1a} use of the going concern ~~basis of accounting assumption~~ in the preparation ~~and presentation~~ of the financial statements, and to conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether ~~there is~~ a material uncertainty exists about the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. ~~These~~ responsibilities ~~exists~~ even if the financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the financial statements does not include an explicit requirement for management to make a specific assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. [IAASB/AR]
7. However, as described in ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised),² the potential effects of inherent limitations on the auditor’s ability to detect material misstatements are greater for future events or conditions that may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern. The auditor cannot predict such future events or conditions. Accordingly, the absence of any reference to ~~going concern~~ a material uncertainty about the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in an auditor’s report cannot be viewed as a guarantee as to the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. [IAASB/AR]

Effective Date

8. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016 ~~October 2014~~.

Objectives

9. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding and conclude on the appropriateness of management’s^{1a} use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption in the preparation of the financial statements;
 - (b) To conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern; and

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

- (c) To ~~determine the implications for the auditor’s report~~ in accordance with this ISA (UK and Ireland). [IAASB/AR]

Requirements

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities

10. When performing risk assessment procedures as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~),³ the auditor shall consider whether ~~there are~~ events or conditions exist that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. In so doing, the auditor shall determine whether management^{4a} has already performed a preliminary assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, and: (Ref: Para. A2-A~~6~~⁵)
- (a) If such an assessment has been performed, the auditor shall discuss the assessment with management and determine whether management has identified events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and, if so, management’s plans to address them; or
- (b) If such an assessment has not yet been performed, the auditor shall discuss with management the basis for the intended use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption, and inquire of management whether events or conditions exist that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. [IAASB/AR]
11. The auditor shall remain alert throughout the audit for audit evidence of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A~~7~~⁶)

Evaluating Management’s Assessment

12. The auditor shall evaluate management’s^{4a} assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A~~87~~-A~~109~~⁹; A~~124~~-A~~132~~)

12D-1. In accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised),^{3a} the auditor shall maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit and in particular when reviewing future cash flow relevant to the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. [AD/Article 21.2]

13. In evaluating management’s^{4a} assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall cover the same period as that used by management to make its assessment as required by the applicable financial reporting framework, or by law or regulation if it specifies a longer period. If management’s assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern covers less than twelve months from the date of the financial statements as defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 560,⁴ the auditor shall

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment,” paragraph 5.

^{3a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 15.

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events,” paragraph 5(a).

request management to extend its assessment period to at least twelve months from that date^{4a}. (Ref: Para. A110-A132)

14. In evaluating management's^{1a} assessment, the auditor shall consider whether management's assessment includes all relevant information of which the auditor is aware as a result of the audit.

Period beyond Management's^{1a} Assessment

15. The auditor shall inquire of management as to its knowledge of events or conditions beyond the period of management's^{1a} assessment that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A143-A154)

Additional Audit Procedures When Events or Conditions Are Identified

16. If events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to determine whether or not a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern (hereinafter referred to as "material uncertainty") through performing additional audit procedures, including consideration of mitigating factors. These procedures shall include: (Ref: Para. A165) [IAASB/AR]
- (a) Where management^{1a} has not yet performed an assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, requesting management to make its assessment.
 - (b) Evaluating management's^{1a} plans for future actions in relation to its going concern assessment, whether the outcome of these plans is likely to improve the situation and whether management's plans are feasible in the circumstances. (Ref: Para. A176)
 - (c) Where the entity has prepared a cash flow forecast, and analysis of the forecast is a significant factor in considering the future outcome of events or conditions in the evaluation of management's^{1a} plans for future actions: (Ref: Para. A187-A198)
 - (i) Evaluating the reliability of the underlying data generated to prepare the forecast; and
 - (ii) Determining whether there is adequate support for the assumptions underlying the forecast.
 - (d) Considering whether any additional facts or information have become available since the date on which management made its assessment.
 - (e) Requesting written representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, regarding their plans for future actions_s and the feasibility of these plans.^{1a} (Ref: Para A20)

Auditor Conclusions and Reporting

17. The auditor shall evaluate whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained regarding, and shall conclude on, the appropriateness of management's use of

^{4a} In the UK and Ireland the period used by those charged with governance in making their assessment is usually at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements.
[IAASB/AR]

18. Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor shall conclude whether, in the auditor’s judgment, a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. A material uncertainty exists when the magnitude of its potential impact and likelihood of occurrence is such that, in the auditor’s judgment, appropriate disclosure of the nature and implications of the uncertainty is necessary for: (Ref: Para. ~~A219~~ – ~~A2219-2~~)

- (a) In the case of a fair presentation financial reporting framework, the fair presentation of the financial statements, or
- (b) In the case of a compliance framework, the financial statements not to be misleading.

187-1. If the period to which those charged with governance have paid particular attention in assessing going concern is less than one year from the date of approval of the financial statements, and those charged with governance have not disclosed that fact, the auditor shall do so within the auditor’s report^{4b}. (Ref: Para A19-1)

187-2. ~~For~~~~In the case of~~ entities that are required^{4c}, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code, or to explain why they have not, the auditor shall read and consider in light of the auditor’s knowledge ~~the auditor has acquired~~~~obtained in during~~ the audit, including that acquired in the evaluation of management’s^{4a} assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern:

- (a) The directors’ confirmation in the annual report that they have carried out a robust assessment of the principal risks facing the entity, including those that would threaten its business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity;
- (b) The disclosures in the annual report that describe those risks and explain how they are being managed or mitigated;
- (c) The directors’ statement in the financial statements about whether they considered it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing them, and their identification of any material uncertainties to the entity’s ability to continue to do so over a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements; and
- (d) The director’s explanation in the annual report as to how they have assessed the prospects of the entity, over what period they have done so and why they consider that period to be appropriate, and their statement as to whether they have a reasonable expectation that the entity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due over the period of their assessment, including

^{4b} If the non-disclosure of the fact in the financial statements is a departure from the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, the auditor would give a qualified opinion (“except for”).

^{4c} In the UK, these include companies with a Premium listing of equity shares regardless of whether they are incorporated in the UK or elsewhere. In Ireland, these include Irish incorporated companies with a primary or secondary listing of equity shares on the Irish Stock Exchange.

any related disclosures drawing attention to any necessary qualifications or assumptions.

The auditor shall determine whether the auditor has anything material to add or to draw attention to in the auditor’s report on the financial statements in relation to these disclosures, and shall report in accordance with the requirements of [paragraph 22-2 and ISA \(UK and Ireland\) 7200 \(Revised\)](#)^{4d}.

187-3. Matters the auditor considers when determining whether there is anything to add or to emphasize in the auditor’s report on the financial statements shall include, based on the knowledge the auditor has acquired during the audit, including that acquired in the evaluation of management’s^{1a} assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern:

- Whether the auditor is aware of information that would indicate that the annual report and accounts taken as a whole are not fair, balanced and understandable in relation to the principal risks facing the entity including those that would threaten its business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity; and
- Matters relating to the robustness of the directors’ assessment of the principal risks facing the entity and its outcome, including the related disclosures in the annual report and accounts, that the auditor communicated to the audit committee^{4e} and that are not appropriately addressed in the section of the annual report that describes the work of the audit committee.

Adequacy of Disclosures When Events or Conditions Have Been Identified and a Material Uncertainty Exists~~*Use of Going Concern Assumption Appropriate but a Material Uncertainty Exists*~~

198. If the auditor concludes that ~~management’s~~the use of the going concern ~~basis of accounting assumption~~ is appropriate in the circumstances but a material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall determine whether the financial statements: ~~(Ref: Para. A22-A23)~~

- (a) Adequately ~~disclose~~describe the principal events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and management’s^{1a} plans to deal with these events or conditions; and
- (b) Disclose clearly that there is a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and, therefore, that it may be unable to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. ~~(Ref: Para. A20)~~ [IAASB/AR]

Adequacy of Disclosures When Events or Conditions Have Been Identified but No Material Uncertainty Exists

20. If events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern but, based on the audit evidence obtained the auditor concludes that no material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework,

^{4d} ISA (UK and Ireland) 7200 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information~~The Independent Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements~~”, paragraph 22-422C.

^{4e} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance”, paragraph 16-1(e).

the financial statements provide adequate disclosures about these events or conditions.
(Ref: Para. A24–A25) [IAASB/AR]

Implications for the Auditor’s Report

Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting Is Inappropriate

21. If the financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting but, in the auditor’s judgment, management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is inappropriate, the auditor shall express an adverse opinion. (Ref: Para. A26–A27) [IAASB/AR]

Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting is Appropriate and no Material Uncertainty has been Identified

21-1. When the auditor is required^{4f} or decides to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, where the auditor concludes that management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the circumstances and no material uncertainty has been identified, the auditor shall:

- (a) Determine in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, in light of the audit evidence obtained and the conclusions reached in the audit and having particular regard to any evaluation the auditor undertakes in accordance with paragraph 20, whether a key audit matter relating to going concern exists that should be communicated in the auditor’s report; and
- (b) Where a key audit matter exists that should be communicated, communicate the key audit matter in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.

21-2. Where the auditor concludes that management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the circumstances and no material uncertainty has been identified, the auditor shall also include a separate section in the auditor’s report under the heading “Conclusions relating to Going Concern” to:

- (a) Describe the respective responsibilities of those charged with governance relating to the use of the going concern basis of accounting and the disclosure of material uncertainties, and the auditor relating to those matters in the audit of the financial statements, including the auditor’s reporting responsibilities if the auditor concludes that:
 - (i) management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the entity’s financial statements is not appropriate; or
 - (ii) management has not disclosed in the entity’s financial statements any identified material uncertainties to the entity’s ability to continue to do so over a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements,

and the circumstances that would result in such reporting; and (Ref: Para. A27-1)

- (b) For entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code, or to explain why

^{4f} Paragraphs 30–31 of ISA 700 set out the requirements to apply ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

they have not, report by exception in accordance with paragraph 43-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) as to whether the auditor has anything material to add or draw attention to in relation to the directors’ statement in the financial statements about whether they considered it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing them, and their identification of any material uncertainties to the entity’s ability to continue to do so over a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements; or

- (c) In other cases, report by exception in accordance with paragraph 43-1 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) as to whether the auditor concludes that:
- (i) Management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the entity’s financial statements is not appropriate; or
 - (ii) Management has not disclosed in the entity’s financial statements any identified material uncertainties to the entity’s ability to continue to do so over a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting Is Appropriate but a Material Uncertainty Exists Adequate Disclosure of a Material Uncertainty Is Made in the Financial Statements

2219. If adequate disclosure about the material uncertainty is made in the financial statements, the auditor shall express an unmodified opinion and the auditor’s report shall include a separate section under the heading “Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern”~~an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report~~ to: (Ref: Para. A28–A31, A34)

- ~~(a) Highlight the existence of a material uncertainty relating to the event or condition that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern; and to~~
- (a) Draw attention to the note in the financial statements that discloses the matters set out in paragraph 198; ~~and~~ (See ISA (UK and Ireland) 706.) (Ref: Para. A21–A22)
- (b) State that these events or conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and that the auditor’s opinion is not modified in respect of the matter. [IAASB/AR]

Adequate Disclosure of a Material Uncertainty Is Not Made in the Financial Statements

230. If adequate disclosure about the material uncertainty is not made in the financial statements, the auditor shall: (Ref: Para. A32–A34)

- (a) E~~x~~press a qualified opinion or adverse opinion, as appropriate, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised)⁵; and
- (b) In the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion section of the auditor’s report, ~~The auditor shall~~ state ~~in the auditor’s report~~ that ~~there is~~ a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt ~~on~~about the entity’s ability to continue as a going

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

~~concern and that the financial statements do not adequately disclose this matter. (Ref: Para. A23–A24). [IAASB/AR]~~

~~Use of Going Concern Assumption Inappropriate~~

~~21. If the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis but, in the auditor’s judgment, management’s⁴ use of the going concern assumption in the financial statements is inappropriate, the auditor shall express an adverse opinion. (Ref: Para. A25–A26)~~

Management Unwilling to Make or Extend Its Assessment

24~~2~~. If management⁴ is unwilling to make or extend its assessment when requested to do so by the auditor, the auditor shall consider the implications for the auditor’s report. (Ref: Para. A35~~27~~)

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

25~~3~~. Unless all those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity,⁶ the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. Such communication with those charged with governance shall include the following:

- (a) Whether the events or conditions constitute a material uncertainty;
- (b) Whether management’s~~the~~ use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption is appropriate in the preparation ~~and presentation~~ of the financial statements; ~~and~~
- (c) The adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements; ~~and~~
- (d) Where applicable, the implications for the auditor’s report. [IAASB/AR]

Significant Delay in the Approval of Financial Statements

26~~4~~. If there is significant delay in the approval of the financial statements by management or those charged with governance after the date of the financial statements, the auditor shall inquire as to the reasons for the delay. If the auditor believes that the delay could be related to events or conditions relating to the going concern assessment, the auditor shall perform those additional audit procedures necessary, as described in paragraph 16, as well as consider the effect on the auditor’s conclusion regarding the existence of a material uncertainty, as described in paragraph 18~~7~~.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Scope of this ISA (Ref: Para 1)

A1. ISA (UK and Ireland) 701⁷ deals with the auditor’s responsibility to communicate key audit matters in the auditor’s report. That ISA acknowledges that, when ISA (UK and

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 13.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report”.

Ireland) 701 (UK and Ireland) applies, matters relating to going concern may be determined to be key audit matters, and explains that a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern is, by its nature, a key audit matter.⁸ [IAASB/AR]

Going Concern Basis of Accounting Assumption (Ref: Para. 2)

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A1A2. Management’s¹⁴ use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption is also relevant to public sector entities. For example, International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) 1 addresses the issue of the ability of public sector entities to continue as going concerns.⁹ Going concern risks may arise, but are not limited to, situations where public sector entities operate on a for-profit basis, where government support may be reduced or withdrawn, or in the case of privatization. Events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on an entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in the public sector may include situations where the public sector entity lacks funding for its continued existence or when policy decisions are made that affect the services provided by the public sector entity. [IAASB/AR]

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities

Events or Conditions That May Cast Significant Doubt on the Entity’s Ability to Continue as ~~about~~ Going Concern Assumption (Ref: Para. 10)

A32. The following are examples of events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as ~~about the~~ going concern assumption. This listing is not all-inclusive nor does the existence of one or more of the items always signify that a material uncertainty exists.

Financial

- Net liability or net current liability position.
- Fixed-term borrowings approaching maturity without realistic prospects of renewal or repayment; or excessive reliance on short-term borrowings to finance long-term assets.
- Indications of withdrawal of financial support by creditors.
- Negative operating cash flows indicated by historical or prospective financial statements.
- Adverse key financial ratios.
- Substantial operating losses or significant deterioration in the value of assets used to generate cash flows.
- Arrears or discontinuance of dividends.
- Inability to pay creditors on due dates.
- Inability to comply with the terms of loan agreements.
- Change from credit to cash-on-delivery transactions with suppliers.

⁸ See paragraphs 15 and A41 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.

⁹ IPSAS 1, “Presentation of Financial Statements” as at 1 January 2009, paragraphs 38-41.

- Inability to obtain financing for essential new product development or other essential investments.

Operating

- Management intentions to liquidate the entity or to cease operations.
- Loss of key management without replacement.
- Loss of a major market, key customer(s), franchise, license, or principal supplier(s).
- Labor difficulties.
- Shortages of important supplies.
- Emergence of a highly successful competitor.

Other

- Non-compliance with capital or other statutory or regulatory requirements, such as solvency or liquidity requirements for financial institutions.
- Pending legal or regulatory proceedings against the entity that may, if successful, result in claims that the entity is unlikely to be able to satisfy.
- Changes in law or regulation or government policy expected to adversely affect the entity.
- Uninsured or underinsured catastrophes when they occur.

The significance of such events or conditions often can be mitigated by other factors. For example, the effect of an entity being unable to make its normal debt repayments may be counter-balanced by management's plans to maintain adequate cash flows by alternative means, such as by disposing of assets, rescheduling loan repayments, or obtaining additional capital. Similarly, the loss of a principal supplier may be mitigated by the availability of a suitable alternative source of supply.

- A43. The risk assessment procedures required by paragraph 10 help the auditor to determine whether management's use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption is likely to be an important issue and its impact on planning the audit. These procedures also allow for more timely discussions with management, including a discussion of management's^{1a} plans and resolution of any identified going concern issues. [IAASB/AR]

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities (Ref: Para. 10)

- A54. The size of an entity may affect its ability to withstand adverse conditions. Small entities may be able to respond quickly to exploit opportunities, but may lack reserves to sustain operations.
- A65. Conditions of particular relevance to small entities include the risk that banks and other lenders may cease to support the entity, as well as the possible loss of a principal supplier, major customer, key employee, or the right to operate under a license, franchise or other legal agreement.

Remaining Alert throughout the Audit for Audit Evidence about Events or Conditions

(Ref: Para. 11)

A76. ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~) requires the auditor to revise the auditor’s risk assessment and modify the further planned audit procedures accordingly when additional audit evidence is obtained during the course of the audit that affects the auditor’s assessment of risk.¹⁰ If events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern are identified after the auditor’s risk assessments are made, in addition to performing the procedures in paragraph 16, the auditor’s assessment of the risks of material misstatement may need to be revised. The existence of such events or conditions may also affect the nature, timing and extent of the auditor’s further procedures in response to the assessed risks. ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised)¹¹ establishes requirements and provides guidance on this issue.

Evaluating Management’s^{†‡} Assessment

Management’s^{†‡} Assessment and Supporting Analysis and the Auditor’s Evaluation (Ref: Para. 12)

A87. Management’s^{†‡} assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern is a key part of the auditor’s consideration of management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption. [IAASB/AR]

A8-1. In the UK and Ireland, applicable financial reporting frameworks generally specify that management takes into account all available information about the future. In evaluating management’s assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, it is likely to be relevant for the auditor: to inquire as to what information is available about the future to management and those charged with governance; and determine whether this has been appropriately considered as part of management’s assessment. For example, relevant information may be available to management through business planning activities, risk management processes, and for regulated entities, through regulatory reporting, planning or communications with regulatory, enforcement or supervisory authorities. For entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code, or to explain why they have not, there may also be information available that has been developed to support reporting about the entity’s business model, principal risks and the entity’s longer term viability statement.

A98. It is not the auditor’s responsibility to rectify the lack of analysis by management^{†‡}. In some circumstances, however, the lack of detailed analysis by management to support its assessment may not prevent the auditor from concluding whether management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption is appropriate in the circumstances. For example, when there is a history of profitable operations and a ready access to financial resources, management may make its assessment without detailed analysis. In this case, the auditor’s evaluation of the appropriateness of management’s assessment may be made without performing detailed evaluation procedures if the auditor’s other audit procedures are sufficient to enable the auditor to conclude whether management’s

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised ~~June 2013~~), paragraph 31.

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks.”

use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate in the circumstances. [IAASB/AR]

A109. In other circumstances, evaluating management’s¹² assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, as required by paragraph 12, may include an evaluation of the process management followed to make its assessment, the assumptions on which the assessment is based and management’s plans for future action and whether management’s plans are feasible in the circumstances.

The Period of Management’s¹² Assessment (Ref: Para. 13)

A110. Most financial reporting frameworks requiring an explicit management¹² assessment specify the period for which management is required to take into account all available information.¹²

A11-1. If the future period to which those charged with governance have paid particular attention has been limited, for example, to a period of less than one year from the date of approval of the financial statements, those charged with governance will have determined whether, in their opinion, the financial statements require any additional disclosures to explain adequately the assumptions that underlie the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting.

A11-2. If the future period to which those charged with governance have paid particular attention is less than the minimum required by the financial reporting framework, the auditor considers whether to express a modified opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised)^{12a}.

A11-3. The auditor assesses whether to concur with the judgments of those charged with governance regarding the need for additional disclosures and their adequacy. Disclosure, however, does not eliminate the need to make appropriate judgments about the suitability of the future period as an adequate basis for assessing the going concern position. Paragraph 187-1 requires the auditor to disclose in the auditor’s report if the period to which those charged with governance have paid particular attention in assessing going concern is less than one year from the date of approval of the financial statements, and those charged with governance have not disclosed that fact. The auditor

¹² Accounting frameworks do not normally specify a maximum period that should be reviewed as part of the assessment of going concern. However, IAS 1 and FRS 1028 both provide that management takes into account all available information about the future.

For example, IAS 1 defines this as a period that should be at least, but is not limited to, twelve months from the end of the reporting period.

~~FRS 1028 requires that in assessing whether the going concern assumption basis of accounting is appropriate, management takes into account all available information about the future, which is at least, but is not limited to, twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorized for issue does not specify a period but does require that where the foreseeable future considered by the directors has been limited to a period of less than one year from the date of approval of the financial statements, that fact should be disclosed in the financial statements.~~

~~Guidance issued by the FRC for directors of listed companies in “An Update for Directors of Listed Companies: Going Concern and Liquidity Risk” (November 2008) states that “Where the period considered by the directors has been limited, for example to a period of less than twelve months from the date of the approval of the annual report and accounts, the directors need to consider whether additional disclosures are necessary to explain adequately the assumptions that underlie the adoption of the going concern basis.”~~

^{12a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report”.

through discussion with those charged with governance of their plans and expectations may be able to obtain satisfaction that those charged with governance have in fact paid particular attention to a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Procedures to Identify Material Matters Indicating Concern

A11-4. Having regard to the future period to which those charged with governance have paid particular attention in assessing going concern, the auditor plans and performs procedures specifically designed to identify any material matters which could indicate concern about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

A11-5. The extent of the auditor's procedures is influenced primarily by the excess of the financial resources available to the entity over the financial resources that it requires. The entity's procedures (and the auditor's procedures) need not always be elaborate in order to provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence. A determination of the sufficiency of the evidence supplied to the auditor by those charged with governance will depend on the particular circumstances. For example, to be sufficient the evidence may not require formal cash flow forecasts and budgets to have been prepared for the period ending one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. Although such forecasts and budgets are likely to provide the most persuasive evidence, alternative sources of evidence may also be acceptable. This is particularly likely to be the case in respect of entities with uncomplicated circumstances. Many smaller companies fall into this category.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities (Ref: Para. 12-13)

A12⁺. In many cases, the management⁺ of smaller entities may not have prepared a detailed assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, but instead may rely on in-depth knowledge of the business and anticipated future prospects. Nevertheless, in accordance with the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland), the auditor needs to evaluate management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. For smaller entities, it may be appropriate to discuss the medium and long-term financing of the entity with management, provided that management's contentions can be corroborated by sufficient documentary evidence and are not inconsistent with the auditor's understanding of the entity. Therefore, the requirement in paragraph 13 for the auditor to request management to extend its assessment may, for example, be satisfied by discussion, inquiry and inspection of supporting documentation, for example, orders received for future supply, evaluated as to their feasibility or otherwise substantiated.

A13². Continued support by owner-managers is often important to smaller entities' ability to continue as a going concern. Where a small entity is largely financed by a loan from the owner-manager, it may be important that these funds are not withdrawn. For example, the continuance of a small entity in financial difficulty may be dependent on the owner-manager subordinating a loan to the entity in favor of banks or other creditors, or the owner[–]manager supporting a loan for the entity by providing a guarantee with his or her personal assets as collateral. In such circumstances, the auditor may obtain appropriate documentary evidence of the subordination of the owner-manager's loan or of the guarantee. Where an entity is dependent on additional support from the owner-manager, the auditor may evaluate the owner-manager's ability to meet the obligation under the support arrangement. In addition, the auditor may request

written confirmation of the terms and conditions attaching to such support and the owner-manager's intention or understanding.

Period beyond Management's^{†a} Assessment (Ref: Para. 15)

- A143. As required by paragraph 11, the auditor remains alert to the possibility that there may be known events, scheduled or otherwise, or conditions that will occur beyond the period of assessment used by management^{†a} that may bring into question the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption in preparing the financial statements. Since the degree of uncertainty associated with the outcome of an event or condition increases as the event or condition is further into the future, in considering events or conditions further in the future, the indications of going concern issues need to be significant before the auditor needs to consider taking further action. If such events or conditions are identified, the auditor may need to request management to evaluate the potential significance of the event or condition on its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In these circumstances the procedures in paragraph 16 apply. [IAASB/AR]
- A154. Other than inquiry of management, the auditor does not have a responsibility to perform any other audit procedures to identify events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern beyond the period assessed by management^{†a}, which, as discussed in paragraph 13, would be at least twelve months from the date of the financial statements.

Additional Audit Procedures When Events or Conditions Are Identified (Ref: Para. 16)

- A165. Audit procedures that are relevant to the requirement in paragraph 16 may include the following:
- Analyzing and discussing cash flow, profit and other relevant forecasts with management.
 - Analyzing and discussing the entity's latest available interim financial statements.
 - Reading the terms of debentures and loan agreements and determining whether any have been breached.
 - Reading minutes of the meetings of shareholders, those charged with governance and relevant committees for reference to financing difficulties.
 - Inquiring of the entity's legal counsel regarding the existence of litigation and claims and the reasonableness of management's^{†a} assessments of their outcome and the estimate of their financial implications.
 - Confirming the existence, legality and enforceability of arrangements to provide or maintain financial support with related and third parties and assessing the financial ability of such parties to provide additional funds.
 - Evaluating the entity's plans to deal with unfilled customer orders.
 - Performing audit procedures regarding subsequent events to identify those that either mitigate or otherwise affect the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
 - Confirming the existence, terms and adequacy of borrowing facilities.
 - Obtaining and reviewing reports of regulatory actions.

- Determining the adequacy of support for any planned disposals of assets.

Evaluating Management’s Plans for Future Actions (Ref: Para. 16(b))

A176. Evaluating management’s^{1a} plans for future actions may include inquiries of management as to its plans for future action, including, for example, its plans to liquidate assets, borrow money or restructure debt, reduce or delay expenditures, or increase capital.

The Period of Management’s^{1a} Assessment (Ref: Para. 16(c))

A187. In addition to the procedures required in paragraph 16(c), the auditor may compare:

- The prospective financial information for recent prior periods with historical results; and
- The prospective financial information for the current period with results achieved to date.

A198. Where management’s^{1a} assumptions include continued support by third parties, whether through the subordination of loans, commitments to maintain or provide additional funding, or guarantees, and such support is important to an entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor may need to consider requesting written confirmation (including of terms and conditions) from those third parties and to obtain evidence of their ability to provide such support.

Written Representations (Ref: Para. 16(e))

A20. The auditor may consider it appropriate to obtain specific written representations beyond those required in paragraph 16 in support of audit evidence obtained regarding management’s plans for future actions in relation to its going concern assessment and the feasibility of those plans. [IAASB/AR]

Auditor Conclusions and Reporting (Ref: Para. 17 – 17-1)

Material Uncertainty Related to Events or Conditions that May Cast Significant Doubt on the Entity’s Ability to Continue as a Going Concern (Ref: Para. 18–19) [IAASB/AR]

A219. The phrase “material uncertainty” is used in IAS 1 in discussing the uncertainties related to events or conditions which may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern that should be disclosed in the financial statements. In some other financial reporting frameworks the phrase “significant uncertainty” is used in similar circumstances.

A219-1. Where, in forming their opinion, the auditor’s assessment of going concern is based on a period to which those charged with governance have paid particular attention which is less than one year from the date of approval of the financial statements, it is appropriate for the auditor to disclose that fact within the basis of the audit opinion, unless it is disclosed in the financial statements or accompanying information (for example, a Corporate Governance Statement). In deciding whether to disclose the fact, the auditor assesses whether the evidence supplied by those charged with governance is sufficient to demonstrate that those charged with governance have, in assessing going concern, paid particular attention to a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements (see paragraph A110-3).

~~A219-2.~~ In complying with the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) to document significant matters arising during the audit,^{12b+Ha} the auditor documents concerns (if any) about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

~~Use of Going Concern Assumption Appropriate but a Material Uncertainty Exists~~

Adequacy of Disclosure when Events or Conditions Have Been Identified and a Material Uncertainty Exists (Ref: Para. 18)

~~A22.~~ Paragraph 18 explains that a material uncertainty exists when the magnitude of the potential impact of the events or conditions and the likelihood of occurrence is such that appropriate disclosure is necessary to achieve fair presentation (for fair presentation frameworks) or for the financial statements not to be misleading (for compliance frameworks). The auditor is required by paragraph 18 to conclude whether such a material uncertainty exists regardless of whether or how the applicable financial reporting framework defines a material uncertainty. [IAASB/AR]

~~A23.~~ Paragraph 19 requires the auditor to determine whether the financial statement disclosures address the matters set forth in that paragraph. This determination is in addition to the auditor determining whether disclosures about a material uncertainty, required by the applicable financial reporting framework, are adequate. Disclosures required by some financial reporting frameworks that are in addition to matters set forth in paragraph 19 may include disclosures about:

- ~~•~~ Management's evaluation of the significance of the events or conditions relating to the entity's ability to meet its obligations; or
- ~~•~~ Significant judgments made by management as part of its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

~~Some financial reporting frameworks may provide additional guidance regarding management's consideration of disclosures about the magnitude of the potential impact of the principal events or conditions, and the likelihood and timing of their occurrence. [IAASB/AR]~~

Adequacy of Disclosures When Events or Conditions Have Been Identified but No Material Uncertainty Exists (Ref: Para. 20)

~~A24.~~ Even when no material uncertainty exists, paragraph 20 requires the auditor to evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, the financial statements provide adequate disclosure about events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Some financial reporting frameworks may address disclosures about:

- ~~•~~ Principal events or conditions;
- ~~•~~ Management's evaluation of the significance of those events or conditions in relation to the entity's ability to meet its obligations;
- ~~•~~ Management's plans that mitigate the effect of these events or conditions; or

^{12b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), "Audit Documentation," paragraph 8(c).

^{+Ha} ISA (UK and Ireland) 230, "Audit Documentation," paragraph 8(c).

- Significant judgments made by management as part of its assessment of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. [IAASB/AR]

A25. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor’s evaluation as to whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation includes the consideration of the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, and whether the financial statements, including the related notes, represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.¹³ Depending on the facts and circumstances, the auditor may determine that additional disclosures are necessary to achieve fair presentation. This may be the case, for example, when events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern but, based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor concludes that no material uncertainty exists, and no disclosures are explicitly required by the applicable financial reporting framework regarding these circumstances. [IAASB/AR]

~~A20.—The determination of the adequacy of the financial statement disclosure may involve determining whether the information explicitly draws the reader’s attention to the possibility that the entity may be unable to continue realizing its assets and discharging its liabilities in the normal course of business.~~

~~*Audit Reporting When Disclosure of Material Uncertainty Is Adequate* (Ref: Para. 19)~~

~~A21.~~

~~The following is an illustration of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph when the auditor is satisfied as to the adequacy of the note disclosure:^{11b}~~

~~*Emphasis of Matter*~~

~~Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note X in the financial statements which indicates that the Company incurred a net loss of ZZZ during the year ended December 31, 20X1 and, as of that date, the Company’s current liabilities exceeded its total assets by YYY. These conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note X, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt about the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern.~~

~~A22.~~

~~In situations involving multiple material uncertainties that are significant to the financial statements as a whole, the auditor may consider it appropriate in extremely rare cases to express a disclaimer of opinion instead of adding an Emphasis of Matter paragraph. ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 provides guidance on this issue.~~

~~*Audit Reporting When Disclosure of Material Uncertainty Is Inadequate* (Ref: Para. 20)~~

~~A23.~~

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements,” paragraph 14

^{11b} Illustrative auditor’s reports tailored for use with audits conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) are given in the current versions of the APB Compendia Auditor’s Report Bulletins.

The following is an illustration of the relevant paragraphs when a qualified opinion is to be expressed:^{11b}

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Company’s financing arrangements expire and amounts outstanding are payable on March 19, 20X1. The Company has been unable to re-negotiate or obtain replacement financing. This situation indicates the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern and therefore the Company may be unable to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. The financial statements (and notes thereto) do not fully disclose this fact.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the incomplete disclosure of the information referred to in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects (or “give a true and fair view of”) the financial position of the Company at December 31, 20X0 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ...

A24.

The following is an illustration of the relevant paragraphs when an adverse opinion is to be expressed:^{11b}

Basis for Adverse Opinion

The Company’s financing arrangements expired and the amount outstanding was payable on December 31, 20X0. The Company has been unable to re-negotiate or obtain replacement financing and is considering filing for bankruptcy. These events indicate a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern and therefore it may be unable to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. The financial statements (and notes thereto) do not disclose this fact.

Adverse Opinion

In our opinion, because of the omission of the information mentioned in the Basis for Adverse Opinion paragraph, the financial statements do not present fairly (or “give a true and fair view of”) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X0, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with...

Implications for the Auditor’s Report

Use of Going Concern *Basis of Accounting is Assumption Inappropriate* (Ref: Para. 21)

A265. If the financial statements have been prepared using the on a going concern basis of accounting but, in the auditor’s judgment, management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption in the financial statements is inappropriate, the requirement in paragraph 21 for the auditor to express an adverse opinion applies regardless of whether or not the financial statements include disclosure of the inappropriateness of management’s¹⁴ use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption. [IAASB/AR]

~~A276. When If the entity’s management^{14a} is required, or elects, to prepare financial statements when the use of the going concern basis of accounting assumption is not appropriate in the circumstances, management may be required, or may elect, to prepare the financial statements are prepared on another alternative basis (e.g. for example, liquidation basis). The auditor may be able to perform an audit of those financial statements provided that the auditor determines that the other alternative basis of accounting is an acceptable financial reporting framework in the circumstances. The auditor may be able to express an unmodified opinion on those financial statements, provided there is adequate disclosure therein about the basis of accounting on which the financial statements are prepared, but may consider it appropriate or necessary to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised)¹⁴ in the auditor’s report to draw the user’s attention to that alternative basis and the reasons for its use. [IAASB/AR]~~

~~Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting is Appropriate and no Material Uncertainty has been Identified (Ref: Para. 21-2)~~

~~A27-1. In the UK and Ireland, when describing the respective responsibilities of those charged with governance and the auditor, the auditor may choose to include such a description in the section in the auditor’s report under the heading “Conclusions relating to Going Concern” or to cross-refer to the responsibilities of those charged with governance described in accordance with paragraph 34(b) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) and the responsibilities of the auditor described in accordance with paragraph 39(b)(iv) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised).~~

~~Use of the Going Concern Basis of Accounting Is Appropriate but a Material Uncertainty Exists (Ref: Para. 22–23)~~

~~A28. The identification of a material uncertainty is a matter that is important to users’ understanding of the financial statements. The use of a separate section with a heading that includes reference to the fact that a material uncertainty related to going concern exists alerts users to this circumstance. [IAASB/AR]~~

~~A29. The Appendix^{14a} to this ISA (UK and Ireland) provides illustrations of the statements that are required to be included in the auditor’s report on the financial statements when International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) is the applicable financial reporting framework. If an applicable financial reporting framework other than IFRSs is used, the illustrative statements presented in the Appendix to this ISA may need to be adapted to reflect the application of the other financial reporting framework in the circumstances. [IAASB/AR]~~

~~A30. Paragraph 22 establishes the minimum information required to be presented in the auditor’s report in each of the circumstances described. The auditor may provide additional information to supplement the required statements, for example to explain:~~

- ~~• That the existence of a material uncertainty is fundamental to users’ understanding of the financial statements;¹⁵ or~~

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report”

^{14a} The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), paragraph A2

- How the matter was addressed in the audit. (Ref: Para. A1) [IAASB/AR]

A30-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the requirement in UK and Irish legislation to provide a statement on any material uncertainty relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern is met by the requirements of paragraph 22. [AD/Article 28.2(f)]

Adequate Disclosure of a Material Uncertainty Is Made in the Financial Statements

(Ref: Para. 22)

A31. Illustration 1 of the Appendix^{15a} to this ISA is an example of an auditor’s report when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the appropriateness of management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting but a material uncertainty exists and disclosure is adequate in the financial statements. The Appendix of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) also includes illustrative wording to be included in the auditor’s report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern. [IAASB/AR]

Adequate Disclosure of a Material Uncertainty Is Not Made in the Financial Statements

(Ref: Para. 23)

A32. Illustrations 2 and 3 of the Appendix^{15a} to this ISA are examples of auditor’s reports containing qualified and adverse opinions, respectively, when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the appropriateness of the management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting but adequate disclosure of a material uncertainty is not made in the financial statements. [IAASB/AR]

A33. In situations involving multiple uncertainties that are significant to the financial statements as a whole, the auditor may consider it appropriate in extremely rare cases to express a disclaimer of opinion instead of including the statements required by paragraph 22. ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) provides guidance on this issue.¹⁶ [IAASB/AR]

Communication with Regulators (Ref: Para. 22–23)

A34. When the auditor of a regulated entity considers that it may be necessary to include a reference to going concern matters in the auditor’s report, the auditor may have a duty to communicate with the applicable regulatory, enforcement or supervisory authorities. [IAASB/AR]

~~A27-1. When the auditor of a regulated financial entity considers that it might be necessary to either qualify the audit opinion or add an explanatory paragraph to the audit report, the auditor may have a duty to inform the appropriate regulator at an early stage in the audit. In the UK and Ireland, in such cases the regulatory, enforcement or supervisory authority/regulator might, if it has not already done so, specify corrective action to be taken by the entity.~~

^{15a} The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), paragraph 10

A34-1. At the time at which the auditor formulates the audit report, the auditor takes account of matters such as:

- Any views expressed by the regulatory, enforcement or supervisory authority~~regulator~~.
- Any legal advice obtained by those charged with governance.
- The actual and planned corrective action.

A34-2. For statutory audits of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 Section B (Revised)^{16a} requires the auditor to report to the relevant regulatory, enforcement or supervisory authority any information about the public-interest entity (or an undertaking having close links with the public-interest entity) that may bring about a material threat or doubt concerning the continuous functioning of the entity.

Management^{4a} Unwilling to Make or Extend Its Assessment (Ref: Para. 22)

A35-7. In certain circumstances, the auditor may believe it necessary to request management^{4a} to make or extend its assessment. If management is unwilling to do so, a qualified opinion or a disclaimer of opinion in the auditor’s report may be appropriate, because it may not be possible for the auditor to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding management’s~~the~~ use of the going concern basis of accounting~~assumption~~ in the preparation of the financial statements, such as audit evidence regarding the existence of plans management has put in place or the existence of other mitigating factors. [IAASB/AR]

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

A35-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{16b} requires the auditor to:

- explain the judgements about events or conditions identified in the course of the audit that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and whether they constitute a material uncertainty; and
 - provide a summary of all guarantees, comfort letters, undertakings of public intervention and other support measures that have been taken into account when making a going concern assessment
- in the additional report to the audit committee.

^{16a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 Section B (Revised), “The Auditor’s Right and Duty to Report to Regulators,” paragraph 13R-1(a)(ii)

^{16b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 16R-2(i)

Appendix

(Ref: Para. A29, A31–A32)

The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

Illustrations of Auditor’s Reports Relating to Going Concern

- Illustration 1: An auditor’s report containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists and disclosure in the financial statements is adequate.
- Illustration 2: An auditor’s report containing a qualified opinion when the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists and that the financial statements are materially misstated due to inadequate disclosure.
- Illustration 3: An auditor’s report containing an adverse opinion when the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists and the financial statements omit the required disclosures relating to a material uncertainty.

Illustration 1 – Unmodified Opinion When a Material Uncertainty Exists and Disclosure in the Financial Statements Is Adequate

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600¹⁷ does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).¹⁸
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. The disclosure of the material uncertainty in the financial statements is adequate.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements¹⁹

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or give a true and fair view of) the financial position of the Company as at December 31,

¹⁷ ISA 600, “Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)”

¹⁸ ISA 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements”

¹⁹ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 6 in the financial statements, which indicates that the Company incurred a net loss of ZZZ during the year ended December 31, 20X1 and, as of that date, the Company’s current liabilities exceeded its total assets by YYY. As stated in Note 6, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 6, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate *opinion* on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements²⁰

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).²¹]

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).²²]

²⁰ Throughout these illustrative auditor’s reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

²¹ Paragraphs 33 and 38 of ISA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor’s report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor’s report is [name].

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

Illustration 2 – Qualified Opinion When a Material Uncertainty Exists and the Financial Statements Are Materially Misstated Due to Inadequate Disclosure

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. Note yy to the financial statements discusses the magnitude of financing arrangements, the expiration and the total financing arrangements; however the financial statements do not include discussion on the impact or the availability of refinancing or characterize this situation as a material uncertainty.
- The financial statements are materially misstated due to the inadequate disclosure of the material uncertainty. A qualified opinion is being expressed because the auditor concluded that the effects on the financial statements of this inadequate disclosure are material but not pervasive to the financial statements.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the financial statements also affects the other information
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements²²

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the

²² The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the incomplete disclosure of the information referred to in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects (or *give a true and fair view of*), the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As discussed in Note yy, the Company’s financing arrangements expire and amounts outstanding are payable on March 19, 20X2. The Company has been unable to conclude re-negotiations or obtain replacement financing. This situation indicates that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not adequately disclose this matter.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [*jurisdiction*], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 6 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 6 would be customized to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

[Descriptions of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements²³

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).²⁴]

²³ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

²⁴ Paragraphs 33 and 38 of ISA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor’s report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).²⁵]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor’s report is [name].

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

Illustration 3 – Adverse Opinion When a Material Uncertainty Exists and Is Not Disclosed in the Financial Statements

For purposes of the illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, and the Company is considering bankruptcy. The financial statements omit the required disclosures relating to the material uncertainty. An adverse opinion is being expressed because the effects on the financial statements of such omission are material and pervasive.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the matter giving rise to the qualified/adverse opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements²⁵

Adverse Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, because of the omission of the information mentioned in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly

²⁵ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

(or do not give a true and fair view of), the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Adverse Opinion

The Company’s financing arrangements expired and the amount outstanding was payable on December 31, 20X1. The Company has been unable to conclude re-negotiations or obtain replacement financing and is considering filing for bankruptcy. This situation indicates that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not adequately disclose this fact.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 7 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 7 would be customized to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements²⁶

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).²⁷]

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).²⁸]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

²⁶ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

²⁷ Paragraphs 33 and 38 of ISA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor’s report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 580**

WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 580, “Written Representations” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in an audit of financial statements.
2. Appendix 1 lists other ISAs (UK and Ireland) containing subject-matter specific requirements for written representations. The specific requirements for written representations of other ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not limit the application of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Written Representations as Audit Evidence

3. Audit evidence is the information used by the auditor in arriving at the conclusions on which the auditor's opinion is based.¹ Written representations are necessary information that the auditor requires in connection with the audit of the entity's financial statements. Accordingly, similar to responses to inquiries, written representations are audit evidence. (Ref: Para. A1)
4. Although written representations provide necessary audit evidence, they do not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence on their own about any of the matters with which they deal. Furthermore, the fact that management has provided reliable written representations does not affect the nature or extent of other audit evidence that the auditor obtains about the fulfillment of management's responsibilities, or about specific assertions.

Effective Date

5. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010.

Objectives

6. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance that they believe that they have fulfilled their responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements and for the completeness of the information provided to the auditor;
 - (b) To support other audit evidence relevant to the financial statements or specific assertions in the financial statements by means of written representations if determined necessary by the auditor or required by other ISAs (UK and Ireland); and
 - (c) To respond appropriately to written representations provided by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, or if management or, where appropriate, those charged with governance do not provide the written representations requested by the auditor.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 500, "Audit Evidence," paragraph 5(c).

Definitions

7. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following term has the meaning attributed below:

Written representation – A written statement by management provided to the auditor to confirm certain matters or to support other audit evidence. Written representations in this context do not include financial statements, the assertions therein, or supporting books and records.

8. For purposes of this ISA (UK and Ireland), references to “management” should be read as “management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance.” Furthermore, in the case of a fair presentation framework, management is responsible for the preparation and *fair* presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; or the preparation of financial statements *that give a true and fair view* in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Requirements

Management from whom Written Representations Requested

9. The auditor shall request written representations from management with appropriate responsibilities for the financial statements and knowledge of the matters concerned.
(Ref: Para. A2-A6)

Written Representations about Management’s Responsibilities

Preparation of the Financial Statements

10. The auditor shall request management to provide a written representation that it has fulfilled its responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement.² (Ref: Para. A7-A9, A14, A22)

Information Provided and Completeness of Transactions

11. The auditor shall request management to provide a written representation that:
- It has provided the auditor with all relevant information and access as agreed in the terms of the audit engagement,³ and
 - All transactions have been recorded and are reflected in the financial statements.
(Ref: Para. A7-A9, A14, A22 – A22-1)

11-1 Management may include in the written representations required by paragraphs 10 and 11 qualifying language to the effect that the representations are made to the best of its knowledge and belief. Such qualifying language does not cause paragraph 20 to apply if, during the audit, the auditor found no evidence that the representations are incorrect.
(Ref: Para A5, A8-1)

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements,” paragraph 6(b)(i).

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), paragraph 6(b)(iii).

Description of Management's Responsibilities in the Written Representations

12. Management's responsibilities shall be described in the written representations required by paragraphs 10 and 11 in the manner in which these responsibilities are described in the terms of the audit engagement.

Other Written Representations

13. Other ISAs (UK and Ireland) require the auditor to request written representations. If, in addition to such required representations, the auditor determines that it is necessary to obtain one or more written representations to support other audit evidence relevant to the financial statements or one or more specific assertions in the financial statements, the auditor shall request such other written representations. (Ref: Para. A10-A13, A14, A22 – A22-1)

Date of and Period(s) Covered by Written Representations

14. The date of the written representations shall be as near as practicable to, but not after, the date of the auditor's report on the financial statements. The written representations shall be for all financial statements and period(s) referred to in the auditor's report. (Ref: Para. A15-A18)

Form of Written Representations

15. The written representations shall be in the form of a representation letter addressed to the auditor. If law or regulation requires management to make written public statements about its responsibilities, and the auditor determines that such statements provide some or all of the representations required by paragraphs 10 or 11, the relevant matters covered by such statements need not be included in the representation letter. (Ref: Para. A19-A21)

Doubt as to the Reliability of Written Representations and Requested Written Representations Not Provided*Doubt as to the Reliability of Written Representations*

16. If the auditor has concerns about the competence, integrity, ethical values or diligence of management, or about its commitment to or enforcement of these, the auditor shall determine the effect that such concerns may have on the reliability of representations (oral or written) and audit evidence in general. (Ref: Para. A24-A25)
17. In particular, if written representations are inconsistent with other audit evidence, the auditor shall perform audit procedures to attempt to resolve the matter. If the matter remains unresolved, the auditor shall reconsider the assessment of the competence, integrity, ethical values or diligence of management, or of its commitment to or enforcement of these, and shall determine the effect that this may have on the reliability of representations (oral or written) and audit evidence in general. (Ref: Para. A23)
18. If the auditor concludes that the written representations are not reliable, the auditor shall take appropriate actions, including determining the possible effect on the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 **(Revised)**,⁴ having regard to the requirement in paragraph 20 of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 **(Revised)**, "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report."

Requested Written Representations Not Provided

19. If management does not provide one or more of the requested written representations, the auditor shall:
- (a) Discuss the matter with management;
 - (b) Reevaluate the integrity of management and evaluate the effect that this may have on the reliability of representations (oral or written) and audit evidence in general; and
 - (c) Take appropriate actions, including determining the possible effect on the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), having regard to the requirement in paragraph 20 of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Written Representations about Management's Responsibilities

20. The auditor shall disclaim an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) if:
- (a) The auditor concludes that there is sufficient doubt about the integrity of management such that the written representations required by paragraphs 10 and 11 are not reliable; or
 - (b) Management does not provide the written representations required by paragraphs 10 and 11. (Ref: Para. A26-A27)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Written Representations as Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 3)

- A1. Written representations are an important source of audit evidence. If management modifies or does not provide the requested written representations, it may alert the auditor to the possibility that one or more significant issues may exist. Further, a request for written, rather than oral, representations in many cases may prompt management to consider such matters more rigorously, thereby enhancing the quality of the representations.

Management from whom Written Representations Requested (Ref: Para. 9)

- A2. Written representations are requested from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. Those individuals may vary depending on the governance structure of the entity, and relevant law or regulation; however, management (rather than those charged with governance) is often the responsible party. Written representations may therefore be requested from the entity's chief executive officer and chief financial officer, or other equivalent persons in entities that do not use such titles. In some circumstances, however, other parties, such as those charged with governance, are also responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements^{4a}.

A2-1 In view of their importance, it is appropriate for written representations that are critical to obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence to be provided by those charged with governance rather than the entity's management.

^{4a} In the UK and Ireland, those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

- A3. Due to its responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements, and its responsibilities for the conduct of the entity's business, management would be expected to have sufficient knowledge of the process followed by the entity in preparing and presenting the financial statements and the assertions therein on which to base the written representations.
- A4. In some cases, however, management may decide to make inquiries of others who participate in preparing and presenting the financial statements and assertions therein, including individuals who have specialized knowledge relating to the matters about which written representations are requested. Such individuals may include:
- An actuary responsible for actuarially determined accounting measurements.
 - Staff engineers who may have responsibility for and specialized knowledge about environmental liability measurements.
 - Internal counsel who may provide information essential to provisions for legal claims.
- A5. In some cases, management may include in the written representations qualifying language to the effect that representations are made to the best of its knowledge and belief. It is reasonable for the auditor to accept such wording if the auditor is satisfied that the representations are being made by those with appropriate responsibilities and knowledge of the matters included in the representations.
- A6. To reinforce the need for management to make informed representations, the auditor may request that management include in the written representations confirmation that it has made such inquiries as it considered appropriate to place it in the position to be able to make the requested written representations. It is not expected that such inquiries would usually require a formal internal process beyond those already established by the entity.

Written Representations about Management's Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 10-11)

- A7. Audit evidence obtained during the audit that management has fulfilled the responsibilities referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 is not sufficient without obtaining confirmation from management that it believes that it has fulfilled those responsibilities. This is because the auditor is not able to judge solely on other audit evidence whether management has prepared and presented the financial statements and provided information to the auditor on the basis of the agreed acknowledgement and understanding of its responsibilities. For example, the auditor could not conclude that management has provided the auditor with all relevant information agreed in the terms of the audit engagement without asking it whether, and receiving confirmation that, such information has been provided.
- A7-1. A signed copy of the financial statements for a company may be sufficient evidence of the directors' acknowledgement of their collective responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements where it incorporates a statement to that effect. A signed copy of the financial statements, however, is not, by itself, sufficient appropriate evidence to confirm other representations given to the auditor as it does not, ordinarily, clearly identify and explain the specific separate representations.
- A8. The written representations required by paragraphs 10 and 11 draw on the agreed acknowledgement and understanding of management of its responsibilities in the terms

of the audit engagement by requesting confirmation that it has fulfilled them. The auditor may also ask management to reconfirm its acknowledgement and understanding of those responsibilities in written representations. This is common in certain jurisdictions, but in any event may be particularly appropriate when:

- Those who signed the terms of the audit engagement on behalf of the entity no longer have the relevant responsibilities;
- The terms of the audit engagement were prepared in a previous year;
- There is any indication that management misunderstands those responsibilities; or
- Changes in circumstances make it appropriate to do so.

Consistent with the requirement of ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised),⁵ such reconfirmation of management's acknowledgement and understanding of its responsibilities is not made subject to the best of management's knowledge and belief (as discussed in paragraph A5 of this ISA (UK and Ireland)).

A8-1 Although reconfirmation of management's acknowledgement and understanding of its responsibilities is not made subject to the best of management's knowledge and belief, as discussed in paragraph A8, this does not prevent management from stating that the written representations required by paragraphs 10 and 11 relating to the fulfillment of its responsibilities are given to the best of its knowledge and belief.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A9. The mandates for audits of the financial statements of public sector entities may be broader than those of other entities. As a result, the premise, relating to management's responsibilities, on which an audit of the financial statements of a public sector entity is conducted may give rise to additional written representations. These may include written representations confirming that transactions and events have been carried out in accordance with law, regulation or other authority.

Other Written Representations (Ref: Para. 13)

Additional Written Representations about the Financial Statements

A10. In addition to the written representation required by paragraph 10, the auditor may consider it necessary to request other written representations about the financial statements. Such written representations may supplement, but do not form part of, the written representation required by paragraph 10. They may include representations about the following:

- Whether the selection and application of accounting policies are appropriate; and
- Whether matters such as the following, where relevant under the applicable financial reporting framework, have been recognized, measured, presented or disclosed in accordance with that framework:
 - Plans or intentions that may affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities;
 - Liabilities, both actual and contingent;

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), paragraph 6(b).

- Title to, or control over, assets, the liens or encumbrances on assets, and assets pledged as collateral; and
- Aspects of laws, regulations and contractual agreements that may affect the financial statements, including non-compliance.

Additional Written Representations about Information Provided to the Auditor

A11. In addition to the written representation required by paragraph 11, the auditor may consider it necessary to request management to provide a written representation that it has communicated to the auditor all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.

Written Representations about Specific Assertions

A12. When obtaining evidence about, or evaluating, judgments and intentions, the auditor may consider one or more of the following:

- The entity’s past history in carrying out its stated intentions.
- The entity’s reasons for choosing a particular course of action.
- The entity’s ability to pursue a specific course of action.
- The existence or lack of any other information that might have been obtained during the course of the audit that may be inconsistent with management’s judgment or intent.

A13. In addition, the auditor may consider it necessary to request management to provide written representations about specific assertions in the financial statements; in particular, to support an understanding that the auditor has obtained from other audit evidence of management’s judgment or intent in relation to, or the completeness of, a specific assertion. For example, if the intent of management is important to the valuation basis for investments, it may not be possible to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence without a written representation from management about its intentions. Although such written representations provide necessary audit evidence, they do not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence on their own for that assertion.

Communicating a Threshold Amount (Ref: Para. 10-11, 13)

A14. ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 **(Revised)** requires the auditor to accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial.⁶ The auditor may determine a threshold above which misstatements cannot be regarded as clearly trivial. In the same way, the auditor may consider communicating to management a threshold for purposes of the requested written representations.

Date of and Period(s) Covered by Written Representations (Ref: Para. 14)

A15. Because written representations are necessary audit evidence, the auditor’s opinion cannot be expressed, and the auditor’s report cannot be dated, before the date of the written representations. Furthermore, because the auditor is concerned with events occurring up to the date of the auditor’s report that may require adjustment to or

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 **(Revised)**, “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit,” paragraph 5.

disclosure in the financial statements, the written representations are dated as near as practicable to, but not after, the date of the auditor's report on the financial statements.

- A16. In some circumstances it may be appropriate for the auditor to obtain a written representation about a specific assertion in the financial statements during the course of the audit. Where this is the case, it may be necessary to request an updated written representation.
- A17. The written representations are for all periods referred to in the auditor's report because management needs to reaffirm that the written representations it previously made with respect to the prior periods remain appropriate. The auditor and management may agree to a form of written representation that updates written representations relating to the prior periods by addressing whether there are any changes to such written representations and, if so, what they are.
- A18. Situations may arise where current management were not present during all periods referred to in the auditor's report. Such persons may assert that they are not in a position to provide some or all of the written representations because they were not in place during the period. This fact, however, does not diminish such persons' responsibilities for the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, the requirement for the auditor to request from them written representations that cover the whole of the relevant period(s) still applies.

Form of Written Representations (Ref: Para. 15)

- A19. Written representations are required to be included in a representation letter addressed to the auditor. In some jurisdictions, however, management may be required by law or regulation to make a written public statement about its responsibilities. Although such statement is a representation to the users of the financial statements, or to relevant authorities, the auditor may determine that it is an appropriate form of written representation in respect of some or all of the representations required by paragraph 10 or 11. Consequently, the relevant matters covered by such statement need not be included in the representation letter. Factors that may affect the auditor's determination include:
- Whether the statement includes confirmation of the fulfillment of the responsibilities referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11.
 - Whether the statement has been given or approved by those from whom the auditor requests the relevant written representations.
 - Whether a copy of the statement is provided to the auditor as near as practicable to, but not after, the date of the auditor's report on the financial statements (see paragraph 14).
- A20. A formal statement of compliance with law or regulation, or of approval of the financial statements, would not contain sufficient information for the auditor to be satisfied that all necessary representations have been consciously made. The expression of management's responsibilities in law or regulation is also not a substitute for the requested written representations.
- A21. Appendix 2 provides an illustrative example of a representation letter.

Communication with Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 10-11, 13)

A22. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance the written representations which the auditor has requested from management.⁷

A22-1. In the UK and Ireland these communications are made before those charged with governance approve the financial statements, to ensure that they are aware of the representations on which the auditor intends to rely in expressing the auditor's opinion on those financial statements.

A22-2. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{7a} requires the auditor to communicate in the additional report to the audit committee that all requested explanations and documents were provided by the entity. [AR/Article 11.2(o)]

Doubt as to the Reliability of Written Representations and Requested Written Representations Not Provided

Doubt as to the Reliability of Written Representations (Ref: Para. 16-17)

A23. In the case of identified inconsistencies between one or more written representations and audit evidence obtained from another source, the auditor may consider whether the risk assessment remains appropriate and, if not, revise the risk assessment and determine the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures to respond to the assessed risks.

A24. Concerns about the competence, integrity, ethical values or diligence of management, or about its commitment to or enforcement of these, may cause the auditor to conclude that the risk of management misrepresentation in the financial statements is such that an audit cannot be conducted. In such a case, the auditor may consider withdrawing from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation, unless those charged with governance put in place appropriate corrective measures. Such measures, however, may not be sufficient to enable the auditor to issue an unmodified audit opinion.

A25. ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) requires the auditor to document significant matters arising during the audit, the conclusions reached thereon, and significant professional judgments made in reaching those conclusions.⁸ The auditor may have identified significant issues relating to the competence, integrity, ethical values or diligence of management, or about its commitment to or enforcement of these, but concluded that the written representations are nevertheless reliable. In such a case, this significant matter is documented in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised).

Written Representations about Management's Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 20)

A26. As explained in paragraph A7, the auditor is not able to judge solely on other audit evidence whether management has fulfilled the responsibilities referred to in

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), "Communication with Those Charged with Governance," paragraph 16(c)(ii).

^{7a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 16R-2(o).

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), "Audit Documentation," paragraphs 8(c) and 10.

paragraphs 10 and 11. Therefore, if, as described in paragraph 20(a), the auditor concludes that the written representations about these matters are unreliable, or if management does not provide those written representations, the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. The possible effects on the financial statements of such inability are not confined to specific elements, accounts or items of the financial statements and are hence pervasive. ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) requires the auditor to disclaim an opinion on the financial statements in such circumstances.⁹

A27. A written representation that has been modified from that requested by the auditor does not necessarily mean that management did not provide the written representation. However, the underlying reason for such modification may affect the opinion in the auditor's report. For example:

- The written representation about management's fulfillment of its responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements may state that management believes that, except for material non-compliance with a particular requirement of the applicable financial reporting framework, the financial statements are prepared in accordance with that framework. The requirement in paragraph 20 does not apply because the auditor concluded that management has provided reliable written representations. However, the auditor is required to consider the effect of the non-compliance on the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).
- The written representation about the responsibility of management to provide the auditor with all relevant information agreed in the terms of the audit engagement may state that management believes that, except for information destroyed in a fire, it has provided the auditor with such information. The requirement in paragraph 20 does not apply because the auditor concluded that management has provided reliable written representations. However, the auditor is required to consider the effects of the pervasiveness of the information destroyed in the fire on the financial statements and the effect thereof on the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).
- The written representation that all transactions have been recorded and are reflected in the financial statements may be modified, for example to refer a threshold amount agreed with the auditor (see paragraph A14) or to state that all transactions that may have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded.

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), paragraph 9.

Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. 2)

List of ISAs (UK and Ireland) Containing Requirements for Written Representations

This appendix identifies paragraphs in other ISAs (UK and Ireland) ~~in effect for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010~~ that require subject-matter specific written representations. The list is not a substitute for considering the requirements and related application and other explanatory material in ISAs (UK and Ireland).

- ~~ISA 240~~ (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements” – paragraph 39
- ~~ISA 250~~ (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised), “Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements” – paragraph 16
- ~~ISA 450~~ (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit” – paragraph 14
- ~~ISA 501~~ (UK and Ireland) 501, “Audit Evidence—Specific Considerations for Selected Items” – paragraph 12
- ~~ISA 540~~ (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised), “Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures” – paragraph 22
- ~~ISA 550~~ (UK and Ireland) 550, “Related Parties” – paragraph 26
- ~~ISA 560~~ (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events” – paragraph 9
- ~~ISA 570~~ (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), “Going Concern” – paragraph 16(e)
- ~~ISA 710~~ (UK and Ireland) 710, “Comparative Information—Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements” – paragraph 9
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information” – paragraph 13(c)

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. A21)

This illustrative representation letter has not been tailored for the UK and Ireland. For example, when describing the responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements and providing information to the auditor, the auditor has regard to the manner in which those responsibilities are described in the terms of the audit engagement (see ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 [\(Revised\)](#)).

Illustrative Representation Letter

The following illustrative letter includes written representations that are required by this and other ISAs ~~in effect for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010~~. It is assumed in this illustration that the applicable financial reporting framework is International Financial Reporting Standards; the requirement of ISA 570 [\(Revised\)](#)¹⁰ to obtain a written representation is not relevant; and that there are no exceptions to the requested written representations. If there were exceptions, the representations would need to be modified to reflect the exceptions.

(Entity Letterhead)

(To Auditor)

(Date)

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX¹¹ for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view*) in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

We confirm that (*to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves*):

Financial Statements

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement dated [insert date], for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards; in particular the financial statements are fairly presented (or *give a true and fair view*) in accordance therewith.
- Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. (ISA 540)
- Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards. (ISA 550)
- All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or

¹⁰ ISA 570 [\(Revised\)](#), “Going Concern.”

¹¹ Where the auditor reports on more than one period, the auditor adjusts the date so that the letter pertains to all periods covered by the auditor’s report.

disclosed. (ISA 560)

- The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to the representation letter. (ISA 450 (Revised))
- [Any other matters that the auditor may consider appropriate (see paragraph A10 of this ISA).]

Information Provided

- We have provided you with:¹²
 - Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. (ISA 240)
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves:
 - Management;
 - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. (ISA 240)
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity’s financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others. (ISA 240)
- We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements. (ISA 250)
- We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity’s related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware. (ISA 550)
- [Any other matters that the auditor may consider necessary (see paragraph A11 of this ISA).]

Management

Management

¹² If the auditor has included other matters relating to management’s responsibilities in the audit engagement letter in accordance with ISA 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements”, consideration may be given to including these matters in the written representations from management or those charged with governance.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 600 REVISED**

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(INCLUDING THE WORK OF COMPONENT AUDITORS)**

(Effective for audits of group financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~15 December 2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 600 (Revised), “Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. The International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISAs (UK and Ireland)) apply to group audits. This ISA (UK and Ireland) deals with special considerations that apply to group audits, in particular those that involve component auditors.
2. An auditor may find this ISA (UK and Ireland), adapted as necessary in the circumstances, useful when that auditor involves other auditors in the audit of financial statements that are not group financial statements. For example, an auditor may involve another auditor to observe the inventory count or inspect physical fixed assets at a remote location.
3. A component auditor may be required by statute, regulation or for another reason, to express an audit opinion on the financial statements of a component. The group engagement team may decide to use the audit evidence on which the audit opinion on the financial statements of the component is based to provide audit evidence for the group audit, but the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland) nevertheless apply. (Ref: Para. A1)
4. In accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised),¹ the group engagement partner is required to be satisfied that those performing the group audit engagement, including component auditors, collectively have the appropriate competence and capabilities. The group engagement partner is also responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit engagement.
5. The group engagement partner applies the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) regardless of whether the group engagement team or a component auditor performs the work on the financial information of a component. This ISA (UK and Ireland) assists the group engagement partner to meet the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) where component auditors perform work on the financial information of components.
6. Audit risk is a function of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements and the risk that the auditor will not detect such misstatements.² In a group audit, this includes the risk that the component auditor may not detect a misstatement in the financial information of the component that could cause a material misstatement of the group financial statements, and the risk that the group engagement team may not detect this misstatement. This ISA (UK and Ireland) explains the matters that the group engagement team considers when determining the nature, timing and extent of its involvement in the risk assessment procedures and further audit procedures performed by the component auditors on the financial information of the components. The purpose of this involvement is to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the audit opinion on the group financial statements.

Effective Date

7. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of group financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ ~~15 December 2010~~.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraphs 14 and 15.

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph A32.

Objectives

8. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To determine whether to act as the auditor of the group financial statements; and
 - (b) If acting as the auditor of the group financial statements:
 - (i) To communicate clearly with component auditors about the scope and timing of their work on financial information related to components and their findings; and
 - (ii) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the components and the consolidation process to express an opinion on whether the group financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Definitions

9. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Component – An entity or business activity for which group or component management prepares financial information that should be included in the group financial statements. (Ref: Para. A2-A4)
 - (b) Component auditor – An auditor who, at the request of the group engagement team, performs work on financial information related to a component for the group audit. (Ref: Para. A7)
 - (c) Component management – Management responsible for the preparation of the financial information of a component.
 - (d) Component materiality – The materiality for a component determined by the group engagement team.
 - (e) Group – All the components whose financial information is included in the group financial statements. A group always has more than one component.
 - (f) Group audit – The audit of group financial statements.
 - (g) Group audit opinion – The audit opinion on the group financial statements.
 - (h) Group engagement partner – The partner or other person in the firm who is responsible for the group audit engagement and its performance, and for the auditor’s report on the group financial statements that is issued on behalf of the firm. Where joint auditors conduct the group audit, the joint engagement partners and their engagement teams collectively constitute the group engagement partner and the group engagement team. This ISA (UK and Ireland) does not, however, deal with the relationship between joint auditors or the work that one joint auditor performs in relation to the work of the other joint auditor.
 - (i) Group engagement team – Partners, including the group engagement partner, and staff who establish the overall group audit strategy, communicate with component auditors, perform work on the consolidation process, and evaluate the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence as the basis for forming an opinion on the group financial statements.

- (j) Group financial statements – Financial statements that include the financial information of more than one component. The term “group financial statements” also refers to combined financial statements aggregating the financial information prepared by components that have no parent but are under common control. (Ref: [Para. A4-1](#))
 - (k) Group management – Management responsible for the preparation of the group financial statements.
 - (l) Group-wide controls – Controls designed, implemented and maintained by group management over group financial reporting.
 - (m) Significant component – A component identified by the group engagement team (i) that is of individual financial significance to the group, or (ii) that, due to its specific nature or circumstances, is likely to include significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements. (Ref: Para. A5-A6)
 - (n) Group auditor – Defined in Article 2(6) of the Audit Directive as the statutory auditor carrying out the statutory audit of consolidated accounts.
10. Reference to “the applicable financial reporting framework” means the financial reporting framework that applies to the group financial statements. Reference to “the consolidation process” includes:
- (a) The recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of the financial information of the components in the group financial statements by way of consolidation, proportionate consolidation, or the equity or cost methods of accounting; and
 - (b) The aggregation in combined financial statements of the financial information of components that have no parent but are under common control.

Requirements

Responsibility

11. The group engagement partner is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit engagement in compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the auditor’s report that is issued is appropriate in the circumstances.³ As a result, the auditor’s report on the group financial statements shall not refer to a component auditor, unless required by law or regulation to include such reference. If such reference is required by law or regulation, the auditor’s report shall indicate that the reference does not diminish the group engagement partner’s or the group engagement partner’s firm’s responsibility for the group audit opinion. (Ref: Para. A8-A9)

11D-1. For statutory audits of group financial statements, the group auditor shall bear the full responsibility for the auditor’s report on the group financial statements. [AD/Article 27.1(a)]

Acceptance and Continuance

12. In applying ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), the group engagement partner shall determine whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence can reasonably be expected to be obtained in relation to the consolidation process and the financial information of the

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 15.

components on which to base the group audit opinion. For this purpose, the group engagement team shall obtain an understanding of the group, its components, and their environments that is sufficient to identify components that are likely to be significant components. Where component auditors will perform work on the financial information of such components, the group engagement partner shall evaluate whether the group engagement team will be able to be involved in the work of those component auditors to the extent necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. (Ref: Para. A10-A12)

13. If the group engagement partner concludes that:
- (a) it will not be possible for the group engagement team to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence due to restrictions imposed by group management; and
 - (b) the possible effect of this inability will result in a disclaimer of opinion on the group financial statements),⁴

the group engagement partner shall either:

- in the case of a new engagement, not accept the engagement, or, in the case of a continuing engagement, withdraw from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation; or
- where law or regulation prohibits an auditor from declining an engagement or where withdrawal from an engagement is not otherwise possible, having performed the audit of the group financial statements to the extent possible, disclaim an opinion on the group financial statements. (Ref: Para. A13-A19)

Terms of Engagement

14. The group engagement partner shall agree on the terms of the group audit engagement in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised).⁵ (Ref: Para. A20-A21)

Overall Audit Strategy and Audit Plan

15. The group engagement team shall establish an overall group audit strategy and shall develop a group audit plan in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised).⁶
16. The group engagement partner shall review the overall group audit strategy and group audit plan. (Ref: Para. A22)

Understanding the Group, Its Components and Their Environments

17. The auditor is required to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement through obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment.⁷ The group engagement team shall:
- (a) Enhance its understanding of the group, its components, and their environments, including group-wide controls, obtained during the acceptance or continuance stage; and

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements.”

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised), “Planning an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraphs 7-12.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment.”

- (b) Obtain an understanding of the consolidation process, including the instructions issued by group management to components. (Ref: Para. A23-A29)
18. The group engagement team shall obtain an understanding that is sufficient to:
- (a) Confirm or revise its initial identification of components that are likely to be significant; and
 - (b) Assess the risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.⁸ (Ref: Para. A30-A31)

Understanding the Component Auditor

19. If the group engagement team plans to request a component auditor to perform work on the financial information of a component, the group engagement team shall obtain an understanding of the following: (Ref: Para. A32-A35)
- (a) Whether the component auditor understands and will comply with the ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit and, in particular, is independent. (Ref: Para. A37)
 - (b) The component auditor's professional competence. (Ref: Para. A38)
 - (c) Whether the group engagement team will be able to be involved in the work of the component auditor to the extent necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.
 - (d) Whether the component auditor operates in a regulatory environment that actively oversees auditors. (Ref: Para. A36)

19D-1. For statutory audits of group financial statements, the group auditor shall request the agreement of the component auditor to the transfer of relevant documentation during the conduct of the audit of the group financial statements, as a condition of the use by the group auditor of the work of the component auditor. (Ref: Para. A61-1) [AD/Article 27.1]

20. If a component auditor does not meet the independence requirements that are relevant to the group audit, or the group engagement team has serious concerns about the other matters listed in paragraph 19(a)-(c), the group engagement team shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence relating to the financial information of the component without requesting that component auditor to perform work on the financial information of that component. (Ref: Para. A39-A41)

Materiality

21. The group engagement team shall determine the following: (Ref: Para. A42)
- (a) Materiality for the group financial statements as a whole when establishing the overall group audit strategy.
 - (b) If, in the specific circumstances of the group, there are particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures in the group financial statements for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the group financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the group financial statements, the

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised).

materiality level or levels to be applied to those particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures.

- (c) Component materiality for those components where component auditors will perform an audit or a review for purposes of the group audit. To reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements in the group financial statements exceeds materiality for the group financial statements as a whole, component materiality shall be lower than materiality for the group financial statements as a whole. (Ref: Para. A43-A44)
 - (d) The threshold above which misstatements cannot be regarded as clearly trivial to the group financial statements. (Ref: Para. A45)
22. Where component auditors will perform an audit for purposes of the group audit, the group engagement team shall evaluate the appropriateness of performance materiality determined at the component level. (Ref: Para. A46)
23. If a component is subject to audit by statute, regulation or other reason, and the group engagement team decides to use that audit to provide audit evidence for the group audit, the group engagement team shall determine whether:
- (a) materiality for the component financial statements as a whole; and
 - (b) performance materiality at the component level
- meet the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Responding to Assessed Risks

24. The auditor is required to design and implement appropriate responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement of the financial statements.⁹ The group engagement team shall determine the type of work to be performed by the group engagement team, or the component auditors on its behalf, on the financial information of the components (see paragraphs 26-29). The group engagement team shall also determine the nature, timing and extent of its involvement in the work of the component auditors (see paragraphs 30-31).
25. If the nature, timing and extent of the work to be performed on the consolidation process or the financial information of the components are based on an expectation that group-wide controls are operating effectively, or if substantive procedures alone cannot provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence at the assertion level, the group engagement team shall test, or request a component auditor to test, the operating effectiveness of those controls.

Determining the Type of Work to Be Performed on the Financial Information of Components
(Ref: Para. A47)

Significant Components

26. For a component that is significant due to its individual financial significance to the group, the group engagement team, or a component auditor on its behalf, shall perform an audit of the financial information of the component using component materiality.
27. For a component that is significant because it is likely to include significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements due to its specific nature or

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330, “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks.”

circumstances, the group engagement team, or a component auditor on its behalf, shall perform one or more of the following:

- (a) An audit of the financial information of the component using component materiality.
- (b) An audit of one or more account balances, classes of transactions or disclosures relating to the likely significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements. (Ref: Para. A48)
- (c) Specified audit procedures relating to the likely significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements. (Ref: Para. A49)

Components that Are Not Significant Components

28. For components that are not significant components, the group engagement team shall perform analytical procedures at group level. (Ref: Para. A50)
29. If the group engagement team does not consider that sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the group audit opinion will be obtained from:
 - (a) the work performed on the financial information of significant components;
 - (b) the work performed on group-wide controls and the consolidation process; and
 - (c) the analytical procedures performed at group level,

the group engagement team shall select components that are not significant components and shall perform, or request a component auditor to perform, one or more of the following on the financial information of the individual components selected: (Ref: Para. A51-A53)

- An audit of the financial information of the component using component materiality.
- An audit of one or more account balances, classes of transactions or disclosures.
- A review of the financial information of the component using component materiality.
- Specified procedures.

The group engagement team shall vary the selection of components over a period of time.

Involvement in the Work Performed by Component Auditors (Ref: Para. A54-A55)

Significant Components—Risk Assessment

30. If a component auditor performs an audit of the financial information of a significant component, the group engagement team shall be involved in the component auditor's risk assessment to identify significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements. The nature, timing and extent of this involvement are affected by the group engagement team's understanding of the component auditor, but at a minimum shall include:
 - (a) Discussing with the component auditor or component management those of the component's business activities that are significant to the group;
 - (b) Discussing with the component auditor the susceptibility of the component to material misstatement of the financial information due to fraud or error; and

- (c) Reviewing the component auditor’s documentation of identified significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements. Such documentation may take the form of a memorandum that reflects the component auditor’s conclusion with regard to the identified significant risks.

Identified Significant Risks of Material Misstatement of the Group Financial Statements— Further Audit Procedures

- 31. If significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements have been identified in a component on which a component auditor performs the work, the group engagement team shall evaluate the appropriateness of the further audit procedures to be performed to respond to the identified significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements. Based on its understanding of the component auditor, the group engagement team shall determine whether it is necessary to be involved in the further audit procedures.

Consolidation Process

- 32. In accordance with paragraph 17, the group engagement team obtains an understanding of group-wide controls and the consolidation process, including the instructions issued by group management to components. In accordance with paragraph 25, the group engagement team, or component auditor at the request of the group engagement team, tests the operating effectiveness of group-wide controls if the nature, timing and extent of the work to be performed on the consolidation process are based on an expectation that group-wide controls are operating effectively, or if substantive procedures alone cannot provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence at the assertion level.
- 33. The group engagement team shall design and perform further audit procedures on the consolidation process to respond to the assessed risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements arising from the consolidation process. This shall include evaluating whether all components have been included in the group financial statements.
- 34. The group engagement team shall evaluate the appropriateness, completeness and accuracy of consolidation adjustments and reclassifications, and shall evaluate whether any fraud risk factors or indicators of possible management bias exist. (Ref: Para. A56)
- 35. If the financial information of a component has not been prepared in accordance with the same accounting policies applied to the group financial statements, the group engagement team shall evaluate whether the financial information of that component has been appropriately adjusted for purposes of preparing and presenting the group financial statements.
- 36. The group engagement team shall determine whether the financial information identified in the component auditor’s communication (see paragraph 41(c)) is the financial information that is incorporated in the group financial statements.
- 37. If the group financial statements include the financial statements of a component with a financial reporting period-end that differs from that of the group, the group engagement team shall evaluate whether appropriate adjustments have been made to those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Subsequent Events

38. Where the group engagement team or component auditors perform audits on the financial information of components, the group engagement team or the component auditors shall perform procedures designed to identify events at those components that occur between the dates of the financial information of the components and the date of the auditor's report on the group financial statements, and that may require adjustment to or disclosure in the group financial statements.
39. Where component auditors perform work other than audits of the financial information of components, the group engagement team shall request the component auditors to notify the group engagement team if they become aware of subsequent events that may require an adjustment to or disclosure in the group financial statements.

Communication with the Component Auditor

40. The group engagement team shall communicate its requirements to the component auditor on a timely basis. This communication shall set out the work to be performed, the use to be made of that work, and the form and content of the component auditor's communication with the group engagement team. It shall also include the following: (Ref: Para. A57, A58, A60)
 - (a) A request that the component auditor, knowing the context in which the group engagement team will use the work of the component auditor, confirms that the component auditor will cooperate with the group engagement team. (Ref: Para. A59)
 - (b) The ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit and, in particular, the independence requirements.
 - (c) In the case of an audit or review of the financial information of the component, component materiality (and, if applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) and the threshold above which misstatements cannot be regarded as clearly trivial to the group financial statements.
 - (d) Identified significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements, due to fraud or error, that are relevant to the work of the component auditor. The group engagement team shall request the component auditor to communicate on a timely basis any other identified significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements, due to fraud or error, in the component, and the component auditor's responses to such risks.
 - (e) A list of related parties prepared by group management, and any other related parties of which the group engagement team is aware. The group engagement team shall request the component auditor to communicate on a timely basis related parties not previously identified by group management or the group engagement team. The group engagement team shall determine whether to identify such additional related parties to other component auditors.
41. The group engagement team shall request the component auditor to communicate matters relevant to the group engagement team's conclusion with regard to the group audit. Such communication shall include: (Ref: Para. A60)
 - (a) Whether the component auditor has complied with ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit, including independence and professional competence;

- (b) Whether the component auditor has complied with the group engagement team’s requirements;
- (c) Identification of the financial information of the component on which the component auditor is reporting;
- (d) Information on instances of non-compliance with laws or regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement of the group financial statements;
- (e) A list of uncorrected misstatements of the financial information of the component (the list need not include misstatements that are below the threshold for clearly trivial misstatements communicated by the group engagement team (see paragraph 40(c)));
- (f) Indicators of possible management bias;
- (g) Description of any identified significant deficiencies in internal control at the component level;
- (h) Other significant matters that the component auditor communicated or expects to communicate to those charged with governance of the component, including fraud or suspected fraud involving component management, employees who have significant roles in internal control at the component level or others where the fraud resulted in a material misstatement of the financial information of the component;
- (i) Any other matters that may be relevant to the group audit, or that the component auditor wishes to draw to the attention of the group engagement team, including exceptions noted in the written representations that the component auditor requested from component management; and
- (j) The component auditor’s overall findings, conclusions or opinion.

Evaluating the Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence Obtained

Evaluating the Component Auditor’s Communication and Adequacy of their Work

42. The group engagement team shall evaluate the component auditor’s communication (see paragraph 41). The group engagement team shall:
- (a) Discuss significant matters arising from that evaluation with the component auditor, component management or group management, as appropriate; and
 - (b) Determine whether it is necessary to review other relevant parts of the component auditor’s audit documentation. (Ref: Para. A61)

42D-1. For statutory audits of group financial statements, the group auditor shall:

- (a) Evaluate the audit work performed by the component auditor for the purpose of the group audit; and [AD/Article 27.1(b)]
- (b) Either:
 - (i) Review the audit work performed by the component auditor for the purpose of the group audit; or [AD/Article 27.1(c)]
 - (ii) Where the group engagement team is unable to comply with paragraph 42D-1(b), the group engagement team shall take appropriate measures and inform the relevant competent authority. Such measures shall, as

appropriate, include carrying out additional audit work, either directly or by outsourcing such tasks, in the relevant component. [AD/Article 27.2]

43. If the group engagement team concludes that the work of the component auditor is insufficient, the group engagement team shall determine what additional procedures are to be performed, and whether they are to be performed by the component auditor or by the group engagement team.

Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence

44. The auditor is required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level and thereby enable the auditor to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor’s opinion.¹⁰ The group engagement team shall evaluate whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained from the audit procedures performed on the consolidation process and the work performed by the group engagement team and the component auditors on the financial information of the components, on which to base the group audit opinion. (Ref: Para. A62)
45. The group engagement partner shall evaluate the effect on the group audit opinion of any uncorrected misstatements (either identified by the group engagement team or communicated by component auditors) and any instances where there has been an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. (Ref: Para. A63)

Communication with Group Management and Those Charged with Governance of the Group

Communication with Group Management

46. The group engagement team shall determine which identified deficiencies in internal control to communicate to those charged with governance and group management in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 265.¹¹ In making this determination, the group engagement team shall consider:
- (a) Deficiencies in group-wide internal control that the group engagement team has identified;
 - (b) Deficiencies in internal control that the group engagement team has identified in internal controls at components; and
 - (c) Deficiencies in internal control that component auditors have brought to the attention of the group engagement team.
47. If fraud has been identified by the group engagement team or brought to its attention by a component auditor (see paragraph 41(h)), or information indicates that a fraud may exist, the group engagement team shall communicate this on a timely basis to the appropriate level of group management in order to inform those with primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud of matters relevant to their responsibilities. (Ref. Para. A64)
48. A component auditor may be required by statute, regulation or for another reason, to express an audit opinion on the financial statements of a component. In that case, the group engagement team shall request group management to inform component

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 17.

¹¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 265, “Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management.”

management of any matter of which the group engagement team becomes aware that may be significant to the financial statements of the component, but of which component management may be unaware. If group management refuses to communicate the matter to component management, the group engagement team shall discuss the matter with those charged with governance of the group. If the matter remains unresolved, the group engagement team, subject to legal and professional confidentiality considerations, shall consider whether to advise the component auditor not to issue the auditor’s report on the financial statements of the component until the matter is resolved. (Ref: Para. A65)

Communication with Those Charged with Governance of the Group

49. The group engagement team shall communicate the following matters with those charged with governance of the group, in addition to those required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)¹² and other ISAs (UK and Ireland): (Ref: Para. A66)
- (a) An overview of the type of work to be performed on the financial information of the components.
 - (b) An overview of the nature of the group engagement team’s planned involvement in the work to be performed by the component auditors on the financial information of significant components.
 - (c) Instances where the group engagement team’s evaluation of the work of a component auditor gave rise to a concern about the quality of that auditor’s work.
 - (d) Any limitations on the group audit, for example, where the group engagement team’s access to information may have been restricted.
 - (e) Fraud or suspected fraud involving group management, component management, employees who have significant roles in group-wide controls or others where the fraud resulted in a material misstatement of the group financial statements.

49D-1. For statutory audits of group financial statements, the group auditor shall bear the full responsibility for the additional report to the audit committee^{12a}. [AD/Article 27.1(a)]

Documentation

50. The group engagement team shall include in the audit documentation the following matters:¹³
- (a) An analysis of components, indicating those that are significant, and the type of work performed on the financial information of the components.
 - (b) The nature, timing and extent of the group engagement team’s involvement in the work performed by the component auditors on significant components including, where applicable, the group engagement team’s review of relevant parts of the component auditors’ audit documentation and conclusions thereon. (Ref: Para. A66-1)

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance.”

^{12a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 16R-2 deals with the auditor’s responsibilities to prepare an additional report to the audit committee.

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), “Audit Documentation,” paragraphs 8-11, and paragraph A6.

- (c) Written communications between the group engagement team and the component auditors about the group engagement team’s requirements.

50D-1. For statutory audits of group financial statements, the group auditor shall include in the audit documentation:

- (a) The review of the audit work performed by the component auditor for the purpose of the group audit; and [AD/Article 27.1(c)]
- (b) The nature, timing and extent of the work performed by the component auditor, including, where applicable, the group auditor’s review of relevant parts of the component auditor’s audit documentation. [AD/Article 27.1(b)]

Where audit working papers cannot, for legal or other reasons, be passed from a component auditor to the group auditor, the documentation retained by the group auditor shall include evidence that the group auditor has undertaken the appropriate procedures in order to gain access to the audit documentation, and in the case of impediments other than legal ones arising from the legislation of the component auditor’s jurisdiction, evidence supporting the existence of such impediments. [AD/Article 27.3]

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Components Subject to Audit by Statute, Regulation or Other Reason (Ref: Para. 3)

- A1. Factors that may affect the group engagement team’s decision whether to use an audit required by statute, regulation or for another reason to provide audit evidence for the group audit include the following:
- Differences in the financial reporting framework applied in preparing the financial statements of the component and that applied in preparing the group financial statements.
 - Differences in the auditing and other standards applied by the component auditor and those applied in the audit of the group financial statements.
 - Whether the audit of the financial statements of the component will be completed in time to meet the group reporting timetable.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

- A1-1 In certain parts of the public sector where the responsibilities of principal and other auditors are governed by statutory provisions, these override the provisions of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Definitions

Component (Ref: Para. 9(a))

- A2. The structure of a group affects how components are identified. For example, the group financial reporting system may be based on an organizational structure that provides for financial information to be prepared by a parent and one or more subsidiaries, joint ventures, or investees accounted for by the equity or cost methods of accounting; by a head office and one or more divisions or branches; or by a combination of both. Some groups, however, may organize their financial reporting system by function, process, product or service (or by groups of products or services), or geographical locations. In these cases, the entity or business activity for which group or component management

prepares financial information that is included in the group financial statements may be a function, process, product or service (or group of products or services), or geographical location.

- A3. Various levels of components may exist within the group financial reporting system, in which case it may be more appropriate to identify components at certain levels of aggregation rather than individually.
- A4. Components aggregated at a certain level may constitute a component for purposes of the group audit; however, such a component may also prepare group financial statements that incorporate the financial information of the components it encompasses (that is, a subgroup). This ISA (UK and Ireland) may therefore be applied by different group engagement partners and teams for different subgroups within a larger group.

Group Financial Statements (Ref: Para 9(j))

A4-1. In the UK and Ireland, law or regulation may use other terms to describe the group financial statements including “group accounts”, “group financial statements”, “consolidated accounts” and “consolidated financial statements”.

Significant Component (Ref: Para. 9(m))

- A5. As the individual financial significance of a component increases, the risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements ordinarily increase. The group engagement team may apply a percentage to a chosen benchmark as an aid to identify components that are of individual financial significance. Identifying a benchmark and determining a percentage to be applied to it involve the exercise of professional judgment. Depending on the nature and circumstances of the group, appropriate benchmarks might include group assets, liabilities, cash flows, profit or turnover. For example, the group engagement team may consider that components exceeding 15% of the chosen benchmark are significant components. A higher or lower percentage may, however, be deemed appropriate in the circumstances.
- A6. The group engagement team may also identify a component as likely to include significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements due to its specific nature or circumstances (that is, risks that require special audit consideration¹⁴). For example, a component could be responsible for foreign exchange trading and thus expose the group to a significant risk of material misstatement, even though the component is not otherwise of individual financial significance to the group.

Component Auditor (Ref: Para. 9(b))

- A7. A member of the group engagement team may perform work on the financial information of a component for the group audit at the request of the group engagement team. Where this is the case, such a member of the engagement team is also a component auditor.

Responsibility (Ref: Para. 11)

- A8. Although component auditors may perform work on the financial information of the components for the group audit and as such are responsible for their overall findings, conclusions or opinions, the group engagement partner or the group engagement partner’s firm is responsible for the group audit opinion.

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraphs 27-29.

- A9. When the group audit opinion is modified because the group engagement team was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in relation to the financial information of one or more components, the Basis for Modification paragraph in the auditor’s report on the group financial statements describes the reasons for that inability without referring to the component auditor, unless such a reference is necessary for an adequate explanation of the circumstances.¹⁵

Acceptance and Continuance

Obtaining an Understanding at the Acceptance or Continuance Stage (Ref: Para. 12)

- A10. In the case of a new engagement, the group engagement team’s understanding of the group, its components, and their environments may be obtained from:
- Information provided by group management;
 - Communication with group management; and
 - Where applicable, communication with the previous group engagement team, component management, or component auditors.
- A11. The group engagement team’s understanding may include matters such as the following:
- The group structure, including both the legal and organizational structure (that is, how the group financial reporting system is organized).
 - Components’ business activities that are significant to the group, including the industry and regulatory, economic and political environments in which those activities take place.
 - The use of service organizations, including shared service centers.
 - A description of group-wide controls.
 - The complexity of the consolidation process.
 - Whether component auditors that are not from the group engagement partner’s firm or network will perform work on the financial information of any of the components, and group management’s rationale for appointing more than one auditor.
 - Whether the group engagement team:
 - Will have unrestricted access to those charged with governance of the group, group management, those charged with governance of the component, component management, component information, and the component auditors (including relevant audit documentation sought by the group engagement team); and
 - Will be able to perform necessary work on the financial information of the components.
- A12. In the case of a continuing engagement, the group engagement team’s ability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence may be affected by significant changes, for example:

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), paragraph 20.

- Changes in the group structure (for example, acquisitions, disposals, reorganizations, or changes in how the group financial reporting system is organized).
- Changes in components' business activities that are significant to the group.
- Changes in the composition of those charged with governance of the group, group management, or key management of significant components.
- Concerns the group engagement team has with regard to the integrity and competence of group or component management.
- Changes in group-wide controls.
- Changes in the applicable financial reporting framework.

Expectation to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 13)

A13. A group may consist only of components not considered significant components. In these circumstances, the group engagement partner can reasonably expect to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the group audit opinion if the group engagement team will be able to:

- (a) Perform the work on the financial information of some of these components; and
- (b) Be involved in the work performed by component auditors on the financial information of other components to the extent necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

Access to Information (Ref: Para. 13)

A14. The group engagement team's access to information may be restricted by circumstances that cannot be overcome by group management, for example, laws relating to confidentiality and data privacy, or denial by the component auditor of access to relevant audit documentation sought by the group engagement team. It may also be restricted by group management.

A14-1. In the UK and Ireland there are statutory obligations on corporate subsidiary undertakings, and their auditors and other parties, in the UK and Ireland to provide the auditor of a corporate parent undertaking with such information and explanations as that auditor may reasonably require for the purposes of the audit^{15a}. Where there is no such

^{15a} In the UK, Section 499 of the Companies Act 2006 specifies that the auditor of a company may require any subsidiary undertaking of the company which is a body corporate incorporated in the UK, and any officer, employee or auditor of any such subsidiary undertaking or any person holding or accountable for any books, accounts or vouchers of any such subsidiary undertaking, to provide him with such information or explanations as he thinks necessary for the performance of his duties as auditor. (Similar obligations regarding companies incorporated in the Republic of Ireland are set out in Section 196, Companies Act 1990.) If a parent company has a subsidiary undertaking that is not a body corporate incorporated in the UK, Section 500 of the Companies Act 2006 specifies that the auditor of the parent company may require it to take all such steps as are reasonably open to it to obtain from the subsidiary undertaking, any officer, employee or auditor of the undertaking, or any person holding or accountable for any of the undertaking's books, accounts or vouchers, such information and explanations as he may reasonably require for the purposes of his duties as auditor.

Schedule 10, paragraph 10A, to the Companies Act 2006 includes provisions relating to arrangements to enable Recognised Supervisory Bodies and other bodies involved in monitoring audits to have access to the audit documentation of certain other auditors involved in the group audit. These provisions are addressed in audit regulations not in ISAs (UK and Ireland).

statutory obligation (e.g. for non corporate entities and overseas subsidiary undertakings), permission may be needed by the auditors of the subsidiary undertakings, from those charged with governance of the subsidiary undertakings, to disclose information to the auditor of the parent undertaking. Permission may also be needed from those charged with governance of the subsidiary undertakings for the auditor of the parent undertaking to pass those disclosures on to those charged with governance of the parent undertaking. The auditor of the parent undertaking seeks to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made at the planning stage for these disclosures. Normally, such arrangements for groups are recorded in the instructions to the auditors of subsidiary undertakings and relevant engagement letters.

- A15. Where access to information is restricted by circumstances, the group engagement team may still be able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence; however, this is less likely as the significance of the component increases. For example, the group engagement team may not have access to those charged with governance, management, or the auditor (including relevant audit documentation sought by the group engagement team) of a component that is accounted for by the equity method of accounting. If the component is not a significant component, and the group engagement team has a complete set of financial statements of the component, including the auditor's report thereon, and has access to information kept by group management in relation to that component, the group engagement team may conclude that this information constitutes sufficient appropriate audit evidence in relation to that component. If the component is a significant component, however, the group engagement team will not be able to comply with the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland) relevant in the circumstances of the group audit. For example, the group engagement team will not be able to comply with the requirement in paragraphs 30-31 to be involved in the work of the component auditor. The group engagement team will not, therefore, be able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in relation to that component. The effect of the group engagement team's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence is considered in terms of ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).
- A16. The group engagement team will not be able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence if group management restricts the access of the group engagement team or a component auditor to the information of a significant component.
- A17. Although the group engagement team may be able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence if such restriction relates to a component considered not a significant component, the reason for the restriction may affect the group audit opinion. For example, it may affect the reliability of group management's responses to the group engagement team's inquiries and group management's representations to the group engagement team.
- A18. Law or regulation may prohibit the group engagement partner from declining or withdrawing from an engagement. For example, in some jurisdictions the auditor is appointed for a specified period of time and is prohibited from withdrawing before the end of that period. Also, in the public sector, the option of declining or withdrawing from an engagement may not be available to the auditor due to the nature of the mandate or public interest considerations. In these circumstances, this ISA (UK and Ireland) still applies to the group audit, and the effect of the group engagement team's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence is considered in terms of ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).

A19. Appendix 1 contains an example of an auditor’s report containing a qualified opinion based on the group engagement team’s inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in relation to a significant component accounted for by the equity method of accounting, but where, in the group engagement team’s judgment, the effect is material but not pervasive^{15b}.

Terms of Engagement (Ref: Para. 14)

A20. The terms of engagement identify the applicable financial reporting framework.¹⁶ Additional matters may be included in the terms of a group audit engagement, such as the fact that:

- The communication between the group engagement team and the component auditors should be unrestricted to the extent possible under law or regulation;
- Important communications between the component auditors, those charged with governance of the component, and component management, including communications on significant deficiencies in internal control, should be communicated as well to the group engagement team;
- Important communications between regulatory authorities and components related to financial reporting matters should be communicated to the group engagement team; and
- To the extent the group engagement team considers necessary, it should be permitted:
 - Access to component information, those charged with governance of components, component management, and the component auditors (including relevant audit documentation sought by the group engagement team); and
 - To perform work or request a component auditor to perform work on the financial information of the components.

A21. Restrictions imposed on:

- the group engagement team’s access to component information, those charged with governance of components, component management, or the component auditors (including relevant audit documentation sought by the group engagement team); or
- the work to be performed on the financial information of the components

after the group engagement partner’s acceptance of the group audit engagement, constitute an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that may affect the group audit opinion. In exceptional circumstances it may even lead to withdrawal from the engagement where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation.

^{15b} The example in the Appendix has not been tailored for the UK and Ireland. ~~Illustrative auditor’s reports tailored for use with audits conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) are given in the current versions of the APB Compendia Auditor’s Report Bulletins.~~

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), paragraph 8.

Overall Audit Strategy and Audit Plan (Ref: Para. 16)

A22. The group engagement partner’s review of the overall group audit strategy and group audit plan is an important part of fulfilling the group engagement partner’s responsibility for the direction of the group audit engagement.

Understanding the Group, Its Components and Their Environments

Matters about Which the Group Engagement Team Obtains an Understanding (Ref: Para. 17)

A23. ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#) contains guidance on matters the auditor may consider when obtaining an understanding of the industry, regulatory, and other external factors that affect the entity, including the applicable financial reporting framework; the nature of the entity; objectives and strategies and related business risks; and measurement and review of the entity’s financial performance.¹⁷ Appendix 2 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) contains guidance on matters specific to a group, including the consolidation process.

Instructions Issued by Group Management to Components (Ref: Para. 17)

A24. To achieve uniformity and comparability of financial information, group management ordinarily issues instructions to components. Such instructions specify the requirements for financial information of the components to be included in the group financial statements and often include financial reporting procedures manuals and a reporting package. A reporting package ordinarily consists of standard formats for providing financial information for incorporation in the group financial statements. Reporting packages generally do not, however, take the form of complete financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

A25. The instructions ordinarily cover:

- The accounting policies to be applied;
- Statutory and other disclosure requirements applicable to the group financial statements, including:
 - The identification and reporting of segments;
 - Related party relationships and transactions;
 - Intra-group transactions and unrealized profits;
 - Intra-group account balances; and
- A reporting timetable.

A26. The group engagement team’s understanding of the instructions may include the following:

- The clarity and practicality of the instructions for completing the reporting package.
- Whether the instructions:
 - Adequately describe the characteristics of the applicable financial reporting framework;

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraphs A17-A41.

- Provide for disclosures that are sufficient to comply with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, for example, disclosure of related party relationships and transactions, and segment information;
- Provide for the identification of consolidation adjustments, for example, intra-group transactions and unrealized profits, and intra-group account balances; and
- Provide for the approval of the financial information by component management.

Fraud (Ref: Para. 17)

A27. The auditor is required to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, and to design and implement appropriate responses to the assessed risks.¹⁸ Information used to identify the risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements due to fraud may include the following:

- Group management’s assessment of the risks that the group financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- Group management’s process for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the group, including any specific fraud risks identified by group management, or account balances, classes of transactions, or disclosures for which a risk of fraud is likely.
- Whether there are particular components for which a risk of fraud is likely.
- How those charged with governance of the group monitor group management’s processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the group, and the controls group management has established to mitigate these risks.
- Responses of those charged with governance of the group, group management, appropriate individuals within the internal audit function (and if considered appropriate, component management, the component auditors, and others) to the group engagement team’s inquiry whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud affecting a component or the group.

Discussion among Group Engagement Team Members and Component Auditors Regarding the Risks of Material Misstatement of the Group Financial Statements, Including Risks of Fraud (Ref: Para. 17)

A28. The key members of the engagement team are required to discuss the susceptibility of an entity to material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud or error, specifically emphasizing the risks due to fraud. In a group audit, these discussions may also include the component auditors.¹⁹ The group engagement partner’s determination of who to include in the discussions, how and when they occur, and their extent, is affected by factors such as prior experience with the group.

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements.”

¹⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), paragraph 15, and ISA 315, paragraph 10.

A29. The discussions provide an opportunity to:

- Share knowledge of the components and their environments, including group-wide controls.
- Exchange information about the business risks of the components or the group.
- Exchange ideas about how and where the group financial statements may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud or error, how group management and component management could perpetrate and conceal fraudulent financial reporting, and how assets of the components could be misappropriated.
- Identify practices followed by group or component management that may be biased or designed to manage earnings that could lead to fraudulent financial reporting, for example, revenue recognition practices that do not comply with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Consider known external and internal factors affecting the group that may create an incentive or pressure for group management, component management, or others to commit fraud, provide the opportunity for fraud to be perpetrated, or indicate a culture or environment that enables group management, component management, or others to rationalize committing fraud.
- Consider the risk that group or component management may override controls.
- Consider whether uniform accounting policies are used to prepare the financial information of the components for the group financial statements and, where not, how differences in accounting policies are identified and adjusted (where required by the applicable financial reporting framework).
- Discuss fraud that has been identified in components, or information that indicates existence of a fraud in a component.
- Share information that may indicate non-compliance with national laws or regulations, for example, payments of bribes and improper transfer pricing practices.

Risk Factors (Ref: Para. 18)

A30. Appendix 3 sets out examples of conditions or events that, individually or together, may indicate risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements, including risks due to fraud.

Risk Assessment (Ref: Para. 18)

A31. The group engagement team's assessment at group level of the risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements is based on information such as the following:

- Information obtained from the understanding of the group, its components, and their environments, and of the consolidation process, including audit evidence obtained in evaluating the design and implementation of group-wide controls and controls that are relevant to the consolidation.
- Information obtained from the component auditors.

Understanding the Component Auditor (Ref: Para. 19)

A32. The group engagement team obtains an understanding of a component auditor only when it plans to request the component auditor to perform work on the financial information of a component for the group audit. For example, it will not be necessary to obtain an understanding of the auditors of those components for which the group engagement team plans to perform analytical procedures at group level only.

Group Engagement Team's Procedures to Obtain an Understanding of the Component Auditor and Sources of Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 19)

A33. The nature, timing and extent of the group engagement team's procedures to obtain an understanding of the component auditor are affected by factors such as previous experience with or knowledge of the component auditor, and the degree to which the group engagement team and the component auditor are subject to common policies and procedures, for example:

- Whether the group engagement team and a component auditor share:
 - Common policies and procedures for performing the work (for example, audit methodologies);
 - Common quality control policies and procedures; or
 - Common monitoring policies and procedures.
- The consistency or similarity of:
 - Laws and regulations or legal system;
 - Professional oversight, discipline, and external quality assurance;
 - Education and training;
 - Professional organizations and standards; or
 - Language and culture.

A34. These factors interact and are not mutually exclusive. For example, the extent of the group engagement team's procedures to obtain an understanding of Component Auditor A, who consistently applies common quality control and monitoring policies and procedures and a common audit methodology or operates in the same jurisdiction as the group engagement partner, may be less than the extent of the group engagement team's procedures to obtain an understanding of Component Auditor B, who is not consistently applying common quality control and monitoring policies and procedures and a common audit methodology or operates in a foreign jurisdiction. The nature of the procedures performed in relation to Component Auditors A and B may also be different.

A35. The group engagement team may obtain an understanding of the component auditor in a number of ways. In the first year of involving a component auditor, the group engagement team may, for example:

- Evaluate the results of the quality control monitoring system where the group engagement team and component auditor are from a firm or network that operates under and complies with common monitoring policies and procedures;²⁰

²⁰ As required by ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), "Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements," paragraph 54, or national requirements that are at least as demanding.

- Visit the component auditor to discuss the matters in paragraph 19(a)-(c);
- Request the component auditor to confirm the matters referred to in paragraph 19(a)-(c) in writing. Appendix 4 contains an example of written confirmations by a component auditor;
- Request the component auditor to complete questionnaires about the matters in paragraph 19(a)-(c);
- Discuss the component auditor with colleagues in the group engagement partner's firm, or with a reputable third party that has knowledge of the component auditor; or
- Obtain confirmations from the professional body or bodies to which the component auditor belongs, the authorities by which the component auditor is licensed, or other third parties.

In subsequent years, the understanding of the component auditor may be based on the group engagement team's previous experience with the component auditor. The group engagement team may request the component auditor to confirm whether anything in relation to the matters listed in paragraph 19(a)-(c) has changed since the previous year.

- A36. Where independent oversight bodies have been established to oversee the auditing profession and monitor the quality of audits, awareness of the regulatory environment may assist the group engagement team in evaluating the independence and competence of the component auditor. Information about the regulatory environment may be obtained from the component auditor or information provided by the independent oversight bodies.

Ethical Requirements that Are Relevant to the Group Audit (Ref: Para. 19(a))

- A37. When performing work on the financial information of a component for a group audit, the component auditor is subject to ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit. Such requirements may be different or in addition to those applying to the component auditor when performing a statutory audit in the component auditor's jurisdiction. The group engagement team therefore obtains an understanding whether the component auditor understands and will comply with the ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit, sufficient to fulfill the component auditor's responsibilities in the group audit.

The Component Auditor's Professional Competence (Ref: Para. 19(b))

- A38. The group engagement team's understanding of the component auditor's professional competence may include whether the component auditor:
- Possesses an understanding of auditing and other standards applicable to the group audit that is sufficient to fulfill the component auditor's responsibilities in the group audit;
 - Has sufficient resources (e.g. personnel with the necessary capabilities) to perform the work on the financial information of the particular component;
 - Possesses the special skills (for example, industry specific knowledge) necessary to perform the work on the financial information of the particular component; and
 - Where relevant, possesses an understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework that is sufficient to fulfill the component auditor's responsibilities in

the group audit (instructions issued by group management to components often describe the characteristics of the applicable financial reporting framework).

Application of the Group Engagement Team’s Understanding of a Component Auditor (Ref: Para. 20)

- A39. The group engagement team cannot overcome the fact that a component auditor is not independent by being involved in the work of the component auditor or by performing additional risk assessment or further audit procedures on the financial information of the component.
- A40. However, the group engagement team may be able to overcome less than serious concerns about the component auditor’s professional competency (for example, lack of industry specific knowledge), or the fact that the component auditor does not operate in an environment that actively oversees auditors, by being involved in the work of the component auditor or by performing additional risk assessment or further audit procedures on the financial information of the component.
- A41. Where law or regulation prohibits access to relevant parts of the audit documentation of the component auditor, the group engagement team may request the component auditor to overcome this by preparing a memorandum that covers the relevant information.

Materiality (Ref: Para. 21-23)

- A42. The auditor is required:²¹
- (a) When establishing the overall audit strategy, to determine:
 - (i) Materiality for the financial statements as a whole; and
 - (ii) If, in the specific circumstances of the entity, there are particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements, the materiality level or levels to be applied to those particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures; and
 - (b) To determine performance materiality.

In the context of a group audit, materiality is established for both the group financial statements as a whole, and for the financial information of the components. Materiality for the group financial statements as a whole is used when establishing the overall group audit strategy.

- A43. To reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements in the group financial statements exceeds materiality for the group financial statements as a whole, component materiality is set lower than materiality for the group financial statements as a whole. Different component materiality may be established for different components. Component materiality need not be an arithmetical portion of the materiality for the group financial statements as a whole and, consequently, the aggregate of component materiality for the different components may exceed the materiality for the group financial statements as a whole.

²¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit,” paragraphs 10-11.

Component materiality is used when establishing the overall audit strategy for a component.

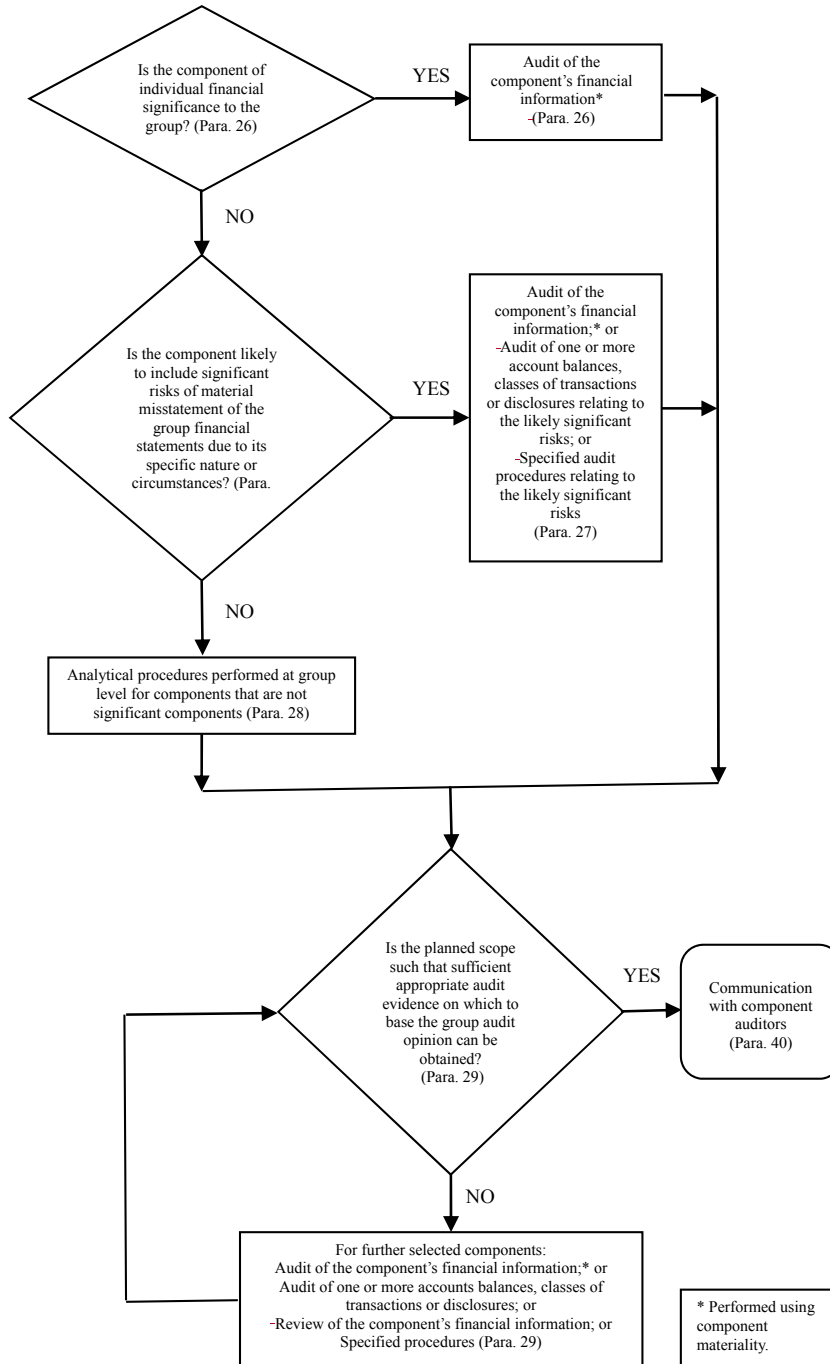
- A44. Component materiality is determined for those components whose financial information will be audited or reviewed as part of the group audit in accordance with paragraphs 26, 27(a) and 29. Component materiality is used by the component auditor to evaluate whether uncorrected detected misstatements are material, individually or in the aggregate.
- A45. A threshold for misstatements is determined in addition to component materiality. Misstatements identified in the financial information of the component that are above the threshold for misstatements are communicated to the group engagement team.
- A46. In the case of an audit of the financial information of a component, the component auditor (or group engagement team) determines performance materiality at the component level. This is necessary to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements in the financial information of the component exceeds component materiality. In practice, the group engagement team may set component materiality at this lower level. Where this is the case, the component auditor uses component materiality for purposes of assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial information of the component and to design further audit procedures in response to assessed risks as well as for evaluating whether detected misstatements are material individually or in the aggregate.

Responding to Assessed Risks

Determining the Type of Work to Be Performed on the Financial Information of Components
(Ref: Para. 26-27)

- A47. The group engagement team's determination of the type of work to be performed on the financial information of a component and its involvement in the work of the component auditor is affected by:
- (a) The significance of the component;
 - (b) The identified significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements;
 - (c) The group engagement team's evaluation of the design of group-wide controls and determination whether they have been implemented; and
 - (d) The group engagement team's understanding of the component auditor.

The diagram shows how the significance of the component affects the group engagement team's determination of the type of work to be performed on the financial information of the component.



Significant Components (Ref: Para. 27(b)-(c))

- A48. The group engagement team may identify a component as a significant component because that component is likely to include significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements due to its specific nature or circumstances. In that case, the group engagement team may be able to identify the account balances, classes of transactions or disclosures affected by the likely significant risks. Where this is the case, the group engagement team may decide to perform, or request a component auditor to perform, an audit of only those account balances, classes of transactions or disclosures. For example, in the situation described in paragraph A6, the work on the financial information of the component may be limited to an audit of the account balances, classes of transactions and disclosures affected by the foreign exchange trading of that component. Where the group engagement team requests a component auditor to perform an audit of one or more specific account balances, classes of transactions or disclosures, the communication of the group engagement team (see paragraph 40) takes account of the fact that many financial statement items are interrelated.
- A49. The group engagement team may design audit procedures that respond to a likely significant risk of material misstatement of the group financial statements. For example, in the case of a likely significant risk of inventory obsolescence, the group engagement team may perform, or request a component auditor to perform, specified audit procedures on the valuation of inventory at a component that holds a large volume of potentially obsolete inventory, but that is not otherwise significant.

Components that Are Not Significant Components (Ref: Para. 28-29)

- A50. Depending on the circumstances of the engagement, the financial information of the components may be aggregated at various levels for purposes of the analytical procedures. The results of the analytical procedures corroborate the group engagement team's conclusions that there are no significant risks of material misstatement of the aggregated financial information of components that are not significant components.
- A51. The group engagement team's decision as to how many components to select in accordance with paragraph 29, which components to select, and the type of work to be performed on the financial information of the individual components selected may be affected by factors such as the following:
- The extent of audit evidence expected to be obtained on the financial information of the significant components.
 - Whether the component has been newly formed or acquired.
 - Whether significant changes have taken place in the component.
 - Whether the internal audit function has performed work at the component and any effect of that work on the group audit.
 - Whether the components apply common systems and processes.
 - The operating effectiveness of group-wide controls.
 - Abnormal fluctuations identified by analytical procedures performed at group level.
 - The individual financial significance of, or the risk posed by, the component in comparison with other components within this category.

- Whether the component is subject to audit required by statute, regulation or for another reason.

Including an element of unpredictability in selecting components in this category may increase the likelihood of identifying material misstatement of the components' financial information. The selection of components is often varied on a cyclical basis.

- A52. A review of the financial information of a component may be performed in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400²² or ISRE (UK and Ireland) 2410,²³ adapted as necessary in the circumstances. The group engagement team may also specify additional procedures to supplement this work.
- A53. As explained in paragraph A13, a group may consist only of components that are not significant components. In these circumstances, the group engagement team can obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the group audit opinion by determining the type of work to be performed on the financial information of the components in accordance with paragraph 29. It is unlikely that the group engagement team will obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the group audit opinion if the group engagement team, or a component auditor, only tests group-wide controls and performs analytical procedures on the financial information of the components.

Involvement in the Work Performed by Component Auditors (Ref: Para. 30-31)

- A54. Factors that may affect the group engagement team's involvement in the work of the component auditor include:
- (a) The significance of the component;
 - (b) The identified significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements; and
 - (c) The group engagement team's understanding of the component auditor.

In the case of a significant component or identified significant risks, the group engagement team performs the procedures described in paragraphs 30-31. In the case of a component that is not a significant component, the nature, timing and extent of the group engagement team's involvement in the work of the component auditor will vary based on the group engagement team's understanding of that component auditor. The fact that the component is not a significant component becomes secondary. For example, even though a component is not considered a significant component, the group engagement team nevertheless may decide to be involved in the component auditor's risk assessment, because it has less than serious concerns about the component auditor's professional competency (for example, lack of industry specific knowledge), or the component auditor does not operate in an environment that actively oversees auditors.

- A55. Forms of involvement in the work of a component auditor other than those described in paragraphs 30-31 and 42 may, based on the group engagement team's understanding of the component auditor, include one or more of the following:

²² ISRE 2400, "Engagements to Review Financial Statements."

ISRE 2400 has not been promulgated by [the FRCAPB](#) for application in the UK and Ireland.

²³ ISRE (UK and Ireland) 2410, "Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity."

- (a) Meeting with component management or the component auditors to obtain an understanding of the component and its environment.
- (b) Reviewing the component auditors' overall audit strategy and audit plan.
- (c) Performing risk assessment procedures to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement at the component level. These may be performed with the component auditors, or by the group engagement team.
- (d) Designing and performing further audit procedures. These may be designed and performed with the component auditors, or by the group engagement team.
- (e) Participating in the closing and other key meetings between the component auditors and component management.
- (f) Reviewing other relevant parts of the component auditors' audit documentation.

Consolidation Process

Consolidation Adjustments and Reclassifications (Ref: Para. 34)

A56. The consolidation process may require adjustments to amounts reported in the group financial statements that do not pass through the usual transaction processing systems, and may not be subject to the same internal controls to which other financial information is subject. The group engagement team's evaluation of the appropriateness, completeness and accuracy of the adjustments may include:

- Evaluating whether significant adjustments appropriately reflect the events and transactions underlying them;
- Determining whether significant adjustments have been correctly calculated, processed and authorized by group management and, where applicable, by component management;
- Determining whether significant adjustments are properly supported and sufficiently documented; and
- Checking the reconciliation and elimination of intra-group transactions and unrealized profits, and intra-group account balances.

Communication with the Component Auditor (Ref: Para. 40-41)

A57. If effective two-way communication between the group engagement team and the component auditors does not exist, there is a risk that the group engagement team may not obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the group audit opinion. Clear and timely communication of the group engagement team's requirements forms the basis of effective two-way communication between the group engagement team and the component auditor.

A58. The group engagement team's requirements are often communicated in a letter of instruction. Appendix 5 contains guidance on required and additional matters that may be included in such a letter of instruction. The component auditor's communication with the group engagement team often takes the form of a memorandum or report of work performed. Communication between the group engagement team and the component auditor, however, may not necessarily be in writing. For example, the group engagement team may visit the component auditor to discuss identified significant risks or review relevant parts of the component auditor's audit documentation. Nevertheless, the documentation requirements of this and other ISAs (UK and Ireland) apply.

- A59. In cooperating with the group engagement team, the component auditor, for example, would provide the group engagement team with access to relevant audit documentation if not prohibited by law or regulation.
- A60. Where a member of the group engagement team is also a component auditor, the objective for the group engagement team to communicate clearly with the component auditor can often be achieved by means other than specific written communication. For example:
- Access by the component auditor to the overall audit strategy and audit plan may be sufficient to communicate the group engagement team’s requirements set out in paragraph 40; and
 - A review of the component auditor’s audit documentation by the group engagement team may be sufficient to communicate matters relevant to the group engagement team’s conclusion set out in paragraph 41.

Evaluating the Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence Obtained

Reviewing the Component Auditor’s Audit Documentation (Ref: Para. 42(b))

A61. What parts of the audit documentation of the component auditor will be relevant to the group audit may vary depending on the circumstances. Often the focus is on audit documentation that is relevant to the significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements. The extent of the review may be affected by the fact that the component auditor’s audit documentation has been subjected to the component auditor’s firm’s review procedures.

Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 44-45)

- A62. If the group engagement team concludes that sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the group audit opinion has not been obtained, the group engagement team may request the component auditor to perform additional procedures. If this is not feasible, the group engagement team may perform its own procedures on the financial information of the component.
- A63. The group engagement partner’s evaluation of the aggregate effect of any misstatements (either identified by the group engagement team or communicated by component auditors) allows the group engagement partner to determine whether the group financial statements as a whole are materially misstated.

Communication with Group Management and Those Charged with Governance of the Group

Communication with Group Management (Ref: Para. 46-48)

- A64. ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised) contains requirements and guidance on communication of fraud to management and, where management may be involved in the fraud, to those charged with governance.²⁴
- A65. Group management may need to keep certain material sensitive information confidential. Examples of matters that may be significant to the financial statements of the component of which component management may be unaware include the following:

²⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), paragraphs 40-42.

- Potential litigation.
- Plans for abandonment of material operating assets.
- Subsequent events.
- Significant legal agreements.

A65-1. Information that group management has determined needs to be kept confidential would ordinarily be known to those charged with governance of the group^{24a}.

Communication with Those Charged with Governance of the Group (Ref: Para. 49)

A66. The matters the group engagement team communicates to those charged with governance of the group may include those brought to the attention of the group engagement team by component auditors that the group engagement team judges to be significant to the responsibilities of those charged with governance of the group. Communication with those charged with governance of the group takes place at various times during the group audit. For example, the matters referred to in paragraph 49(a)-(b) may be communicated after the group engagement team has determined the work to be performed on the financial information of the components. On the other hand, the matter referred to in paragraph 49(c) may be communicated at the end of the audit, and the matters referred to in paragraph 49(d)-(e) may be communicated when they occur.

A66-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{24b} requires the group auditor to:

- confirm that the group auditor received a confirmation from the component auditor regarding the component auditor's independence; [AR/Article 11.2(c)]
- report on any significant deficiencies in the parent undertaking's internal financial control system and/or in the accounting system and state whether or not the deficiencies reported have been resolved by management; [AR/Article 11.2(j)]
- explain the scope of consolidation and the exclusion criteria applied to non-consolidated entities, and whether those criteria are in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and [AR/Article 11.2(m)]
- identify any audit work performed by component auditors, [AR/Article 11.2(n)] in the additional report to the audit committee.

^{24a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 16(c), requires that, unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or subject to correspondence with management.

^{24b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraphs 16R-2 (c), (j), (m) and (n).

Documentation (Ref: Para. 50(b))

A66-21. ~~In the UK legislation^{24b} has been enacted to implement Article 27(b) of the Statutory Audit Directive which requires that~~The group auditors:

~~(a)~~ reviews for the purposes of a group audit the audit work conducted by other persons, and

~~(b)~~ records that review.

Accordingly, the documentation of the group engagement team's involvement in the work performed by the component auditors includes any review that the group engagement team undertook, for the purpose of the group audit, of the audit work conducted by component auditors.

^{24b}~~-UK Companies Act 2006, Schedule 10, paragraph 10A(1).~~

Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. A19)

The example in this Appendix has not been tailored for the UK and Ireland. ~~Illustrative auditor's reports tailored for use with audits conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) are given in the current versions of the APB Compendia Auditor's Report Bulletins.~~

Illustration of Auditor's Report~~Example of a Qualified Opinion~~ **Where the Group Engagement Team Is Not Able to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence on Which to Base the Group Audit Opinion**

Note: Throughout this illustrative auditor's report, the Opinion section has been positioned first in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised), and the Basis for Opinion section is positioned immediately after the Opinion section. Also, the first and last sentence that was included in the extant auditor's responsibilities section is now subsumed as part of the new Basis for Opinion section.

Illustration - Example of a Qualified Opinion Where the Group Engagement Team Is Not Able to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence on Which to Base the Group Audit Opinion

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 applies).
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- ~~In this example, t~~The group engagement team is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence relating to a significant component accounted for by the equity method (recognized at \$15 million in the balance sheet, which reflects total assets of \$60 million) because the group engagement team did not have access to the accounting records, management, or auditor of the component.
- The group engagement team has read the audited financial statements of the component as of December 31, 20X1, including the auditor's report thereon, and considered related financial information kept by group management in relation to the component.
- In the group engagement partner's judgment, the effect on the group financial statements of this inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence is material but not pervasive.²⁵
- The International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants comprises all of the relevant ethical requirements that apply to

²⁵ If, in the group engagement partner's judgment, the effect on the group financial statements of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence is material and pervasive, the group engagement partner would disclaim an opinion in accordance with ISA 705 (Revised).

the audit.

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the qualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the consolidated financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements²⁶

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the ~~accompanying~~ consolidated financial statements of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated ~~balance sheet~~statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated ~~income~~statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information~~.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion ~~section of our report~~paragraph, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of ~~the Group~~ABC Company and its subsidiaries as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

ABC Company’s investment in XYZ Company, a foreign associate acquired during the year and accounted for by the equity method, is carried at \$15 million on the consolidated balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and ABC’s share of XYZ’s net income of \$1 million is included in the consolidated income statement for the year then ended. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the carrying amount of ABC’s investment in XYZ as at December 31, 20X1 and ABC’s share of XYZ’s net income for the year because we were denied access to the financial information, management, and the auditors of XYZ. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to these amounts were necessary.

²⁶ The sub-title, “Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title, “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 6 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 6 would be customized to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Responsibilities of Management’s²⁷ Responsibility and Those Charged With Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements²⁸

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised)²⁹ – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

~~Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,³⁰ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.~~

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised). The last two paragraphs which are applicable for audits of listed entities only would not be included.]

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair~~

²⁷—Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

²⁸ Throughout these illustrative auditor’s reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

²⁹ ISA 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements”

³⁰—Where management’s responsibility is to prepare consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

~~presentation³¹ of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.³² An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.~~

~~We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.~~

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

~~[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]~~

~~[Form and content of this section of the auditor's report will vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities.]~~

~~[*Auditor's Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction*]~~

~~[*Auditor's Address*]~~

~~[*Date of the auditor's report*]~~

~~If, in the group engagement partner's judgment, the effect on the group financial statements of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence is material and pervasive, the group engagement partner would disclaim an opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705.~~

³¹—~~In the case of footnote 27, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control."~~

³²—~~In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the consolidated financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances." In the case of footnote 27, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."~~

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. A23)

Examples of Matters about Which the Group Engagement Team Obtains an Understanding

The examples provided cover a broad range of matters; however, not all matters are relevant to every group audit engagement and the list of examples is not necessarily complete.

Group-Wide Controls

1. Group-wide controls may include a combination of the following:
 - Regular meetings between group and component management to discuss business developments and to review performance.
 - Monitoring of components' operations and their financial results, including regular reporting routines, which enables group management to monitor components' performance against budgets, and to take appropriate action.
 - Group management's risk assessment process, that is, the process for identifying, analyzing and managing business risks, including the risk of fraud, that may result in material misstatement of the group financial statements.
 - Monitoring, controlling, reconciling, and eliminating intra-group transactions and unrealized profits, and intra-group account balances at group level.
 - A process for monitoring the timeliness and assessing the accuracy and completeness of financial information received from components.
 - A central IT system controlled by the same general IT controls for all or part of the group.
 - Control activities within an IT system that is common for all or some components.
 - Monitoring of controls, including activities of internal audit and self-assessment programs.
 - Consistent policies and procedures, including a group financial reporting procedures manual.
 - Group-wide programs, such as codes of conduct and fraud prevention programs.
 - Arrangements for assigning authority and responsibility to component management.
2. The internal audit function may be regarded as part of group-wide controls, for example, when the function is centralized. ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013)³³ deals with the group engagement team's evaluation of whether the internal audit function's organizational status and relevant policies and procedures adequately supports the objectivity of internal auditors, the level of competence of the internal audit function, and whether the function applies a systematic and disciplined approach where the group engagement team expects to use the function's work.

³³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), "Using the Work of Internal Auditors," paragraphs 15-16.

Consolidation Process

3. The group engagement team’s understanding of the consolidation process may include matters such as the following:

Matters relating to the applicable financial reporting framework:

- The extent to which component management has an understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- The process for identifying and accounting for components in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- The process for identifying reportable segments for segment reporting in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- The process for identifying related party relationships and related party transactions for reporting in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- The accounting policies applied to the group financial statements, changes from those of the previous financial year, and changes resulting from new or revised standards under the applicable financial reporting framework.
- The procedures for dealing with components with financial year-ends different from the group’s year-end.

Matters relating to the consolidation process:

- Group management’s process for obtaining an understanding of the accounting policies used by components, and, where applicable, ensuring that uniform accounting policies are used to prepare the financial information of the components for the group financial statements, and that differences in accounting policies are identified, and adjusted where required in terms of the applicable financial reporting framework. Uniform accounting policies are the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules, and practices adopted by the group, based on the applicable financial reporting framework, that the components use to report similar transactions consistently. These policies are ordinarily described in the financial reporting procedures manual and reporting package issued by group management.
- Group management’s process for ensuring complete, accurate and timely financial reporting by the components for the consolidation.
- The process for translating the financial information of foreign components into the currency of the group financial statements.
- How IT is organized for the consolidation, including the manual and automated stages of the process, and the manual and programmed controls in place at various stages of the consolidation process.
- Group management’s process for obtaining information on subsequent events.

Matters relating to consolidation adjustments:

- The process for recording consolidation adjustments, including the preparation, authorization and processing of related journal entries, and the experience of personnel responsible for the consolidation.

- The consolidation adjustments required by the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Business rationale for the events and transactions that gave rise to the consolidation adjustments.
- Frequency, nature and size of transactions between components.
- Procedures for monitoring, controlling, reconciling and eliminating intra-group transactions and unrealized profits, and intra-group account balances.
- Steps taken to arrive at the fair value of acquired assets and liabilities, procedures for amortizing goodwill (where applicable), and impairment testing of goodwill, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Arrangements with a majority owner or minority interests regarding losses incurred by a component (for example, an obligation of the minority interest to make good such losses).

Appendix 3

(Ref: Para. A30)

Examples of Conditions or Events that May Indicate Risks of Material Misstatement of the Group Financial Statements

The examples provided cover a broad range of conditions or events; however, not all conditions or events are relevant to every group audit engagement and the list of examples is not necessarily complete.

- A complex group structure, especially where there are frequent acquisitions, disposals or reorganizations.
- Poor corporate governance structures, including decision-making processes, that are not transparent.
- Non-existent or ineffective group-wide controls, including inadequate group management information on monitoring of components' operations and their results.
- Components operating in foreign jurisdictions that may be exposed to factors such as unusual government intervention in areas such as trade and fiscal policy, and restrictions on currency and dividend movements; and fluctuations in exchange rates.
- Business activities of components that involve high risk, such as long-term contracts or trading in innovative or complex financial instruments.
- Uncertainties regarding which components' financial information require incorporation in the group financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, for example, whether any special-purpose entities or non-trading entities exist and require incorporation.
- Unusual related party relationships and transactions.
- Prior occurrences of intra-group account balances that did not balance or reconcile on consolidation.
- The existence of complex transactions that are accounted for in more than one component.
- Components' application of accounting policies that differ from those applied to the group financial statements.
- Components with different financial year-ends, which may be utilized to manipulate the timing of transactions.
- Prior occurrences of unauthorized or incomplete consolidation adjustments.
- Aggressive tax planning within the group, or large cash transactions with entities in tax havens.
- Frequent changes of auditors engaged to audit the financial statements of components.

Appendix 4

(Ref: Para. A35)

Examples of a Component Auditor’s Confirmations

The following is not intended to be a standard letter. Confirmations may vary from one component auditor to another and from one period to the next.

Confirmations often are obtained before work on the financial information of the component commences.

[Component Auditor Letterhead]

[Date]

[To Group Engagement Partner]

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the group financial statements of [name of parent] for the year ended [date] for the purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the group financial statements present fairly, in all material respects (give a true and fair view of) the financial position of the group as of [date] and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with [indicate applicable financial reporting framework].

We acknowledge receipt of your instructions dated [date], requesting us to perform the specified work on the financial information of [name of component] for the year ended [date].

We confirm that:

1. We will be able to comply with the instructions. / We advise you that we will not be able to comply with the following instructions [specify instructions] for the following reasons [specify reasons].
2. The instructions are clear and we understand them. / We would appreciate it if you could clarify the following instructions [specify instructions].
3. We will cooperate with you and provide you with access to relevant audit documentation.

We acknowledge that:

1. The financial information of [name of component] will be included in the group financial statements of [name of parent].
2. You may consider it necessary to be involved in the work you have requested us to perform on the financial information of [name of component] for the year ended [date].
3. You intend to evaluate and, if considered appropriate, use our work for the audit of the group financial statements of [name of parent].

In connection with the work that we will perform on the financial information of [name of component], a [describe component, for example, wholly-owned subsidiary, subsidiary, joint venture, investee accounted for by the equity or cost methods of accounting] of [name of parent], we confirm the following:

1. We have an understanding of [indicate relevant ethical requirements] that is sufficient to fulfill our responsibilities in the audit of the group financial statements, and will comply therewith. In particular, and with respect to [name of parent] and the other components in the group, we are independent within the meaning of [indicate relevant ethical requirements] and comply with the applicable requirements of [refer to rules] promulgated by [name of regulatory agency].

2. We have an understanding of International Standards on Auditing and [indicate other national standards applicable to the audit of the group financial statements] that is sufficient to fulfill our responsibilities in the audit of the group financial statements and will conduct our work on the financial information of [name of component] for the year ended [date] in accordance with those standards.
3. We possess the special skills (for example, industry specific knowledge) necessary to perform the work on the financial information of the particular component.
4. We have an understanding of [indicate applicable financial reporting framework or group financial reporting procedures manual] that is sufficient to fulfill our responsibilities in the audit of the group financial statements.

We will inform you of any changes in the above representations during the course of our work on the financial information of [name of component].

[Auditor's signature]

[Date]

[Auditor's address]

Appendix 5

(Ref: Para. A58)

Required and Additional Matters Included in the Group Engagement Team’s Letter of Instruction

Matters required by this ISA (UK and Ireland) to be communicated to the component auditor are shown in italicized text.

Matters that are relevant to the planning of the work of the component auditor:

- *A request for the component auditor, knowing the context in which the group engagement team will use the work of the component auditor, to confirm that the component auditor will cooperate with the group engagement team.*
- The timetable for completing the audit.
- Dates of planned visits by group management and the group engagement team, and dates of planned meetings with component management and the component auditor.
- A list of key contacts.
- *The work to be performed by the component auditor, the use to be made of that work, and arrangements for coordinating efforts at the initial stage of and during the audit, including the group engagement team’s planned involvement in the work of the component auditor.*
- *The ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit and, in particular, the independence requirements, for example, where the group auditor is prohibited by law or regulation from using internal auditors to provide direct assistance, it is relevant for the group auditor to consider whether the prohibition also extends to component auditors and, if so, to address this in the communication to the component auditors.³⁴*
- *In the case of an audit or review of the financial information of the component, component materiality (and, if applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures), and the threshold above which misstatements cannot be regarded as clearly trivial to the group financial statements.*
- *A list of related parties prepared by group management, and any other related parties that the group engagement team is aware of, and a request that the component auditor communicates on a timely basis to the group engagement team related parties not previously identified by group management or the group engagement team.*
- Work to be performed on intra-group transactions and unrealized profits and intra-group account balances.
- Guidance on other statutory reporting responsibilities, for example, reporting on group management’s assertion on the effectiveness of internal control.
- Where time lag between completion of the work on the financial information of the components and the group engagement team’s conclusion on the group financial statements is likely, specific instructions for a subsequent events review.

³⁴ ISA 610 (Revised June 2013), “Using the Work of Internal Auditors”, paragraph A31.

The use of internal auditors to provide direct assistance is prohibited in an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland). For a group audit this prohibition extends to the work of any component auditor which is relied upon by the group auditor, including for overseas components – see ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 (Revised June 2013), paragraph 5-1.

Matters that are relevant to the conduct of the work of the component auditor

- The findings of the group engagement team’s tests of control activities of a processing system that is common for all or some components, and tests of controls to be performed by the component auditor.
- *Identified significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements, due to fraud or error, that are relevant to the work of the component auditor, and a request that the component auditor communicates on a timely basis any other significant risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements, due to fraud or error, identified in the component and the component auditor’s response to such risks.*
- The findings of the internal audit function, based on work performed on controls at or relevant to components.
- A request for timely communication of audit evidence obtained from performing work on the financial information of the components that contradicts the audit evidence on which the group engagement team originally based the risk assessment performed at group level.
- A request for a written representation on component management’s compliance with the applicable financial reporting framework, or a statement that differences between the accounting policies applied to the financial information of the component and those applied to the group financial statements have been disclosed.
- Matters to be documented by the component auditor.

Other information

- A request that the following be reported to the group engagement team on a timely basis:
 - Significant accounting, financial reporting and auditing matters, including accounting estimates and related judgments.
 - Matters relating to the going concern status of the component.
 - Matters relating to litigation and claims.
 - Significant deficiencies in internal control that the component auditor has identified during the performance of the work on the financial information of the component, and information that indicates the existence of fraud.
- A request that the group engagement team be notified of any significant or unusual events as early as possible.
- *A request that the matters listed in paragraph 41 be communicated to the group engagement team when the work on the financial information of the component is completed.*

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 620 (REVISED)**

USING THE WORK OF AN AUDITOR'S EXPERT

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~15 December 2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 620 (Revised), “Using the Work of an Auditor’s Expert” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor’s responsibilities relating to the work of an individual or organization in a field of expertise other than accounting or auditing, when that work is used to assist the auditor in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence.
2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) does not deal with:
 - (a) Situations where the engagement team includes a member, or consults an individual or organization, with expertise in a specialized area of accounting or auditing, which are dealt with in ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised);¹ or
 - (b) The auditor’s use of the work of an individual or organization possessing expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing, whose work in that field is used by the entity to assist the entity in preparing the financial statements (a management’s expert), which is dealt with in ISA (UK and Ireland) 500.²

The Auditor’s Responsibility for the Audit Opinion

3. The auditor has sole responsibility for the audit opinion expressed, and that responsibility is not reduced by the auditor’s use of the work of an auditor’s expert. Nonetheless, if the auditor using the work of an auditor’s expert, having followed this ISA (UK and Ireland), concludes that the work of that expert is adequate for the auditor’s purposes, the auditor may accept that expert’s findings or conclusions in the expert’s field as appropriate audit evidence.

Effective Date

4. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ ~~15 December 2010~~.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To determine whether to use the work of an auditor’s expert; and
 - (b) If using the work of an auditor’s expert, to determine whether that work is adequate for the auditor’s purposes.

Definitions

6. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Auditor’s expert – An individual or organization possessing expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing, whose work in that field is used by the auditor to assist the auditor in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence. An auditor’s expert may be either an auditor’s internal expert (who is a partner³ or staff,

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraphs A10, A20-A22.

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 500, “Audit Evidence,” paragraphs A34-A48.

³ “Partner” and “firm” should be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.

including temporary staff, of the auditor’s firm or a network firm), or an auditor’s external expert. (Ref: Para. A1-A3)

- (b) Expertise – Skills, knowledge and experience in a particular field.
- (c) Management’s expert – An individual or organization possessing expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing, whose work in that field is used by the entity to assist the entity in preparing the financial statements.

Requirements

Determining the Need for an Auditor’s Expert

7. If expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing is necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall determine whether to use the work of an auditor’s expert. (Ref: Para. A4-A9)

Nature, Timing and Extent of Audit Procedures

8. The nature, timing and extent of the auditor’s procedures with respect to the requirements in paragraphs 9-13 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) will vary depending on the circumstances. In determining the nature, timing and extent of those procedures, the auditor shall consider matters including: (Ref: Para. A10)
- (a) The nature of the matter to which that expert’s work relates;
 - (b) The risks of material misstatement in the matter to which that expert’s work relates;
 - (c) The significance of that expert’s work in the context of the audit;
 - (d) The auditor’s knowledge of and experience with previous work performed by that expert; and
 - (e) Whether that expert is subject to the auditor’s firm’s quality control policies and procedures. (Ref: Para. A11-A13)

The Competence, Capabilities and Objectivity of the Auditor’s Expert

9. The auditor shall evaluate whether the auditor’s expert has the necessary competence, capabilities and objectivity for the auditor’s purposes. In the case of an auditor’s external expert, the evaluation of objectivity shall include inquiry regarding interests and relationships that may create a threat to that expert’s objectivity. (Ref: Para. A14-A20)

9R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, where the auditor has used the work of an auditor’s external expert, the auditor shall obtain a confirmation from the auditor’s external expert regarding their independence. (Ref: Para. A20-1) [AR/Article 11.2(c)]

Obtaining an Understanding of the Field of Expertise of the Auditor’s Expert

10. The auditor shall obtain a sufficient understanding of the field of expertise of the auditor’s expert to enable the auditor to: (Ref: Para. A21-A22)
- (a) Determine the nature, scope and objectives of that expert’s work for the auditor’s purposes; and
 - (b) Evaluate the adequacy of that work for the auditor’s purposes.

Agreement with the Auditor’s Expert

11. The auditor shall agree, in writing when appropriate, on the following matters with the auditor’s expert: (Ref: Para. A23-A26)
 - (a) The nature, scope and objectives of that expert’s work; (Ref: Para. A27)
 - (b) The respective roles and responsibilities of the auditor and that expert; (Ref: Para. A28-A29)
 - (c) The nature, timing and extent of communication between the auditor and that expert, including the form of any report to be provided by that expert; and (Ref: Para. A30)
 - (d) The need for the auditor’s expert to observe confidentiality requirements. (Ref: Para. A31)

Evaluating the Adequacy of the Auditor’s Expert’s Work

12. The auditor shall evaluate the adequacy of the auditor’s expert’s work for the auditor’s purposes, including: (Ref: Para. A32)
 - (a) The relevance and reasonableness of that expert’s findings or conclusions, and their consistency with other audit evidence; (Ref: Para. A33-A34)
 - (b) If that expert’s work involves use of significant assumptions and methods, the relevance and reasonableness of those assumptions and methods in the circumstances; and (Ref: Para. A35-A37)
 - (c) If that expert’s work involves the use of source data that is significant to that expert’s work, the relevance, completeness, and accuracy of that source data. (Ref: Para. A38-A39)
13. If the auditor determines that the work of the auditor’s expert is not adequate for the auditor’s purposes, the auditor shall: (Ref: Para. A40)
 - (a) Agree with that expert on the nature and extent of further work to be performed by that expert; or
 - (b) Perform additional audit procedures appropriate to the circumstances.

Reference to the Auditor’s Expert in the Auditor’s Report

14. The auditor shall not refer to the work of an auditor’s expert in an auditor’s report containing an unmodified opinion unless required by law or regulation to do so. If such reference is required by law or regulation, the auditor shall indicate in the auditor’s report that the reference does not reduce the auditor’s responsibility for the auditor’s opinion. (Ref: Para. A41)
15. If the auditor makes reference to the work of an auditor’s expert in the auditor’s report because such reference is relevant to an understanding of a modification to the auditor’s opinion, the auditor shall indicate in the auditor’s report that such reference does not reduce the auditor’s responsibility for that opinion. (Ref: Para. A42)

Documentation

15D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, when an auditor asks an auditor’s expert for advice, the auditor shall document the request made and the advice received. [AD/Article 24b.3]

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Definition of an Auditor's Expert (Ref: Para. 6(a))

- A1. Expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing may include expertise in relation to such matters as:
- The valuation of complex financial instruments, land and buildings, plant and machinery, jewelry, works of art, antiques, intangible assets, assets acquired and liabilities assumed in business combinations and assets that may have been impaired.
 - The actuarial calculation of liabilities associated with insurance contracts or employee benefit plans.
 - The estimation of oil and gas reserves.
 - The valuation of environmental liabilities, and site clean-up costs.
 - The interpretation of contracts, laws and regulations.
 - The analysis of complex or unusual tax compliance issues.
- A2. In many cases, distinguishing between expertise in accounting or auditing, and expertise in another field, will be straightforward, even where this involves a specialized area of accounting or auditing. For example, an individual with expertise in applying methods of accounting for deferred income tax can often be easily distinguished from an expert in taxation law. The former is not an expert for the purposes of this ISA (UK and Ireland) as this constitutes accounting expertise; the latter is an expert for the purposes of this ISA (UK and Ireland) as this constitutes legal expertise. Similar distinctions may also be able to be made in other areas, for example, between expertise in methods of accounting for financial instruments, and expertise in complex modeling for the purpose of valuing financial instruments. In some cases, however, particularly those involving an emerging area of accounting or auditing expertise, distinguishing between specialized areas of accounting or auditing, and expertise in another field, will be a matter of professional judgment. Applicable professional rules and standards regarding education and competency requirements for accountants and auditors may assist the auditor in exercising that judgment.⁴
- A3. It is necessary to apply judgment when considering how the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland) are affected by the fact that an auditor's expert may be either an individual or an organization. For example, when evaluating the competence, capabilities and objectivity of an auditor's expert, it may be that the expert is an organization the auditor has previously used, but the auditor has no prior experience of the individual expert assigned by the organization for the particular engagement; or it may be the reverse, that is, the auditor may be familiar with the work of an individual expert but not with the organization that expert has joined. In either case, both the personal attributes of the individual and the managerial attributes of the organization

⁴ For example, International Education Standard 8, "Competence Requirements for Audit Professionals" may be of assistance.

(such as systems of quality control the organization implements) may be relevant to the auditor’s evaluation.

Determining the Need for an Auditor’s Expert (Ref: Para. 7)

- A4. An auditor’s expert may be needed to assist the auditor in one or more of the following:
- Obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including its internal control.
 - Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement.
 - Determining and implementing overall responses to assessed risks at the financial statement level.
 - Designing and performing further audit procedures to respond to assessed risks at the assertion level, comprising tests of controls or substantive procedures.
 - Evaluating the sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence obtained in forming an opinion on the financial statements.
- A5. The risks of material misstatement may increase when expertise in a field other than accounting is needed for management^{4a} to prepare the financial statements, for example, because this may indicate some complexity, or because management may not possess knowledge of the field of expertise. If in preparing the financial statements management does not possess the necessary expertise, a management’s expert may be used in addressing those risks. Relevant controls, including controls that relate to the work of a management’s expert, if any, may also reduce the risks of material misstatement.
- A6. If the preparation of the financial statements involves the use of expertise in a field other than accounting, the auditor, who is skilled in accounting and auditing, may not possess the necessary expertise to audit those financial statements. The engagement partner is required to be satisfied that the engagement team, and any auditor’s experts who are not part of the engagement team, collectively have the appropriate competence and capabilities to perform the audit engagement.⁵ Further, the auditor is required to ascertain the nature, timing and extent of resources necessary to perform the engagement.⁶ The auditor’s determination of whether to use the work of an auditor’s expert, and if so when and to what extent, assists the auditor in meeting these requirements. As the audit progresses, or as circumstances change, the auditor may need to revise earlier decisions about using the work of an auditor’s expert.
- A7. An auditor who is not an expert in a relevant field other than accounting or auditing may nevertheless be able to obtain a sufficient understanding of that field to perform the audit without an auditor’s expert. This understanding may be obtained through, for example:
- Experience in auditing entities that require such expertise in the preparation of their financial statements.
 - Education or professional development in the particular field. This may include

^{4a} In the UK and Ireland those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 14.

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 300 (Revised), “Planning an Audit of Financial Statements,” paragraph 8(e).

formal courses, or discussion with individuals possessing expertise in the relevant field for the purpose of enhancing the auditor’s own capacity to deal with matters in that field. Such discussion differs from consultation with an auditor’s expert regarding a specific set of circumstances encountered on the engagement where that expert is given all the relevant facts that will enable the expert to provide informed advice about the particular matter.⁷

- Discussion with auditors who have performed similar engagements.

A8. In other cases, however, the auditor may determine that it is necessary, or may choose, to use an auditor’s expert to assist in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Considerations when deciding whether to use an auditor’s expert may include:

- Whether management^{4a} has used a management’s expert in preparing the financial statements (see paragraph A9).
- The nature and significance of the matter, including its complexity.
- The risks of material misstatement in the matter.
- The expected nature of procedures to respond to identified risks, including: the auditor’s knowledge of and experience with the work of experts in relation to such matters; and the availability of alternative sources of audit evidence.

A9. When management has used a management’s expert in preparing the financial statements, the auditor’s decision on whether to use an auditor’s expert may also be influenced by such factors as:

- The nature, scope and objectives of the management’s expert’s work.
- Whether the management’s expert is employed by the entity, or is a party engaged by it to provide relevant services.
- The extent to which management can exercise control or influence over the work of the management’s expert.
- The management’s expert’s competence and capabilities.
- Whether the management’s expert is subject to technical performance standards or other professional or industry requirements
- Any controls within the entity over the management’s expert’s work.

ISA (UK and Ireland) 500⁸ includes requirements and guidance regarding the effect of the competence, capabilities and objectivity of management’s experts on the reliability of audit evidence.

Nature, Timing and Extent of Audit Procedures (Ref: Para. 8)

A10. The nature, timing and extent of audit procedures with respect to the requirements in paragraphs 9-13 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) will vary depending on the circumstances. For example, the following factors may suggest the need for different or more extensive procedures than would otherwise be the case:

- The work of the auditor’s expert relates to a significant matter that involves

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph A21.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 500, paragraph 8.

subjective and complex judgments.

- The auditor has not previously used the work of the auditor’s expert, and has no prior knowledge of that expert’s competence, capabilities and objectivity.
- The auditor’s expert is performing procedures that are integral to the audit, rather than being consulted to provide advice on an individual matter.
- The expert is an auditor’s external expert and is not, therefore, subject to the firm’s quality control policies and procedures.

The Auditor’s Firm’s Quality Control Policies and Procedures (Ref: Para. 8(e))

A11. An auditor’s internal expert may be a partner or staff, including temporary staff, of the auditor’s firm, and therefore subject to the quality control policies and procedures of that firm in accordance with ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1⁹ or national requirements that are at least as demanding.¹⁰ Alternatively, an auditor’s internal expert may be a partner or staff, including temporary staff, of a network firm, which may share common quality control policies and procedures with the auditor’s firm.

A12. An auditor’s external expert is not a member of the engagement team and is not subject to quality control policies and procedures in accordance with ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1.¹¹ In some jurisdictions, however, law or regulation may require that an auditor’s external expert be treated as a member of the engagement team, and may therefore be subject to relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, and other professional requirements, as determined by that law or regulation.

A13. Engagement teams are entitled to rely on the firm’s system of quality control, unless information provided by the firm or other parties suggests otherwise.¹² The extent of that reliance will vary with the circumstances, and may affect the nature, timing and extent of the auditor’s procedures with respect to such matters as:

- Competence and capabilities, through recruitment and training programs.
- Objectivity. Auditor’s internal experts are subject to relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence.
- The auditor’s evaluation of the adequacy of the auditor’s expert’s work. For example, the firm’s training programs may provide auditor’s internal experts with an appropriate understanding of the interrelationship of their expertise with the audit process. Reliance on such training and other firm processes, such as protocols for scoping the work of auditor’s internal experts, may affect the nature, timing and extent of the auditor’s procedures to evaluate the adequacy of the auditor’s expert’s work.
- Adherence to regulatory and legal requirements, through monitoring processes.
- Agreement with the auditor’s expert.

⁹ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), “Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements,” paragraph 12(f).

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 2.

¹¹ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), paragraph 12(f).

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 4.

Such reliance does not reduce the auditor’s responsibility to meet the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

The Competence, Capabilities and Objectivity of the Auditor’s Expert (Ref: Para. 9)

- A14. The competence, capabilities and objectivity of an auditor’s expert are factors that significantly affect whether the work of the auditor’s expert will be adequate for the auditor’s purposes. Competence relates to the nature and level of expertise of the auditor’s expert. Capability relates to the ability of the auditor’s expert to exercise that competence in the circumstances of the engagement. Factors that influence capability may include, for example, geographic location, and the availability of time and resources. Objectivity relates to the possible effects that bias, conflict of interest, or the influence of others may have on the professional or business judgment of the auditor’s expert.
- A15. Information regarding the competence, capabilities and objectivity of an auditor’s expert may come from a variety of sources, such as:
- Personal experience with previous work of that expert.
 - Discussions with that expert.
 - Discussions with other auditors or others who are familiar with that expert’s work.
 - Knowledge of that expert’s qualifications, membership of a professional body or industry association, license to practice, or other forms of external recognition.
 - Published papers or books written by that expert.
 - The auditor’s firm’s quality control policies and procedures (see paragraphs A11-A13).
- A16. Matters relevant to evaluating the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the auditor’s expert include whether that expert’s work is subject to technical performance standards or other professional or industry requirements, for example, ethical standards and other membership requirements of a professional body or industry association, accreditation standards of a licensing body, or requirements imposed by law or regulation.
- A17. Other matters that may be relevant include:
- The relevance of the auditor’s expert’s competence to the matter for which that expert’s work will be used, including any areas of specialty within that expert’s field. For example, a particular actuary may specialize in property and casualty insurance, but have limited expertise regarding pension calculations.
 - The auditor’s expert’s competence with respect to relevant accounting and auditing requirements, for example, knowledge of assumptions and methods, including models where applicable, that are consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework.
 - Whether unexpected events, changes in conditions, or the audit evidence obtained from the results of audit procedures indicate that it may be necessary to reconsider the initial evaluation of the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the auditor’s expert as the audit progresses.

- A18. A broad range of circumstances may threaten objectivity, for example, self-interest threats, advocacy threats, familiarity threats, self-review threats, and intimidation threats. Safeguards may eliminate or reduce such threats, and may be created by external structures (for example, the auditor’s expert’s profession, legislation or regulation), or by the auditor’s expert’s work environment (for example, quality control policies and procedures). There may also be safeguards specific to the audit engagement.
- A19. The evaluation of the significance of threats to objectivity and of whether there is a need for safeguards may depend upon the role of the auditor’s expert and the significance of the expert’s work in the context of the audit. There may be some circumstances in which safeguards cannot reduce threats to an acceptable level, for example, if a proposed auditor’s expert is an individual who has played a significant role in preparing the information that is being audited, that is, if the auditor’s expert is a management’s expert.
- A20. When evaluating the objectivity of an auditor’s external expert, it may be relevant to:
- (a) Inquire of the entity about any known interests or relationships that the entity has with the auditor’s external expert that may affect that expert’s objectivity.
 - (b) Discuss with that expert any applicable safeguards, including any professional requirements that apply to that expert; and evaluate whether the safeguards are adequate to reduce threats to an acceptable level. Interests and relationships that it may be relevant to discuss with the auditor’s expert include:
 - Financial interests.
 - Business and personal relationships.
 - Provision of other services by the expert, including by the organization in the case of an external expert that is an organization.

In some cases, it may also be appropriate for the auditor to obtain a written representation from the auditor’s external expert about any interests or relationships with the entity of which that expert is aware.

Confirmation of Independence of an Auditor’s External Expert (Ref: Para. 9R-1)

A20-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{12a} requires the auditor to communicate in the additional report to the audit committee when the auditor has used the work of an external expert and to confirm that the auditor obtained confirmation from the auditor’s external expert regarding the external expert’s independence.

Obtaining an Understanding of the Field of Expertise of the Auditor’s Expert (Ref: Para. 10)

- A21. The auditor may obtain an understanding of the auditor’s expert’s field of expertise through the means described in paragraph A7, or through discussion with that expert.
- A22. Aspects of the auditor’s expert’s field relevant to the auditor’s understanding may include:

^{12a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 16R-2(c).

- Whether that expert’s field has areas of specialty within it that are relevant to the audit (see paragraph A17).
- Whether any professional or other standards, and regulatory or legal requirements apply.
- What assumptions and methods, including models where applicable, are used by the auditor’s expert, and whether they are generally accepted within that expert’s field and appropriate for financial reporting purposes.
- The nature of internal and external data or information the auditor’s expert uses.

Agreement with the Auditor’s Expert (Ref: Para. 11)

- A23. The nature, scope and objectives of the auditor’s expert’s work may vary considerably with the circumstances, as may the respective roles and responsibilities of the auditor and the auditor’s expert, and the nature, timing and extent of communication between the auditor and the auditor’s expert. It is therefore required that these matters are agreed between the auditor and the auditor’s expert regardless of whether the expert is an auditor’s external expert or an auditor’s internal expert.
- A24. The matters noted in paragraph 8 may affect the level of detail and formality of the agreement between the auditor and the auditor’s expert, including whether it is appropriate that the agreement be in writing. For example, the following factors may suggest the need for more a detailed agreement than would otherwise be the case, or for the agreement to be set out in writing:
- The auditor’s expert will have access to sensitive or confidential entity information.
 - The respective roles or responsibilities of the auditor and the auditor’s expert are different from those normally expected.
 - Multi-jurisdictional legal or regulatory requirements apply.
 - The matter to which the auditor’s expert’s work relates is highly complex.
 - The auditor has not previously used work performed by that expert.
 - The greater the extent of the auditor’s expert’s work, and its significance in the context of the audit.
- A25. The agreement between the auditor and an auditor’s external expert is often in the form of an engagement letter. The Appendix lists matters that the auditor may consider for inclusion in such an engagement letter, or in any other form of agreement with an auditor’s external expert.
- A26. When there is no written agreement between the auditor and the auditor’s expert, evidence of the agreement may be included in, for example:
- Planning memoranda, or related working papers such as the audit program.
 - The policies and procedures of the auditor’s firm. In the case of an auditor’s internal expert, the established policies and procedures to which that expert is subject may include particular policies and procedures in relation to that expert’s work. The extent of documentation in the auditor’s working papers depends on the nature of such policies and procedures. For example, no documentation may

be required in the auditor’s working papers if the auditor’s firm has detailed protocols covering the circumstances in which the work of such an expert is used.

Nature, Scope and Objectives of Work (Ref: Para. 11(a))

A27. It may often be relevant when agreeing on the nature, scope and objectives of the auditor’s expert’s work to include discussion of any relevant technical performance standards or other professional or industry requirements that the expert will follow.

Respective Roles and Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 11(b))

A28. Agreement on the respective roles and responsibilities of the auditor and the auditor’s expert may include:

- Whether the auditor or the auditor’s expert will perform detailed testing of source data.
- Consent for the auditor to discuss the auditor’s expert’s findings or conclusions with the entity and others, and to include details of that expert’s findings or conclusions in the basis for a modified opinion in the auditor’s report, if necessary (see paragraph A42).
- Any agreement to inform the auditor’s expert of the auditor’s conclusions concerning that expert’s work.

Working Papers

A29. Agreement on the respective roles and responsibilities of the auditor and the auditor’s expert may also include agreement about access to, and retention of, each other’s working papers. When the auditor’s expert is a member of the engagement team, that expert’s working papers form part of the audit documentation. Subject to any agreement to the contrary, auditor’s external experts’ working papers are their own and do not form part of the audit documentation.

Communication (Ref: Para. 11(c))

A30. Effective two-way communication facilitates the proper integration of the nature, timing and extent of the auditor’s expert’s procedures with other work on the audit, and appropriate modification of the auditor’s expert’s objectives during the course of the audit. For example, when the work of the auditor’s expert relates to the auditor’s conclusions regarding a significant risk, both a formal written report at the conclusion of that expert’s work, and oral reports as the work progresses, may be appropriate. Identification of specific partners or staff who will liaise with the auditor’s expert, and procedures for communication between that expert and the entity, assists timely and effective communication, particularly on larger engagements.

Confidentiality (Ref: Para. 11(d))

A31. It is necessary for the confidentiality provisions of relevant ethical requirements that apply to the auditor also to apply to the auditor’s expert. Additional requirements may be imposed by law or regulation. The entity may also have requested that specific confidentiality provisions be agreed with auditor’s external experts.

Evaluating the Adequacy of the Auditor’s Expert’s Work (Ref: Para. 12)

A32. The auditor’s evaluation of the auditor’s expert’s competence, capabilities and objectivity, the auditor’s familiarity with the auditor’s expert’s field of expertise, and

the nature of the work performed by the auditor’s expert affect the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures to evaluate the adequacy of that expert’s work for the auditor’s purposes.

The Findings and Conclusions of the Auditor’s Expert (Ref: Para. 12(a))

A33. Specific procedures to evaluate the adequacy of the auditor’s expert’s work for the auditor’s purposes may include:

- Inquiries of the auditor’s expert.
- Reviewing the auditor’s expert’s working papers and reports.
- Corroborative procedures, such as:
 - Observing the auditor’s expert’s work;
 - Examining published data, such as statistical reports from reputable, authoritative sources;
 - Confirming relevant matters with third parties;
 - Performing detailed analytical procedures; and
 - Reperforming calculations.
- Discussion with another expert with relevant expertise when, for example, the findings or conclusions of the auditor’s expert are not consistent with other audit evidence.
- Discussing the auditor’s expert’s report with management.

A34. Relevant factors when evaluating the relevance and reasonableness of the findings or conclusions of the auditor’s expert, whether in a report or other form, may include whether they are:

- Presented in a manner that is consistent with any standards of the auditor’s expert’s profession or industry;
- Clearly expressed, including reference to the objectives agreed with the auditor, the scope of the work performed and standards applied;
- Based on an appropriate period and take into account subsequent events, where relevant;
- Subject to any reservation, limitation or restriction on use, and if so, whether this has implications for the auditor; and
- Based on appropriate consideration of errors or deviations encountered by the auditor’s expert.

Assumptions, Methods and Source Data

Assumptions and Methods (Ref: Para. 12(b))

A35. When the auditor’s expert’s work is to evaluate underlying assumptions and methods, including models where applicable, used by management in developing an accounting estimate, the auditor’s procedures are likely to be primarily directed to evaluating whether the auditor’s expert has adequately reviewed those assumptions and methods. When the auditor’s expert’s work is to develop an auditor’s point estimate or an

auditor’s range for comparison with management’s point estimate, the auditor’s procedures may be primarily directed to evaluating the assumptions and methods, including models where appropriate, used by the auditor’s expert.

- A36. ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised)¹³ discusses the assumptions and methods used by management in making accounting estimates, including the use in some cases of highly specialized, entity-developed models. Although that discussion is written in the context of the auditor obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding management’s assumptions and methods, it may also assist the auditor when evaluating an auditor’s expert’s assumptions and methods.
- A37. When an auditor’s expert’s work involves the use of significant assumptions and methods, factors relevant to the auditor’s evaluation of those assumptions and methods include whether they are:
- Generally accepted within the auditor’s expert’s field;
 - Consistent with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework;
 - Dependent on the use of specialized models; and
 - Consistent with those of management, and if not, the reason for, and effects of, the differences.

Source Data Used by the Auditor’s Expert (Ref: Para. 12(c))

- A38. When an auditor’s expert’s work involves the use of source data that is significant to that expert’s work, procedures such as the following may be used to test that data:
- Verifying the origin of the data, including obtaining an understanding of, and where applicable testing, the internal controls over the data and, where relevant, its transmission to the expert.
 - Reviewing the data for completeness and internal consistency.
- A39. In many cases, the auditor may test source data. However, in other cases, when the nature of the source data used by an auditor’s expert is highly technical in relation to the expert’s field, that expert may test the source data. If the auditor’s expert has tested the source data, inquiry of that expert by the auditor, or supervision or review of that expert’s tests may be an appropriate way for the auditor to evaluate that data’s relevance, completeness, and accuracy.

Inadequate Work (Ref: Para. 13)

- A40. If the auditor concludes that the work of the auditor’s expert is not adequate for the auditor’s purposes and the auditor cannot resolve the matter through the additional audit procedures required by paragraph 13, which may involve further work being performed by both the expert and the auditor, or include employing or engaging another expert, it may be necessary to express a modified opinion in the auditor’s report in accordance

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised), “Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures,” paragraphs 8, 13 and 15.

with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) because the auditor has not obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence.¹⁴

Reference to the Auditor’s Expert in the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 14-15)

- A41. In some cases, law or regulation may require a reference to the work of an auditor’s expert, for example, for the purposes of transparency in the public sector.
- A42. It may be appropriate in some circumstances to refer to the auditor’s expert in an auditor’s report containing a modified opinion, to explain the nature of the modification. In such circumstances, the auditor may need the permission of the auditor’s expert before making such a reference.

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraph 6(b).

Appendix

(Ref: Para. A25)

Considerations for Agreement between the Auditor and an Auditor’s External Expert

This Appendix lists matters that the auditor may consider for inclusion in any agreement with an auditor’s external expert. The following list is illustrative and is not exhaustive; it is intended only to be a guide that may be used in conjunction with the considerations outlined in this ISA (UK and Ireland). Whether to include particular matters in the agreement depends on the circumstances of the engagement. The list may also be of assistance in considering the matters to be included in an agreement with an auditor’s internal expert.

Nature, Scope and Objectives of the Auditor’s External Expert’s Work

- The nature and scope of the procedures to be performed by the auditor’s external expert.
- The objectives of the auditor’s external expert’s work in the context of materiality and risk considerations concerning the matter to which the auditor’s external expert’s work relates, and, when relevant, the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Any relevant technical performance standards or other professional or industry requirements the auditor’s external expert will follow.
- The assumptions and methods, including models where applicable, the auditor’s external expert will use, and their authority.
- The effective date of, or when applicable the testing period for, the subject matter of the auditor’s external expert’s work, and requirements regarding subsequent events.

The Respective Roles and Responsibilities of the Auditor and the Auditor’s External Expert

- Relevant auditing and accounting standards, and relevant regulatory or legal requirements.
- The auditor’s external expert’s consent to the auditor’s intended use of that expert’s report, including any reference to it, or disclosure of it, to others, for example reference to it in the basis for a modified opinion in the auditor’s report, if necessary, or disclosure of it to management or an audit committee^{14a}.
- The nature and extent of the auditor’s review of the auditor’s external expert’s work.
- Whether the auditor or the auditor’s external expert will test source data.
- The auditor’s external expert’s access to the entity’s records, files, personnel and to experts engaged by the entity.
- Procedures for communication between the auditor’s external expert and the entity.
- The auditor’s and the auditor’s external expert’s access to each other’s working papers.
- Ownership and control of working papers during and after the engagement, including any

^{14a} Auditors of public-interest entities are required by paragraph 16R-1(c) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) to communicate matters relating to the use of the work of the auditor’s external expert in the additional report to the audit committee.

file retention requirements.

- The auditor’s external expert’s responsibility to perform work with due skill and care.
- The auditor’s external expert’s competence and capability to perform the work.
- The expectation that the auditor’s external expert will use all knowledge that expert has that is relevant to the audit or, if not, will inform the auditor.
- Any restriction on the auditor’s external expert’s association with the auditor’s report.
- Any agreement to inform the auditor’s external expert of the auditor’s conclusions concerning that expert’s work

Communications and Reporting

- Methods and frequency of communications, including:
 - How the auditor’s external expert’s findings or conclusions will be reported (written report, oral report, ongoing input to the engagement team, for example.).
 - Identification of specific persons within the engagement team who will liaise with the auditor’s external expert.
- When the auditor’s external expert will complete the work and report findings or conclusions to the auditor.
- The auditor’s external expert’s responsibility to communicate promptly any potential delay in completing the work, and any potential reservation or limitation on that expert’s findings or conclusions.
- The auditor’s external expert’s responsibility to communicate promptly instances in which the entity restricts that expert’s access to records, files, personnel or experts engaged by the entity.
- The auditor’s external expert’s responsibility to communicate to the auditor all information that expert believes may be relevant to the audit, including any changes in circumstances previously communicated.
- The auditor’s external expert’s responsibility to communicate circumstances that may create threats to that expert’s objectivity, and any relevant safeguards that may eliminate or reduce such threats to an acceptable level.

Confidentiality

- The need for the auditor’s expert to observe confidentiality requirements, including:
 - The confidentiality provisions of relevant ethical requirements that apply to the auditor.
 - Additional requirements that may be imposed by law or regulation, if any.
 - Specific confidentiality provisions requested by the entity, if any.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 700 (REVISED)

FORMING AN OPINION AND REPORTING ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~~~ending~~ on or after ~~17 June 2016~~~~December 15,~~
~~2016~~)

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International Standard on Auditing (ISA) (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and

Ireland 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to form an opinion on the financial statements. It also deals with the form and content of the auditor's report issued as a result of an audit of financial statements.
2. ISA (UK and Ireland) 701¹ deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report. ISA (UK and Ireland) 705² (Revised) and ISA (UK and Ireland) 706³ (Revised) deal with how the form and content of the auditor's report are affected when the auditor expresses a modified opinion or includes an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report. Other ISAs (UK and Ireland) also contain reporting requirements that are applicable when issuing an auditor's report.
3. This ISA (UK and Ireland) applies to an audit of a complete set of general purpose financial statements and is written in that context. ISA 800⁴ deals with special considerations when financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework. ISA 805⁵ deals with special considerations relevant to an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement. This ISA (UK and Ireland) also applies to audits for which ISA 800 or ISA 805 apply.
4. The requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland) are aimed at addressing an appropriate balance between the need for consistency and comparability in auditor reporting globally and the need to increase the value of auditor reporting by making the information provided in the auditor's report more relevant to users. This ISA (UK and Ireland) promotes consistency in the auditor's report, but recognizes the need for flexibility to accommodate particular circumstances of individual jurisdictions. Consistency in the auditor's report, when the audit has been conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland), promotes credibility in the global marketplace by making more readily identifiable those audits that have been conducted in accordance with globally recognized standards. It also helps to promote the user's understanding and to identify unusual circumstances when they occur.

Effective Date

5. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ December 15, 2016.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, "Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report."

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report."

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), "Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report."

⁴ ISA 800, "Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks."

ISA 800 has not been promulgated by the FRC for application in the UK and Ireland.

⁵ ISA 805, "Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement."

ISA 805 has not been promulgated by the FRC for application in the UK and Ireland.

Objectives

6. The objectives of the auditor are:
- (a) To form an opinion on the financial statements based on an evaluation of the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained; and
 - (b) To express clearly that opinion through a written report.

Definitions

7. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
- (a) General purpose financial statements – Financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework.
 - (b) General purpose framework – A financial reporting framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.

The term “fair presentation framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

- (i) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework;^{5a} or
- (ii) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.^{5b} Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

The term “compliance framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework, but does not contain the acknowledgements in (i) or (ii) above.⁶

- (c) Unmodified opinion – The opinion expressed by the auditor when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.⁷

^{5a} In the IFRS Framework this is acknowledged in paragraph 17(c) of IAS 1. In UK GAAP this is acknowledged in Sections 396(4) and 404(4) of the Companies Act 2006. Under Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland this is acknowledged, for example, in Section 3(c) of the Companies (Amendment) Act 1986 and Regulation 14 of the European Communities (Companies: Group Accounts) Regulations 1992.

^{5b} This is sometimes referred to as the “true and fair override”. In the IFRS Framework this is acknowledged in paragraph 19 of IAS 1. In UK GAAP this is acknowledged in Sections 396(5) and 404(5) of the Companies Act 2006. Under Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland this is acknowledged, for example, in Section 3(d) of the Companies (Amendment) Act 1986 and Regulation 14(3) of the European Communities (Companies: Group Accounts) Regulations 1992.

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 13(a).

⁷ Paragraphs 25–26 deal with the phrases used to express this opinion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

8. Reference to “financial statements” in this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) means “a complete set of general purpose financial statements, ~~including the related notes.~~” ~~The related notes ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.~~⁸ The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the ~~presentation, structure~~~~form~~ and content of the financial statements, and what constitutes a complete set of financial statements. [\[IAASB/Disclosures\]](#)
9. Reference to “International Financial Reporting Standards” in this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) means the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, and reference to “International Public Sector Accounting Standards” means the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board.

Requirements

Forming an Opinion on the Financial Statements

10. The auditor shall form an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.^{9,10}
11. In order to form that opinion, the auditor shall conclude as to whether the auditor has obtained reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. That conclusion shall take into account:
- (a) The auditor’s conclusion, in accordance with ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 330 \(Revised\)](#), whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained;¹¹
 - (b) The auditor’s conclusion, in accordance with ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 450 \(Revised\)](#), whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate;¹² and
 - (c) The evaluations required by paragraphs 12–15.
12. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. This evaluation shall include consideration of the qualitative aspects of the entity’s accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management’s judgments. (Ref: Para. A1–A3)
13. In particular, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework:
- (a) The financial statements ~~appropriately~~~~adequately~~ disclose the significant accounting policies selected and applied. In making this evaluation, the auditor shall consider the

⁸ [ISA \(UK and Ireland\) 200 \(Revised\)](#), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland),” paragraph 13(f) sets out the content of financial statements.

⁹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 200 \(Revised\)](#), paragraph 11.

¹⁰ Paragraphs 25–26 deal with the phrases used to express this opinion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

¹¹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 330 \(Revised\)](#), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks,” paragraph 26.

¹² ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 450 \(Revised\)](#), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit,” paragraph 11.

relevance of the accounting policies to the entity, and whether they have been presented in an understandable manner; (Ref: Para. A3a)

- (b) The accounting policies selected and applied are consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework and are appropriate;
 - (c) The accounting estimates made by management are reasonable;
 - (d) The information presented in the financial statements is relevant, reliable, comparable, and understandable; In making this evaluation, the auditor shall consider whether:
 - The information that should have been included has been included, and whether such information is appropriately classified, aggregated or disaggregated, and characterized.
 - The overall presentation of the financial statements has been undermined by including information that is not relevant or that obscures a proper understanding of the matters disclosed. (Ref: Para. A3b)
 - (e) The financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statements; and (Ref: Para. A4)
 - (f) The terminology used in the financial statements, including the title of each financial statement, is appropriate. [IAASB/Disclosures]
14. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the evaluation required by paragraphs 12–13 shall also include whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. The auditor’s evaluation as to whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation shall include consideration of: (Ref: Para A4a–A4c)
- (a) The overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements; and
 - (b) Whether the financial statements, ~~including the related notes,~~ represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. [IAASB/Disclosures]
15. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A5–A10)

Form of Opinion

16. The auditor shall express an unmodified opinion when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

In the UK and Ireland, when expressing an unqualified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework it is not sufficient for the auditor to conclude that the financial statements give a true and fair view solely on the basis that the financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting standards and any other applicable legal requirements. [700.18]

17. If the auditor:
- (a) concludes that, based on the audit evidence obtained, the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or
 - (b) is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement,
- the auditor shall modify the opinion in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).
18. If financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework do not achieve fair presentation, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework and how the matter is resolved, shall determine whether it is necessary to modify the opinion in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised). (Ref: Para. A11)
19. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor is not required to evaluate whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. However, if in extremely rare circumstances the auditor concludes that such financial statements are misleading, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on how it is resolved, shall determine whether, and how, to communicate it in the auditor’s report. (Ref: Para. A12)

Auditor’s Report

20. The auditor’s report shall be in writing. (Ref: Para. A13–A14)

Auditor’s Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland)

Title

21. The auditor’s report shall have a title that clearly indicates that it is the report of an independent auditor. (Ref: Para. A15)

Addressee

22. The auditor’s report shall be addressed, as appropriate, based on the circumstances of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A16)

Auditor’s Opinion

23. The first section of the auditor’s report shall include the auditor’s opinion, and shall have the heading “Opinion.”
24. The Opinion section of the auditor’s report shall also:
- (a) Identify the entity whose financial statements have been audited;
 - (b) State that the financial statements have been audited;
 - (c) Identify the title of each statement comprising the financial statements;
 - (d) Refer to the notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies; and

- (e) Specify the date of, or period covered by, each financial statement comprising the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A17–A18)
25. When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor’s opinion shall, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, use one of the following phrases, which are regarded as being equivalent:
- (a) In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, [...] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]; or
- (b) In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of [...] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]. (Ref: Para. A19–A26)

25-1. In the UK and Ireland, when expressing an unqualified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework the opinion paragraph shall clearly state that the financial statements give a true and fair view. (Ref: Para. A19-1-A19-4) [700.18]

25-2. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor’s report shall:

- (a) Include an audit opinion, which shall be either unmodified, qualified or an adverse opinion; or [AD/Article 28.2(c)]
- (b) If the auditor is unable to express an audit opinion, contain a disclaimer of opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised). [AD/Article 28.2(c)]

26. When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor’s opinion shall be that the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]. (Ref: Para. A21–A26)
27. If the reference to the applicable financial reporting framework in the auditor’s opinion is not to IFRSs issued by the International Accounting Standards Board or IPSASs issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board, the auditor’s opinion shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the framework.

27D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, where the audit was carried out by more than one firm^{12a}, the firm(s) shall agree on the results of the audit and submit a joint report and opinion. In the case of disagreement, each firm shall submit the auditor’s opinion in a separate paragraph of the auditor’s report and shall state the reason for the disagreement. [AD/Article 28.3]

Basis for Opinion

28. The auditor’s report shall include a section, directly following the Opinion section, with the heading “Basis for Opinion”, that: (Ref: Para. A27)
- (a) States that the audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland); (Ref: Para. A28)

^{12a} “Firm” is defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) as a sole practitioner, partnership or corporation or other entity of professional accountants.

In the UK and Ireland, the auditor’s report includes a statement that the audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and applicable law.

- (b) Refers to the section of the auditor’s report that describes the auditor’s responsibilities under the ISAs (UK and Ireland);
- (c) Includes a statement that the auditor is independent of the entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit, and has fulfilled the auditor’s other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. The statement shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the relevant ethical requirements or refer to the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code); and (Ref: Para. A29–A34)

Auditors in the UK and Ireland are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: the FRC’s Ethical Standard concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor, and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor’s relevant professional body. The FRC is not aware of any significant instances where the relevant parts of the IESBA Code of Ethics are more restrictive than the FRC’s Ethical Standard.

- (d) States whether the auditor believes that the audit evidence the auditor has obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor’s opinion.

Going Concern

- 29. Where applicable, the auditor shall report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised).¹³

Key Audit Matters

- 30. For audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities, the auditor shall communicate key audit matters in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.

30-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, and for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements for entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code, the auditor shall communicate in the auditor’s report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701. [AR/Article 10.2(c)]

- 31. When the auditor is otherwise required by law or regulation or decides to communicate key audit matters in the auditor’s report, the auditor shall do so in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701. (Ref: Para. A35–A38)

Other Information

- 32. Where applicable, the auditor shall report in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised). [IAASB/OI]

¹³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), “Going Concern,” paragraphs 21–23.

Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

332. The auditor’s report shall include a section with a heading “Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements.” The auditor’s report shall use the term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction and need not refer specifically to “management”. In some jurisdictions, the appropriate reference may be to those charged with governance. (Ref: Para. A39)
343. This section of the auditor’s report shall describe management’s responsibility for: (Ref: Para. A40–A43)
- (a) Preparing the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
 - (b) Assessing the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern¹⁴ and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate as well as disclosing, if applicable, matters relating to going concern. The explanation of management’s responsibility for this assessment shall include a description of when the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. (Ref: Para. A43)
354. This section of the auditor’s report shall also identify those responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process, when those responsible for such oversight are different from those who fulfill the responsibilities described in paragraph 33 above. In this case, the heading of this section shall also refer to “Those Charged with Governance” or such term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction. (Ref: Para. A44)
365. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the description of responsibilities for the financial statements in the auditor’s report shall refer to “the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements” or “the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view,” as appropriate in the circumstances.

In the UK and Ireland, the auditor’s report shall include a statement that [those charged with governance] are responsible for the preparation of financial statements [that give a true and fair view].

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

376. The auditor’s report shall include a section with the heading “Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements.”
387. This section of the auditor’s report shall: (Ref: Para. A45)
- (a) State that the objectives of the auditor are to:
 - (i) Obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
 - (ii) Issue an auditor’s report that includes the auditor’s opinion. (Ref: Para. A46)

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), paragraph 2.

- (b) State that reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists; and
- (c) State that misstatements can arise from fraud or error, and either:
 - (i) Describe that they are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements; or¹⁵
 - (ii) Provide a definition or description of materiality in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A47)

398. The Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the auditor's report shall further: (Ref: Para. A45)

- (a) State that, as part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland), the auditor exercises professional judgment and maintains professional skepticism throughout the audit; and
- (b) Describe an audit by stating that the auditor's responsibilities are:
 - (i) To identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
 - (ii) To obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. In circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, the auditor shall omit the phrase that the auditor's consideration of internal control is not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
 - (iii) To evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
 - (iv) To conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If the auditor concludes that a material uncertainty exists, the auditor is required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. The auditor's conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit," paragraph 2.

of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- (v) When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, to evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- (c) When ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised)¹⁶ applies, further describe the auditor's responsibilities in a group audit engagement by stating that:
 - (i) The auditor's responsibilities are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the group financial statements;
 - (ii) The auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit; and
 - (iii) The auditor remains solely responsible for the auditor's opinion.

4039. The Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the auditor's report also shall: (Ref: Para. A45)

- (a) State that the auditor communicates with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit;
- (b) For audits of financial statements of listed entities, state that the auditor provides those charged with governance with a statement that the auditor has complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on the auditor's independence, and where applicable, related safeguards; and
- (c) For audits of financial statements of listed entities and any other entities for which key audit matters are communicated in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, state that, from the matters communicated with those charged with governance, the auditor determines those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. The auditor describes these matters in the auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, the auditor determines that a matter should not be communicated in the auditor's report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication. (Ref: Para. A48)

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised), "Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)."

Location of the description of the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

410. The description of the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements required by paragraphs 398–4039 shall be included: (Ref: Para. A49)

- (a) Within the body of the auditor’s report;
- (b) Within an appendix to the auditor’s report, in which case the auditor’s report shall include a reference to the location of the appendix; or (Ref: Para. A49–A50)
- (c) By a specific reference within the auditor’s report to the location of such a description on a website of an appropriate authority, where law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit the auditor to do so. (Ref: Para. A49, A51–A52-1)

In the UK and Ireland, the auditor is permitted to cross-refer to the applicable version of a “Description of the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements” that is maintained on the website of an appropriate authority. [700.16(a)]

424. When the auditor refers to a description of the auditor’s responsibilities on a website of an appropriate authority, the auditor shall determine that such description addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the requirements in paragraphs 3938–4039 of this ISA (UK and Ireland). (Ref: Para. A51)

Other Reporting Responsibilities

432. If the auditor addresses other reporting responsibilities in the auditor’s report on the financial statements that are in addition to the auditor’s responsibilities under the ISAs (UK and Ireland), these other reporting responsibilities shall be addressed in a separate section in the auditor’s report with a heading titled “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” or otherwise as appropriate to the content of the section, unless these other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland) in which case the other reporting responsibilities may be presented in the same section as the related report elements required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland). (Ref: Para. A53–A55)

43-1. If the auditor is required to report on certain matters by exception the auditor shall describe its responsibilities and incorporate a suitable conclusion in respect of such matters. (Ref: Para. A53-1 – A53-3) [700.22]

443. If other reporting responsibilities are presented in the same section as the related report elements required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the auditor’s report shall clearly differentiate the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the ISAs (UK and Ireland). (Ref: Para. A55)

454. If the auditor’s report contains a separate section that addresses other reporting responsibilities, the requirements of paragraphs 20–4039 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) shall be included under a section with a heading “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements.” The “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” shall follow the “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements.” (Ref: Para. A55)

45R-1. For audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor’s report shall:

- (a) Be in clear and unambiguous language. [AR/Article 10.3]
- (b) State by whom or which body the auditor(s) was appointed; [AR/Article 10.2(a)]
- (c) Indicate the date of the appointment and the period of total uninterrupted engagement including previous renewals and reappointments of the firm; [AR/Article 10.2(b)]
- (d) Explain to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud; [AR/Article 10.2(d)]
- (e) Confirm that the audit opinion is consistent with the additional report to the audit committee^{16a}. Except as required by this paragraph, the auditor’s report shall not contain any cross-references to the additional report to the audit committee. [AR/Article 10.2(e)]
- (f) Declare that the non-audit services prohibited by the FRC’s Ethical Standard were not provided and that the firm remained independent of the entity in conducting the audit; [AR/Article 10.2(f)]
- (g) Indicate any services, in addition to the audit, which were provided by the firm to the entity and its controlled undertaking(s), and which have not been disclosed in the annual report or financial statements. [AR/Article 10.2(g)]

Name of the Engagement Partner

465. The name of the engagement partner shall be included in the auditor’s report for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat. In the rare circumstances that the auditor intends not to include the name of the engagement partner in the auditor’s report, the auditor shall discuss this intention with those charged with governance to inform the auditor’s assessment of the likelihood and severity of a significant personal security threat. (Ref: Para. A56–A58)

Signature of the Auditor

476. The auditor’s report shall be signed. (Ref: Para. A59–A60)

Auditor’s Address

487. The auditor’s report shall name the location in the jurisdiction where the auditor practices.

48D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor’s report shall identify the place of establishment of the firm. [AD/Article 28.2(g)]

Date of the Auditor’s Report

498. The auditor’s report shall be dated no earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements, including evidence that: (Ref: Para. A61–A64)

^{16a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 16R-2.

- (a) All the statements and disclosures that comprise the financial statements, ~~including the related notes~~, have been prepared; and
- (b) Those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements. [IAASB/Disclosures]

49-1. The date of an auditor's report on an entity's financial statements shall be the date on which the auditor signed the report expressing an opinion on those financial statements. (Ref: Para. A61) [700.23]

49-2. The auditor shall not sign, and hence date, the auditor's report earlier than the date on which all the other information contained in the annual report has been approved by those charged with governance and the auditor has considered all necessary available evidence. (Ref: Para. A62-1 – A62-4) [700.24]

Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation

5049. If the auditor is required by law or regulation of a specific jurisdiction to use a specific layout, or wording of the auditor's report, the auditor's report shall refer to International Standards on Auditing only if the auditor's report includes, at a minimum, each of the following elements: (Ref: Para. A65–A66)

- (a) A title.
- (b) An addressee, as required by the circumstances of the engagement.
- (c) An Opinion section containing an expression of opinion on the financial statements and a reference to the applicable financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements (including identifying the jurisdiction of origin of the financial reporting framework that is not International Financial Reporting Standards or International Public Sector Accounting Standards, see paragraph 26).
- (d) An identification of the entity's financial statements that have been audited.
- (e) A statement that the auditor is independent of the entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit, and has fulfilled the auditor's other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. The statement shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the relevant ethical requirements or refer to the IESBA Code.
- (f) Where applicable, a section that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in paragraph 22 of ISA 570 (Revised).
- (g) Where applicable, a Basis for Qualified (or Adverse) Opinion section that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in paragraph 23 of ISA 570 (Revised).
- (h) Where applicable, a section that includes the information required by ISA 701, or additional information about the audit that is prescribed by law or regulation and that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in that ISA.¹⁷ (Ref: Para. A66–A67)

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, paragraphs 11–16.

- (i) Where applicable, a section that addresses the reporting requirements in paragraph 24 of ISA 720 (Revised).¹⁸ [IAASB/OI]
- (j) A description of management’s responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements and an identification of those responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the requirements in paragraphs ~~332–365~~.
- (k) A reference to International Standards on Auditing and the law or regulation, and a description of the auditor’s responsibilities for an audit of the financial statements that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the requirements in paragraphs ~~376–4039~~. (Ref: Para. A49–A50)
- (l) For audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities, the name of the engagement partner unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat.
- (m) The auditor’s signature.
- (n) The auditor’s address.
- (o) The date of the auditor’s report.

Auditor’s Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Both Auditing Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and International Standards on Auditing

- 510.** An auditor may be required to conduct an audit in accordance with the auditing standards of a specific jurisdiction (the “national auditing standards”), and has additionally complied with the ISAs in the conduct of the audit. If this is the case, the auditor’s report may refer to International Standards on Auditing in addition to the national auditing standards, but the auditor shall do so only if: (Ref: Para. A71–A72)
- (a) There is no conflict between the requirements in the national auditing standards and those in ISAs that would lead the auditor (i) to form a different opinion, or (ii) not to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, is required by ISAs; and
 - (b) The auditor’s report includes, at a minimum, each of the elements set out in paragraphs ~~5049(a)–(o)~~ in ISA 700 (Revised)~~above~~ when the auditor uses the layout or wording specified by the national auditing standards. However, reference to “law or regulation” in paragraph ~~5049(j)~~ shall be read as reference to the national auditing standards. The auditor’s report shall thereby identify such national auditing standards.
- 524.** When the auditor’s report refers to both the national auditing standards and International Standards on Auditing, the auditor’s report shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the national auditing standards.

Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. A73–A79)

- 532.** If supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework is presented with the audited financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), paragraph 24.

whether, in the auditor’s professional judgment, supplementary information is nevertheless an integral part of the financial statements due to its nature or how it is presented. When it is an integral part of the financial statements, the supplementary information shall be covered by the auditor’s opinion.

- ~~543.~~ If supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework is not considered an integral part of the audited financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate whether such supplementary information is presented in a way that sufficiently and clearly differentiates it from the audited financial statements. If this is not the case, then the auditor shall ask management to change how the unaudited supplementary information is presented. If management refuses to do so, the auditor shall identify the unaudited supplementary information and explain in the auditor’s report that such supplementary information has not been audited.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity’s Accounting Practices (Ref: Para. 12)

- A1. Management makes a number of judgments about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- A2. ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 260](#) (Revised) contains a discussion of the qualitative aspects of accounting practices.¹⁹ In considering the qualitative aspects of the entity’s accounting practices, the auditor may become aware of possible bias in management’s judgments. The auditor may conclude that the cumulative effect of a lack of neutrality, together with the effect of uncorrected misstatements, causes the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated. Indicators of a lack of neutrality that may affect the auditor’s evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are materially misstated include the following:
- The selective correction of misstatements brought to management’s attention during the audit (e.g., correcting misstatements with the effect of increasing reported earnings, but not correcting misstatements that have the effect of decreasing reported earnings).
 - Possible management bias in the making of accounting estimates.
- A3. ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 540](#) ([Revised](#)) addresses possible management bias in making accounting estimates.²⁰ Indicators of possible management bias do not constitute misstatements for purposes of drawing conclusions on the reasonableness of individual accounting estimates. They may, however, affect the auditor’s evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

¹⁹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 260](#) (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” Appendix 2.

²⁰ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 540](#) ([Revised](#)), “Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures,” paragraph 21.

Accounting Policies Appropriately Disclosed in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 13(a))

A3a. In evaluating whether the financial statements appropriately disclose the significant accounting policies selected and applied, the auditor’s consideration includes matters such as:

- Whether all disclosures related to the significant accounting policies that are required to be included by the applicable financial reporting framework have been disclosed;
- Whether the information about the significant accounting policies that has been disclosed is relevant and therefore reflects how the recognition, measurement and presentation criteria in the applicable financial reporting framework have been applied to classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures in the financial statements in the particular circumstances of the entity’s operations and its environment; and
- The clarity with which the significant accounting policies have been presented. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Information Presented in the Financial Statements Is Relevant, Reliable, Comparable and Understandable (Ref: Para. 13(d))

A3b. Evaluating the understandability of the financial statements includes consideration of such matters as whether:

- The information in the financial statements is presented in a clear and concise manner.
- The placement of significant disclosures gives appropriate prominence to them (e.g., when there is perceived value of entity-specific information to users), and whether the disclosures are appropriately cross-referenced in a manner that would not give rise to significant challenges for users in identifying necessary information. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Disclosure of the Effect of Material Transactions and Events on the Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 13(e))

A4. It is common for financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework to present an entity’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows. Evaluating whether, in view of the applicable financial reporting framework, in such circumstances, the auditor evaluates whether the financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the entity’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows includes consideration of such matters as

- The extent to which the information in the financial statements is relevant and specific to the circumstances of the entity; and
- Whether the disclosures are adequate to assist the intended users to understand:
 - The nature and extent of the entity’s potential assets and liabilities arising from transactions or events that do not meet the criteria for recognition (or the

criteria for derecognition) established by the applicable financial reporting framework.

- The nature and extent of risks of material misstatement arising from transactions and events.
- The methods used and the assumptions and judgments made, and changes to them, that affect amounts presented or otherwise disclosed, including relevant sensitivity analyses. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Evaluating Whether the Financial Statements Achieve Fair Presentation (Ref: Para. 14)

A4a. Some financial reporting frameworks acknowledge explicitly or implicitly the concept of fair presentation.²¹ As noted in paragraph 7(b) of this ISA (UK and Ireland), a fair presentation²² financial reporting framework not only requires compliance with the requirements of the framework, but also acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework.²³ [IAASB/Disclosures]

A4b. The auditor’s evaluation about whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation, both in respect of presentation and disclosure, is a matter of professional judgment. This evaluation takes into account such matters as the facts and circumstances of the entity, including changes thereto, based on the auditor’s understanding of the entity and the audit evidence obtained during the audit. The evaluation also includes consideration, for example, of the disclosures needed to achieve a fair presentation arising from matters that could be material (i.e., in general, misstatements are considered to be material if they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of the users taken on the basis of the financial statements as a whole), such as the effect of evolving financial reporting requirements or the changing economic environment. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A4c. Evaluating whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation may include, for example, discussions with management and those charged with governance about their views on why a particular presentation was chosen, as well as alternatives that may have been considered. The discussions may include, for example:

- The degree to which the amounts in the financial statements are aggregated or disaggregated, and whether the presentation of amounts or disclosures obscures useful information, or results in misleading information.
- Consistency with appropriate industry practice, or whether any departures are relevant to the entity’s circumstances and therefore warranted. [IAASB/Disclosures]

²¹ For example, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) note that fair presentation requires the faithful representation of the effects of transactions, other events and conditions in accordance with the definitions and recognition criteria for assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

²² See ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 13(a).

²³ For example, IFRSs require an entity to provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRSs is insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity’s financial position and financial performance (International Accounting Standard 1, “Presentation of Financial Statements,” paragraph 17(c)).

Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 15)

- A5. As explained in ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), the preparation of the financial statements by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance requires the inclusion of an adequate description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the financial statements.²⁴ That description advises users of the financial statements of the framework on which the financial statements are based.
- A6. A description that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a particular applicable financial reporting framework is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with all the requirements of that framework that are effective during the period covered by the financial statements.
- A7. A description of the applicable financial reporting framework that contains imprecise qualifying or limiting language (e.g., “the financial statements are in substantial compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards”) is not an adequate description of that framework as it may mislead users of the financial statements.

Reference to More than One Financial Reporting Framework

- A8. In some cases, the financial statements may represent that they are prepared in accordance with two financial reporting frameworks (e.g., the national framework and IFRSs). This may be because management is required, or has chosen, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with both frameworks, in which case both are applicable financial reporting frameworks. Such description is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with each of the frameworks individually. To be regarded as being prepared in accordance with both frameworks, the financial statements need to comply with both frameworks simultaneously and without any need for reconciling statements. In practice, simultaneous compliance is unlikely unless the jurisdiction has adopted the other framework (e.g., IFRSs) as its own national framework, or has eliminated all barriers to compliance with it.
- A9. Financial statements that are prepared in accordance with one financial reporting framework and that contain a note or supplementary statement reconciling the results to those that would be shown under another framework are not prepared in accordance with that other framework. This is because the financial statements do not include all the information in the manner required by that other framework.
- A10. The financial statements may, however, be prepared in accordance with one applicable financial reporting framework and, in addition, describe in the notes to the financial statements the extent to which the financial statements comply with another framework (e.g., financial statements prepared in accordance with the national framework that also describe the extent to which they comply with IFRSs). Such description may constitute supplementary financial information as discussed in paragraph 53 and is covered by the auditor’s opinion if it cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements.

Form of Opinion (Ref: Para. 18–19)

- A11. There may be cases where the financial statements, although prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework, do not achieve fair presentation.

²⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraphs A2–A3.

Where this is the case, it may be possible for management to include additional disclosures in the financial statements beyond those specifically required by the framework or, in extremely rare circumstances, to depart from a requirement in the framework in order to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.

- A12. It will be extremely rare for the auditor to consider financial statements that are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework to be misleading if, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), the auditor determined that the framework is acceptable.²⁵

Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 20)

- A13. A written report encompasses reports issued in hard copy and those using an electronic medium.
- A14. The Appendix to this ISA (UK and Ireland)^{25a} contains illustrations of auditor’s reports on financial statements, incorporating the elements set out in paragraphs 20–498. With the exception of the Opinion and Basis for Opinion sections, this ISA (UK and Ireland) does not establish requirements for ordering the elements of the auditor’s report. However, this ISA (UK and Ireland) requires the use of specific headings, which are intended to assist in making auditor’s reports that refer to audits that have been conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) more recognizable, particularly in situations where the elements of the auditor’s report are presented in an order that differs from the illustrative auditor’s reports in the Appendix to this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Auditor’s Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing

Title (Ref: Para. 21)

- A15. A title indicating the report is the report of an independent auditor, for example, “Independent Auditor’s Report,” distinguishes the independent auditor’s report from reports issued by others.

Addressee (Ref: Para. 22)

- A16. Law, regulation or the terms of the engagement may specify to whom the auditor’s report is to be addressed in that particular jurisdiction. The auditor’s report is normally addressed to those for whom the report is prepared, often either to the shareholders or to those charged with governance of the entity whose financial statements are being audited.

A16-1. In the UK and Ireland, for entities incorporated under the Companies Acts^{25b}, the auditor is required to report to the company's members because the audit is undertaken on their behalf. Such auditor's reports are, therefore, typically addressed to either the members or the shareholders of the company. The auditor's report on financial statements of other types of reporting entity is addressed to the appropriate person or persons, as defined by statute or by the terms of the individual engagement. [700.A5]

²⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements,” paragraph 6(a).

^{25a} The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

^{25b} In the United Kingdom the Companies Act 2006 establishes this requirement. In Ireland the Companies Act 2014 establishes this requirement.

Auditor's Opinion (Ref. Para. 24–26)

Reference to the financial statements that have been audited

A17. The auditor's report states, for example, that the auditor has audited the financial statements of the entity, which comprise [state the title of each financial statement comprising the complete set of financial statements required by the applicable financial reporting framework, specifying the date or period covered by each financial statement] and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

A18. When the auditor is aware that the audited financial statements will be included in a document that contains other information, such as an annual report, the auditor may consider, if the form of presentation allows, identifying the page numbers on which the audited financial statements are presented. This helps users to identify the financial statements to which the auditor's report relates.

“Present fairly, in all material respects” or “give a true and fair view”

A19. The phrases “present fairly, in all material respects,” and “give a true and fair view” are regarded as being equivalent. Whether the phrase “present fairly, in all material respects,” or the phrase “give a true and fair view” is used in any particular jurisdiction is determined by the law or regulation governing the audit of financial statements in that jurisdiction, or by generally accepted practice in that jurisdiction. Where law or regulation requires the use of different wording, this does not affect the requirement in paragraph 14 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) for the auditor to evaluate the fair presentation of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework.

A19-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor's report is required by UK legislation to state clearly whether, in the auditor's opinion, the financial statements:

(a) Give a true and fair view:

(i) In the case of an individual balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the entity as at the end of the financial year;

(ii) In the case of an individual profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of the entity for the financial year;

(iii) In the case of group accounts, of the state of affairs as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss for the financial year of the undertakings included in the consolidation as a whole, so far as concerns members of the entity;

(b) Have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework; and

(c) Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation.

A19-2. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor's report is required by Irish legislation to state clearly the auditor's opinion, the financial statements:

(a) Give a true and fair view:

(i) In the case of an entity balance sheet, of the assets, liabilities and financial

position of the company as at the end of the financial year;

(ii) In the case of an entity profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year;

(iii) In the case of group financial statements, of the assets, liabilities and financial position as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss for the financial year of the undertakings included in the consolidation as a whole, so far as concerns the members of the company;

(b) Whether the statutory financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Irish Companies Act 2014 (and, where applicable, Article 4 of the IAS Regulation).

A19-3. In the UK and Ireland, the "true and fair" concept has been central to accounting and auditing practice in the UK and Ireland for many years; however, it is not defined in legislation. In 2008, the FRC published a legal opinion, that it had commissioned, entitled "The true and fair requirement revisited" (The Opinion).^{25c} The Opinion confirms the overarching nature of the true and fair requirement to the preparation of financial statements in the United Kingdom, whether they are prepared in accordance with international or national accounting standards.^{25d} The Opinion states that "The preparation of financial statements is not a mechanical process where compliance with relevant accounting standards will automatically ensure that those financial statements show a true and fair view, or a fair presentation. Such compliance may be highly likely to produce such an outcome; but it does not guarantee it". [700.A10, A11]

A19-4. United Kingdom auditor's reports prepared in accordance with section 495(3) of the UK Companies Act 2006 will meet the requirement in paragraph 25-1. Irish auditor's reports prepared in accordance with Section 193(4C) of the Irish Companies Act 1990 and, therefore, expressing an opinion in terms of "true and fair view, in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework" also meets this requirement. This is supported by recital 10 of EU Directive 2003/51/EC which states "The fundamental requirement that an audit opinion states whether the annual or consolidated accounts give a true and fair view in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework does not represent a restriction of the scope of that opinion but clarifies the context in which it is expressed". [700.18 footnote 5]

A19-5. In the UK and Ireland, "relevant financial reporting framework" is used in legislation to refer to the applicable financial reporting framework. Under Irish companies legislation, "financial reporting framework" means "the collective provisions and requirements (and, in particular, the applicable accounting standards) applied in the preparation of the financial statements."^{25e}

^{25c} The opinion can be downloaded from the FRC web-site at <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Codes-Standards/Accounting-and-Reporting-Policy/True-and-Fair.aspx>.

^{25d} UK and Irish law differ but follow similar principles.

^{25e} Section 274 of the Companies Act 2014.

A20. When the auditor expresses an unmodified opinion, it is not appropriate to use phrases such as “with the foregoing explanation” or “subject to” in relation to the opinion, as these suggest a conditional opinion or a weakening or modification of opinion.

Description of the financial statements and the matters they present

A21. The auditor’s opinion covers the complete set of financial statements as defined by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, in the case of many general purpose frameworks, the financial statements may include: a statement of financial position, a statement of comprehensive income, a statement of changes in equity, a statement of cash flows, and related notes, which ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. In some jurisdictions, additional information may also be considered to be an integral part of the financial statements.

A22. In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor’s opinion states that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view of, the matters that the financial statements are designed to present. For example, in the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRSs, these matters are *the financial position of the entity as at the end of the period and the entity’s financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended*. Consequently, the [...] in paragraph 25 and elsewhere in this ISA (UK and Ireland) is intended to be replaced by the words in italics in the preceding sentence when the applicable financial reporting framework is IFRSs or, in the case of other applicable financial reporting frameworks, be replaced with words that describe the matters that the financial statements are designed to present.

Description of the applicable financial reporting framework and how it may affect the auditor’s opinion

A23. The identification of the applicable financial reporting framework in the auditor’s opinion is intended to advise users of the auditor’s report of the context in which the auditor’s opinion is expressed; it is not intended to limit the evaluation required in paragraph 14. The applicable financial reporting framework is identified in such terms as:

“... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards” or

“... in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Jurisdiction X ...”

A23-1. In the UK and Ireland, the financial reporting framework is normally one of:

- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and the national law that is applicable when using IFRSs and, in the case of consolidated financial statements of publicly traded companies,^{25f} Article 4 of the IAS Regulation (1606/2002/EC).
- Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, which comprises applicable Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

^{25f} A publicly traded company is one whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market in any Member State in the European Union.

- [UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, which comprises applicable UK law and UK Accounting Standards as issued by the FRC. \[700.A12\]](#)

- A24. When the applicable financial reporting framework encompasses financial reporting standards and legal or regulatory requirements, the framework is identified in such terms as “... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of Jurisdiction X Corporations Act.” ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210 \(Revised\)](#) deals with circumstances where there are conflicts between the financial reporting standards and the legislative or regulatory requirements.²⁶
- A25. As indicated in paragraph A8, the financial statements may be prepared in accordance with two financial reporting frameworks, which are therefore both applicable financial reporting frameworks. Accordingly, each framework is considered separately when forming the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements, and the auditor’s opinion in accordance with paragraphs 25–27 refers to both frameworks as follows:
- If the financial statements comply with each of the frameworks individually, two opinions are expressed: that is, that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with one of the applicable financial reporting frameworks (e.g., the national framework) and an opinion that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the other applicable financial reporting framework (e.g., IFRSs). These opinions may be expressed separately or in a single sentence (e.g., the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects [...], in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Jurisdiction X and with IFRSs).
 - If the financial statements comply with one of the frameworks but fail to comply with the other framework, an unmodified opinion can be given that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the one framework (e.g., the national framework) but a modified opinion given with regard to the other framework (e.g., IFRSs) in accordance with ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 705 \(Revised\)](#).
- A26. As indicated in paragraph A10, the financial statements may represent compliance with the applicable financial reporting framework and, in addition, disclose the extent of compliance with another financial reporting framework. Such supplementary information is covered by the auditor’s opinion if it cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements (see paragraphs 52–53 and related application material in paragraphs A73–A79). Accordingly,
- If the disclosure as to the compliance with the other framework is misleading, a modified opinion is expressed in accordance with ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 705 \(Revised\)](#).
 - If the disclosure is not misleading, but the auditor judges it to be of such importance that it is fundamental to the users’ understanding of the financial statements, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph is added in accordance with ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 706 \(Revised\)](#), drawing attention to the disclosure.

²⁶ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210 \(Revised\)](#), paragraph 18.

Basis for Opinion (Ref: Para. 28)

- A27. The Basis for Opinion section provides important context about the auditor's opinion. Accordingly, this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) requires the Basis for Opinion section to directly follow the Opinion section in the auditor's report.
- A28. The reference to the standards used conveys to the users of the auditor's report that the audit has been conducted in accordance with established standards.

Relevant ethical requirements

- A29. The identification of the jurisdiction of origin of relevant ethical requirements increases transparency about those requirements relating to the particular audit engagement. ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 200 \(Revised\)](#) explains that relevant ethical requirements ordinarily comprise Parts A and B of the IESBA Code related to an audit of financial statements together with national requirements that are more restrictive.²⁷ When the relevant ethical requirements include those of the IESBA Code, the statement may also make reference to the IESBA Code. If the IESBA Code constitutes all of the ethical requirements relevant to the audit, the statement need not identify a jurisdiction of origin.
- A30. In some jurisdictions, relevant ethical requirements may exist in several different sources, such as the ethical code(s) and additional rules and requirements within law and regulation. When the independence and other relevant ethical requirements are contained in a limited number of sources, the auditor may choose to name the relevant source(s) (e.g., the name of the code, rule or regulation applicable in the jurisdiction), or may refer to a term that is commonly understood and that appropriately summarizes those sources (e.g., independence requirements for audits of private entities in Jurisdiction X).
- A31. Law or regulation, national auditing standards or the terms of an audit engagement may require the auditor to provide in the auditor's report more specific information about the sources of the relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, that applied to the audit of the financial statements.
- A32. In determining the appropriate amount of information to include in the auditor's report when there are multiple sources of relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit of the financial statements, an important consideration is balancing transparency against the risk of obscuring other useful information in the auditor's report.

Considerations specific to group audits

- A33. In group audits when there are multiple sources of relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, the reference in the auditor's report to the jurisdiction ordinarily relates to the relevant ethical requirements that are applicable to the group engagement team. This is because, in a group audit, component auditors are also subject to ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit.²⁸
- A34. The ISAs [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) do not establish specific independence or ethical requirements for auditors, including component auditors, and thus do not extend, or otherwise override, the independence requirements of the IESBA Code or other ethical requirements to which the group engagement team is subject, nor do the ISAs [\(UK and](#)

²⁷ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 200 \(Revised\)](#), paragraph A14.

²⁸ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 600 \(Revised\)](#), paragraph A37.

[Ireland](#) require that the component auditor in all cases to be subject to the same specific independence requirements that are applicable to the group engagement team. As a result, relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, in a group audit situation may be complex. ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 600 \(Revised\)](#)²⁹ provides guidance for auditors in performing work on the financial information of a component for a group audit, including those situations where the component auditor does not meet the independence requirements that are relevant to the group audit.

Key Audit Matters (Ref: Para. 30)

- A35. Law or regulation may require communication of key audit matters for audits of entities other than listed entities, for example, entities characterized in such law or regulation as public interest entities.
- A36. The auditor may also decide to communicate key audit matters for other entities, including those that may be of significant public interest, for example because they have a large number and wide range of stakeholders and considering the nature and size of the business. Examples of such entities may include financial institutions (such as banks, insurance companies, and pension funds), and other entities such as charities.
- A37. ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210 \(Revised\)](#) requires the auditor to agree the terms of the audit engagement with management and those charged with governance, as appropriate, and explains that the roles of management and those charged with governance in agreeing the terms of the audit engagement for the entity depend on the governance arrangements of the entity and relevant law or regulation.³⁰ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210 \(Revised\)](#) also requires the audit engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement to include reference to the expected form and content of any reports to be issued by the auditor.³¹ When the auditor is not otherwise required to communicate key audit matters, ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210 \(Revised\)](#)³² explains that it may be helpful for the auditor to make reference in the terms of the audit engagement to the possibility of communicating key audit matters in the auditor's report and, in certain jurisdictions, it may be necessary for the auditor to include a reference to such possibility in order to retain the ability to do so.

Considerations specific to public sector entities

- A38. Listed entities are not common in the public sector. However, public sector entities may be significant due to size, complexity or public interest aspects. In such cases, an auditor of a public sector entity may be required by law or regulation or may otherwise decide to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report.

Responsibilities for the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. ~~32-1-343~~)

- A39. ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 200 \(Revised\)](#) explains the premise, relating to the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, on which an

²⁹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 600 \(Revised\)](#), paragraphs 19–20.

³⁰ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210 \(Revised\)](#), paragraphs 9 and A21.

³¹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210 \(Revised\)](#), paragraph 10.

³² ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210 \(Revised\)](#), paragraph A23a.

audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) is conducted.³³ Management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance accept responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including, where relevant, their fair presentation. Management also accepts responsibility for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The description of management's responsibilities in the auditor's report includes reference to both responsibilities as it helps to explain to users the premise on which an audit is conducted. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) uses the term those charged with governance to describe the person(s) or organization(s) with responsibility for overseeing the entity, and provides a discussion about the diversity of governance structures across jurisdictions and by entity.

A39-1. In the UK and Ireland, the preparation of financial statements requires those charged with governance to make significant accounting estimates and judgments, as well as to determine the appropriate accounting principles and methods used in preparation of the financial statements. This determination will be made in the context of the financial reporting framework that those charged with governance choose, or are required, to use. In contrast, the auditor's responsibility is to audit the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them. [700.A7]

- A40. There may be circumstances when it is appropriate for the auditor to add to the descriptions of the responsibilities of management and those charged with governance in paragraphs ~~343~~~~354~~ to reflect additional responsibilities that are relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in the context of the particular jurisdiction or the nature of the entity.
- A41. ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised) requires the auditor to agree management's responsibilities in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement.³⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised) provides some flexibility in doing so, by explaining that, if law or regulation prescribes the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in relation to financial reporting, the auditor may determine that the law or regulation includes responsibilities that, in the auditor's judgment, are equivalent in effect to those set out in ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised). For such responsibilities that are equivalent, the auditor may use the wording of the law or regulation to describe them in the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement. In such cases, this wording may also be used in the auditor's report to describe the responsibilities as required by paragraph ~~343~~(a) of this ISA (UK and Ireland). In other circumstances, including where the auditor decides not to use the wording of law or regulation as incorporated in the engagement letter, the wording in paragraph ~~343~~(a) of this ISA (UK and Ireland) is used. In addition to including the description of management's responsibilities in the auditor's report as required by paragraph ~~343~~, the auditor may refer to a more detailed description of these responsibilities by including a reference to where such information may be obtained (e.g., in the annual report of the entity or a website of an appropriate authority).

³³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph 13(j).

³⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), paragraph 6(b)(i)–(ii).

- A42. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation prescribing management’s responsibilities may specifically refer to a responsibility for the adequacy of accounting books and records, or accounting system. As books, records and systems are an integral part of internal control (as defined in ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 315](#) (Revised)³⁵), the descriptions in ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 210](#) [\(Revised\)](#) and in paragraph [343](#) do not make specific reference to them.
- A43. The Appendix^{35a} to this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) provides illustrations of how the requirement in paragraph [343](#)(b) would be applied when IFRSs is the applicable financial reporting framework. If an applicable financial reporting framework other than IFRSs is used, the illustrative statements featured in the Appendix to this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) may need to be adapted to reflect the application of the other financial reporting framework in the circumstances.

Oversight of the financial reporting process (Ref: Para. [354](#))

- A44. When some, but not all, of the individuals involved in the oversight of the financial reporting process are also involved in preparing the financial statements, the description as required by paragraph [354](#) of this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) may need to be modified to appropriately reflect the particular circumstances of the entity. When individuals responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process are the same as those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, no reference to oversight responsibilities is required.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. [376–4039](#))

- A45. The description of the auditor’s responsibilities as required by paragraphs [376–4039](#) of this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) may be tailored to reflect the specific nature of the entity, for example, when the auditor’s report addresses consolidated financial statements. Illustration 2 in the Appendix^{35a} to this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) includes an example of how this may be done.

Objectives of the auditor (Ref: Para. [387](#)(a))

- A46. The auditor’s report explains that the objectives of the auditor are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes the auditor’s opinion. These are in contrast to management’s responsibilities for the preparation for the financial statements.

Description of materiality (Ref: Para. [387](#)(c))

- A47. The Appendix to this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) provides illustrations of how the requirement in paragraph [387](#)(c), to provide a description of materiality, would be applied when IFRSs is the applicable financial reporting framework. If an applicable financial reporting framework other than IFRSs is used, the illustrative statements presented in the Appendix to this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) may need to be adapted to reflect the application of the other financial reporting framework in the circumstances.

³⁵ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 315](#) (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment,” paragraph 4(c).

^{35a} [The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.](#)

Auditor's responsibilities relating to ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 (Ref: Para. ~~4039~~(c))

A48. The auditor may also consider it useful to provide additional information in the description of the auditor's responsibilities beyond what is required by paragraph ~~4039~~(c). For example, the auditor may make reference to the requirement in paragraph 9 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 to determine the matters that required significant auditor attention in performing the audit, taking into account areas of higher assessed risk of material misstatement or significant risks identified in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised); significant auditor judgments relating to areas in the financial statements that involved significant management judgment, including accounting estimates that have been identified as having high estimation uncertainty; and the effects on the audit of significant events or transactions that occurred during the period.

Location of the description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Ref: Para. ~~410~~, ~~5049~~(j))

A49. Including the information required by paragraphs ~~398–4039~~ of this ISA (UK and Ireland) in an appendix to the auditor's report or, when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, referring to a website of an appropriate authority containing such information may be a useful way of streamlining the content of the auditor's report. However, because the description of the auditor's responsibilities contains information that is necessary to inform users' expectations of an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland), a reference is required to be included in the auditor's report indicating where such information can be accessed.

Location in an appendix (Ref: Para. ~~410~~(b), ~~5049~~(j))

A50. Paragraph 40 permits the auditor to include the statements required by paragraphs ~~398–4039~~ describing the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements in an appendix to the auditor's report, provided that appropriate reference is made within the body of the auditor's report to the location of the appendix. The following is an illustration of how such a reference to an appendix could be made in the auditor's report:

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in appendix X of this auditor's report. This description, which is located at [*indicate page number or other specific reference to the location of the description*], forms part of our auditor's report.

Reference to a website of an appropriate authority (Ref: Para. 410(c), 424)

- A51. Paragraph 410 explains that the auditor may refer to a description of the auditor’s responsibilities located on a website of an appropriate authority, only if expressly permitted by law, regulation or national auditing standards. The information on the website that is incorporated in the auditor’s report by way of a specific reference to the website location where such information can be found may describe the auditor’s work, or the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) more broadly, but it cannot be inconsistent with the description required in paragraphs 398–4039 of this ISA (UK and Ireland). This means that the wording of the description of the auditor’s responsibilities on the website may be more detailed, or may address other matters relating to an audit of financial statements, provided that such wording reflects and does not contradict the matters addressed in paragraphs 398–4039.
- A52. An appropriate authority could be a national auditing standard setter, regulator, or an audit oversight body. Such organizations are well-placed to ensure the accuracy, completeness and continued availability of the standardized information. It would not be appropriate for the auditor to maintain such a website. The following is an illustration of how such a reference to a website could be made in the auditor’s report:

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at [Organization’s] website at: [website address]. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

A52-1. The FRC maintains on its web-site a generic “Description of the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements” of private sector entities.^{35b} These descriptions address the auditor’s responsibilities under ISAs (UK and Ireland). [700.A8]

Other Reporting Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 432–454)

- A53. In some jurisdictions, the auditor may have additional responsibilities to report on other matters that are supplementary to the auditor’s responsibilities under the ISAs (UK and Ireland). For example, the auditor may be asked to report certain matters if they come to the auditor’s attention during the course of the audit of the financial statements. Alternatively, the auditor may be asked to perform and report on additional specified

^{35b} The web-site reference relevant to the UK is www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate and the web-site reference relevant to Ireland is www.frc.org.uk/audit-scope-ireland.

procedures, or to express an opinion on specific matters, such as the adequacy of accounting books and records, internal control over financial reporting or other information. Auditing standards in the specific jurisdiction often provide guidance on the auditor's responsibilities with respect to specific additional reporting responsibilities in that jurisdiction.

A53-1. In the UK and Ireland, other reporting responsibilities may be determined by specific statutory requirements applicable to the reporting entity, or, in some circumstances, by the terms of the auditor's engagement. Such matters may be required to be dealt with by either:

(a) A positive statement in the auditor's report; or

(b) By exception.

An example of (a) arises in Ireland where company legislation requires the auditor to report whether the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.^{35c}

An example of (b) arises:

- In the United Kingdom where company legislation requires the auditor of a company to report when a company has not maintained adequate accounting records.^{35d}
- In Ireland where company legislation requires the auditor to report when the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.^{35e} [700.A16]

A53-2. Where the auditor is required to report by exception and has discharged its responsibilities and has nothing to report in respect of them, the conclusion could be expressed in the form of the following phrase: "We have nothing to report in respect of the following." [700.A17]

A53-3. Where the auditor expresses a modified conclusion in respect of other reporting responsibilities (including those on which they are required to report by exception), ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), adapted as necessary in the circumstances, may assist the auditor in considering the nature and form of the modification that is appropriate. Such a modification may also give rise to a modification of the auditor's opinion on the financial statements in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised). For example, if adequate accounting records have not been maintained and as a result it proves impracticable for the auditor to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence concerning material matters in the financial statements, the auditor's report on the financial statements includes a qualified opinion or disclaimer of opinion arising from that limitation in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised). [700.A18]

A54. In some cases, the relevant law or regulation may require or permit the auditor to report on these other responsibilities as part of their auditor's report on the financial statements.

^{35c} Section 336(4)(b) of the Companies Act 2014.

^{35d} Section 498(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

^{35e} Section 336(8) of the Companies Act 2014.

In other cases, the auditor may be required or permitted to report on them in a separate report.

A54-1. In the UK and Ireland, for the audit of certain public sector entities the audit mandate may require the auditor to express an opinion on regularity. Regularity is the requirement that financial transactions are in accordance with the legislation authorizing them. [700.A14]

A55. Paragraphs 432–454 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) permit combined presentation of other reporting responsibilities and the auditor’s responsibilities under the ISAs (UK and Ireland) only when they address the same topics and the wording of the auditor’s report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from those under the ISAs (UK and Ireland). Such clear differentiation may make it necessary for the auditor’s report to refer to the source of the other reporting responsibilities and to state that such responsibilities are beyond those required under the ISAs (UK and Ireland). Otherwise, other reporting responsibilities are required to be addressed in a separate section in the auditor’s report with a heading “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements,” or otherwise as appropriate to the content of the section. In such cases, paragraph 454 requires the auditor to include reporting responsibilities under the ISAs (UK and Ireland) under a heading titled “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements.”

Name of the Engagement Partner (Ref: Para. 465)

A56. ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised)³⁶ requires that the firm establish policies and procedures to provide reasonable assurance that engagements are performed in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Notwithstanding these ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised) requirements, naming the engagement partner in the auditor’s report is intended to provide further transparency to the users of the auditor’s report of a complete set of general purpose financial statements of a listed entity.

A57. Law, regulation or national auditing standards may require that the auditor’s report include the name of the engagement partner responsible for audits other than those of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities. The auditor may also be required by law, regulation or national auditing standards, or may decide to include additional information beyond the engagement partner’s name in the auditor’s report to further identify the engagement partner, for example, the engagement partner’s professional license number that is relevant to the jurisdiction where the auditor practices.

A58. In rare circumstances, the auditor may identify information or be subject to experiences that indicate the likelihood of a personal security threat that, if the identity of the engagement partner is made public, may result in physical harm to the engagement partner, other engagement team members or other closely related individuals. However, such a threat does not include, for example, threats of legal liability or legal, regulatory or professional sanctions. Discussions with those charged with governance about circumstances that may result in physical harm may provide additional information about the likelihood or severity of the significant personal security threat. Law, regulation or

³⁶ ISQC (UK and Ireland) 1 (Revised), “Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements,” paragraph 32.

national auditing standards may establish further requirements that are relevant to determining whether the disclosure of the name of the engagement partner may be omitted.

Signature of the Auditor (Ref: Para. 47~~6~~)

A59. The auditor's signature is either in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction. In addition to the auditor's signature, in certain jurisdictions, the auditor may be required to declare in the auditor's report the auditor's professional accountancy designation or the fact that the auditor or firm, as appropriate, has been recognized by the appropriate licensing authority in that jurisdiction.

The “Senior Statutory Auditor” under the United Kingdom Companies Act 2006^{36a}

A59-1. Section 503(3) of the UK Companies Act 2006 requires, where the auditor is a firm, that the auditor's report must be signed by the “senior statutory auditor in his or her own name for and on behalf of the auditor”. [Bn 2008/6.1]

A59-2. Sections 503 and 504 of the UK Companies Act 2006 address the signature of the auditor's report. The requirement for the senior statutory auditor to sign in his or her own name applies to auditor's reports:

(a) Prepared in accordance with the requirements of sections 495, 496 and 497 of the UK Companies Act 2006; and

(b) In respect of voluntary revisions of annual accounts and reports made in accordance with section 454 of the UK Companies Act 2006,

for financial years beginning on or after 6 April 2008. [Bn 2008/6.2]

A59-3. The UK Companies Act 2006 sets out a number of requirements regarding the appointment of auditors. However, other than as described in paragraph A59-4, there are no legal requirements concerning eligibility for appointment as the senior statutory auditor. This is an internal matter for the firm as under section 504(1) of the UK Companies Act 2006 it is the firm which is required to identify which individual is the senior statutory auditor. [Bn 2008/6.3]

Eligibility for appointment as “Senior Statutory Auditor”

A59-4. Section 504(2) of the UK Companies Act 2006 requires that the person identified as senior statutory auditor of a company must be eligible for appointment as auditor of the company in question. Eligibility for appointment is dealt with in sections 1212 to 1225 of the UK Companies Act 2006. [Bn 2008/6.4]

Meaning of “Senior Statutory Auditor”

A59-5. Subject to meeting the UK Companies Act 2006 requirement described in paragraph A59-4, the term “Senior Statutory Auditor” has the same meaning as the term “Engagement Partner” when used in ISAs (UK and Ireland).^{36b} [Bn 2008/6.5].

^{36a} The Secretary of State has appointed the Auditing Practices Board by virtue of Article 11 of the “Statutory Auditors (Delegation of Functions etc) Order 2008. SI 2008 No. 496 to issue guidance with respect to the meaning of the term “senior statutory auditor”. This ISA (UK and Ireland) constitutes that guidance.

Involvement of more than one partner in an audit engagement

A59-6. Where more than one partner is involved in the conduct of an audit engagement, it is important that the responsibilities of the respective partners are clearly defined and understood by the engagement team.^{36c} In particular, it is necessary for it to be clearly understood which partner is designated as the engagement partner and is, therefore, the senior statutory auditor identified by the firm in accordance with section 504(1) of the UK Companies Act 2006. [Bn 2008/6.7]

Meaning of “Signing” the Auditor’s Report

A59-7. Section 503 of the UK Companies Act 2006 requires that where the auditor is a firm, the auditor’s report must be signed by the senior statutory auditor in his or her own name, for and on behalf of the auditor (i.e. the firm). The signature of the senior statutory auditor is also required to be dated. Section 505(1) further requires that the name of the senior statutory auditor must be stated in copies of the auditor’s report published by, or on behalf of, the company. [Bn 2008/6.8]

A59-8. In paragraph A59-7 references to the auditor’s report is to the auditor’s report provided to the company by the auditor upon completion of the audit. Such references do not refer to the authentication of the copy auditor’s reports required to be delivered to the Registrar of Companies.^{36d} [Bn 2008/6.9]

A59-9. Paragraphs 6 to 10 of Schedule 1 of “The Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No.5, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007”^{36e} address the authentication of accounts and reports filed with the Registrar. With effect from 6 April 2008 this order requires the copies of auditor’s reports delivered to the Registrar to:

- (a) State the name of the auditor and (where the auditor is a firm) the name of the person who signed it as senior statutory auditor; and
- (b) Be signed by the auditor or (where the auditor is a firm) in the name of the firm by a person authorized to sign on its behalf.

The senior statutory auditor, therefore, does not necessarily need to sign copy auditor’s reports that are required to be delivered to the Registrar. [Bn 2008/6.10]

^{36b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 “Quality Control for Audits of Historical Financial Information,” paragraph 7(a).

^{36c} ISA (UK and Ireland) 220, paragraph A13.

^{36d} In the Companies Act 2006, the expressions “the Registrar of Companies” and “the Registrar” mean the registrar of companies for England & Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, as the case may require (Section 1060 (3) the Companies Act 2006).

^{36e} SI 2007 No. 3495.

Changing the senior statutory auditor during the reporting period

A59-10. Where the firm changes the senior statutory auditor (ie the engagement partner) during the engagement the new senior statutory auditor reviews the audit work performed to the date of the change. The review procedures are sufficient to satisfy the new senior statutory auditor that the audit work performed to the date of the review had been planned and performed in accordance with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements.^{36f} [Bn 2008/6.11]

Senior statutory auditor unable to be present to sign the auditor’s report

A59-11. Under section 503(3) of the UK Companies Act 2006, the senior statutory auditor must sign the auditor’s report. Another partner, or responsible individual, is not able to sign for and on behalf of the senior statutory auditor. [Bn 2008/6.12]

A59-12. In circumstances where the senior statutory auditor is unable to continue to take responsibility for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit, the firm appoints a replacement senior statutory auditor and the circumstances are treated in the same way as a change of engagement partner described in paragraph A19 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised). [Bn 2008/6.13]

A59-13. In circumstances where the senior statutory auditor is absent but is still able to, and does, take responsibility for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit, the senior statutory auditor may sign the auditor’s report using electronic means (eg e-mail or fax). [Bn 2008/6.14]

A59-14. In circumstances where the auditor’s report needs to be signed by a certain date (eg listed entities and other public interest entities) it would be pragmatic for the firm to have a contingency plan as to who would succeed as senior statutory auditor in the event that the audit is at an advanced stage but the senior statutory auditor is unable to sign the auditor’s report. If another audit partner is actively involved in the audit engagement, a suitable contingency plan may be for that other partner to work in parallel with the senior statutory auditor and be able to take over as senior statutory auditor if the need arises. Any contingency plan would also need to take into account the firm’s plans for partner rotation in accordance with the requirements of the FRC’s Ethical Standard. [Bn 2008/6.15]

A59-15. An audit is considered to be at an “advanced stage” when it is complete subject only to the following:

- (a) Clearing outstanding matters which are unlikely to have a material impact on the financial statements;
- (b) Completing audit procedures on the detail of note disclosures on the financial statements that will not have a material impact on the primary financial statements and completing the auditor’s reading of “other information” in the annual report, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 “Other information in documents containing audited financial statements”;
- (c) Updating the subsequent events review covering the period to the date of the

^{36f} ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), “Quality Control for Audits of Historical Financial Information,” paragraph A19.

auditor’s report on the financial statements; and

- (d) Obtaining final written representations from management and establishing that the financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the directors. [Bn 2008/6.15 footnote]

A59-16. Circumstances may arise where another partner has not worked in parallel with the senior statutory auditor. In such exceptional circumstances it may be permissible for the engagement quality control reviewer^{36g} to be appointed as the replacement senior statutory auditor^{36h} where:

- (a) the engagement quality control reviewer has completed his or her review; and
(b) the audit is at an “advanced stage”.

However, once an engagement quality reviewer has been appointed as a replacement senior statutory auditor he or she can no longer act as the engagement quality control reviewer because his or her objectivity may have been impaired through assuming the role of senior statutory auditor. [Bn 2008/6.16-17]

Joint Audits

A59-17. The UK Companies Act 2006 permits companies to appoint an auditor or auditors. Where a company appoints joint auditors each of the firms appoints a senior statutory auditor both of which are required to sign the auditors’ report in accordance with the requirements of section 503 of the UK Companies Act 2006. [Bn 2008/6.18]

A59-18. In the case of an Irish company and certain other entities Irish law requires:

- (a) Where the auditor is a statutory auditor (a natural person) that the report is signed by that person; or
(b) Where the auditor is a statutory audit firm that the report is signed by:
- The statutory auditor designated by the statutory audit firm as being primarily responsible for carrying out the statutory audit on behalf of the audit firm; or
 - In the case of a group audit at least the statutory auditor designated by the statutory audit firm as being primarily responsible for carrying out the statutory audit at the level of the group;

in his or her own name, for and on behalf of, the firm.³⁶ⁱ [700.A24]

A60. In some cases, law or regulation may allow for the use of electronic signatures in the auditor’s report.

Date of the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 498)

A61. The date of the auditor’s report informs the user of the auditor’s report that the auditor has considered the effect of events and transactions of which the auditor became aware

^{36g} This is on the assumption that the engagement quality control reviewer is eligible to be appointed as the senior statutory auditor (see paragraph A59-4 for eligibility criterion).

^{36h} ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised) “Quality control for audits of historical financial information” requires an engagement quality control reviewer to be appointed in respect of all listed entities and public-interest entities.

³⁶ⁱ See Statutory Instrument 220 of 2010.

and that occurred up to that date. The auditor’s responsibility for events and transactions after the date of the auditor’s report is addressed in ISA (UK and Ireland) 560.³⁷

A62. Since the auditor’s opinion is provided on the financial statements and the financial statements are the responsibility of management, the auditor is not in a position to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained until evidence is obtained that all the statements and disclosures that comprise the financial statements, ~~including the related notes~~, have been prepared and management has accepted responsibility for them. [IAASB/Disclosures]

A62-1. The auditor, therefore, plans the conduct of the audit to take account of the need to ensure, before expressing an opinion on financial statements, that those charged with governance have approved the financial statements and any accompanying other information and that the auditor has completed a sufficient review of post balance sheet events. [700.A20]

A62-2. The date of the auditor's report is, therefore, the date on which the auditor signs the auditor's report expressing an opinion on the financial statements for distribution with those financial statements, following:

- (a) Receipt of the financial statements and accompanying documents in the form approved by those charged with governance for release;
- (b) Review of all documents which the auditor is required to consider in addition to the financial statements (for example the directors' report, chairman's statement or other review of an entity's affairs which will form part of the annual report): and
- (c) Completion of all procedures necessary to form an opinion on the financial statements (and any other opinions required by law or regulation) including a review of post balance sheet events. [700.A21]

A62-3. The form of the financial statements and other information approved by those charged with governance, and considered by the auditor when signing a report expressing the auditor's opinion, may be in the form of final drafts from which printed documents will be prepared. Subsequent production of printed copies of the financial statements and the auditor's report does not constitute the creation of a new document. Copies of the report produced for circulation to shareholders or others may, therefore, reproduce a printed version of the auditor's signature showing the date of actual signature. [700.A22]

A62-4. If the date on which the auditor signs the report is later than that on which those charged with governance approved the financial statements, the auditor takes such steps as are appropriate:

- (a) To obtain assurance that those charged with governance would have approved the financial statements on that later date (for example, by obtaining confirmation from specified individual members of the Board to whom authority has been delegated for this purpose); and
- (b) To ensure that its procedures for reviewing subsequent events cover the period up to that date. [700.A23]

³⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events,” paragraphs 10–17.

- A63. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation identifies the individuals or bodies (e.g., the directors) that are responsible for concluding that all the statements and disclosures that comprise the financial statements, ~~including the related notes~~, have been prepared, and specifies the necessary approval process. In such cases, evidence is obtained of that approval before dating the report on the financial statements. In other jurisdictions, however, the approval process is not prescribed in law or regulation. In such cases, the procedures the entity follows in preparing and finalizing its financial statements in view of its management and governance structures are considered in order to identify the individuals or body with the authority to conclude that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared. In some cases, law or regulation identifies the point in the financial statement reporting process at which the audit is expected to be complete. [IAASB/Disclosures]
- A64. In some jurisdictions, final approval of the financial statements by shareholders is required before the financial statements are issued publicly. In these jurisdictions, final approval by shareholders is not necessary for the auditor to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained. The date of approval of the financial statements for purposes of ISAs (UK and Ireland) is the earlier date on which those with the recognized authority determine that all the statements and disclosures that comprise the financial statements, ~~including the related notes~~, have been prepared and that those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for them. [IAASB/Disclosures]

Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para. 5049)

- A65. ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised) explains that the auditor may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements in addition to ISAs.³⁸ When the differences between the legal or regulatory requirements and ISAs relate only to the layout and wording of the auditor's report, the requirements in paragraph 5049(a)-(o) set out the minimum elements to be included in the auditor's report to enable a reference to the International Standards on Auditing. In those circumstances, the requirements in paragraphs 21–498 that are not included in paragraph 5049(a)-(o) do not need to be applied including, for example, the required ordering of the Opinion and Basis for Opinion sections.

A65-1. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is consistent with ISA 700 (Revised) "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements," as issued by the IAASB. Auditor's reports prepared in compliance with the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland) will include the minimum elements of an auditor's report required by paragraph 50(a)-(o) of ISA 700 (Revised) and does not therefore preclude the auditor from being able to assert compliance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the IAASB.

- A66. Where specific requirements in a particular jurisdiction do not conflict with ISAs, the layout and wording required by paragraphs 21–48 of ~~this~~ ISA 700 (Revised) assist users of the auditor's report in more readily recognizing the auditor's report as a report of an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs.

³⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph A55.

Information Required by ISA 701 (Ref: Para. 5049(h))

A67. Law or regulation may require the auditor to provide additional information about the audit that was performed, which may include information that is consistent with the objectives of ISA 701, or may prescribe the nature and extent of communication about such matters.

A68. The ISAs do not override law or regulation that governs an audit of financial statements. When ISA 701 is applicable, reference can only be made to ISAs in the auditor's report if, in applying the law or regulation, the section required by paragraph 49(h) of this ISA is not inconsistent with the reporting requirements in ISA 701. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to tailor certain aspects of the communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report required by ISA 701, for example by:

- Modifying the heading “Key Audit Matters”, if law or regulation prescribes a specific heading;
- Explaining why the information required by law or regulation is being provided in the auditor's report, for example by making a reference to the relevant law or regulation and describing how that information relates to the key audit matters;
- Where law or regulation prescribes the nature and extent of the description, supplementing the prescribed information to achieve an overall description of each key audit matter that is consistent with the requirement in paragraph 13 of ISA 701.

A69. ISA 210 deals with circumstances where law or regulation of the relevant jurisdiction prescribes the layout or wording of the auditor's report in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of ISAs, which in particular includes the auditor's opinion. In these circumstances, ISA 210 requires the auditor to evaluate:

- (a) Whether users might misunderstand the assurance obtained from the audit of the financial statements and, if so,
- (b) Whether additional explanation in the auditor's report can mitigate possible misunderstanding.

If the auditor concludes that additional explanation in the auditor's report cannot mitigate possible misunderstanding, ISA 210 requires the auditor not to accept the audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so. In accordance with ISA 210, an audit conducted in accordance with such law or regulation does not comply with ISAs. Accordingly, the auditor does not include any reference in the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing.³⁹

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A70. Auditors of public sector entities may also have the ability pursuant to law or regulation to report publicly on certain matters, either in the auditor's report or in a supplementary report, which may include information that is consistent with the objectives of ISA 701. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to tailor certain aspects of the communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report required by ISA 701 or

³⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 (Revised), paragraph 21.

include a reference in the auditor's report to a description of the matter in the supplementary report.

Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Both Auditing Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and International Standards on Auditing (Ref: Para. 50)

- A71. The auditor may refer in the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with both International Standards on Auditing as well as the national auditing standards when, in addition to complying with the relevant national auditing standards, the auditor complies with each of the ISAs relevant to the audit.⁴⁰
- A72. A reference to both International Standards on Auditing and the national auditing standards is not appropriate if there is a conflict between the requirements in ISAs and those in the national auditing standards that would lead the auditor to form a different opinion or not to include an Emphasis of Matter or Other Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, is required by ISAs. In such a case, the auditor's report refers only to the auditing standards (either International Standards on Auditing or the national auditing standards) in accordance with which the auditor's report has been prepared.

A72-1. ISAs (UK and Ireland) are consistent with International Standards on Auditing as issued by the IAASB and the requirements of ISAs (UK and Ireland) do not conflict with the requirements in ISAs. An audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) does not therefore preclude the auditor from being able to assert compliance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the IAASB.

Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 52–53)

- A73. In some circumstances, the entity may be required by law, regulation or standards, or may voluntarily choose, to present together with the financial statements supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, supplementary information might be presented to enhance a user's understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework or to provide further explanation of specific financial statement items. Such information is normally presented in either supplementary schedules or as additional notes.
- A74. Paragraph 52 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) explains that the auditor's opinion covers supplementary information that is an integral part of the financial statements because of its nature or how it is presented. This evaluation is a matter of professional judgment. To illustrate:
- When the notes to the financial statements include an explanation or the reconciliation of the extent to which the financial statements comply with another financial reporting framework, the auditor may consider this to be supplementary information that cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements. The auditor's opinion would also cover notes or supplementary schedules that are cross-referenced from the financial statements.
 - When an additional profit and loss account that discloses specific items of expenditure is disclosed as a separate schedule included as an Appendix to the

⁴⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph A56.

financial statements, the auditor may consider this to be supplementary information that can be clearly differentiated from the financial statements.

- A75. Supplementary information that is covered by the auditor’s opinion does not need to be specifically referred to in the auditor’s report when the reference to the notes in the description of the statements that comprise the financial statements in the auditor’s report is sufficient.
- A76. Law or regulation may not require that the supplementary information be audited, and management may decide to ask the auditor not to include the supplementary information within the scope of the audit of the financial statements.
- A77. The auditor’s evaluation whether unaudited supplementary information is presented in a manner that could be construed as being covered by the auditor’s opinion includes, for example, where that information is presented in relation to the financial statements and any audited supplementary information, and whether it is clearly labeled as “unaudited.”
- A78. Management could change the presentation of unaudited supplementary information that could be construed as being covered by the auditor’s opinion, for example, by:
- Removing any cross-references from the financial statements to unaudited supplementary schedules or unaudited notes so that the demarcation between the audited and unaudited information is sufficiently clear.
 - Placing the unaudited supplementary information outside of the financial statements or, if that is not possible in the circumstances, at a minimum placing the unaudited notes together at the end of the required notes to the financial statements and clearly labeling them as unaudited. Unaudited notes that are intermingled with the audited notes can be misinterpreted as being audited.
- A79. The fact that supplementary information is unaudited does not relieve the auditor of the responsibilities described in ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 720](#) (Revised).⁴¹

⁴¹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\) 720](#) (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information.”

Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on Financial Statements

The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

- Illustration 1: An auditor's report on financial statements of a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework
- Illustration 2: An auditor's report on consolidated financial statements of a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report on financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework (where reference is made to material that is located on a website of an appropriate authority)
- Illustration 4: An auditor's report on financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a general purpose compliance framework

Illustration 1 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit comprise the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* together with the ethical requirements relating to the audit in the jurisdiction, and the auditor refers to both.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements⁴²

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its

⁴² The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Other Information for another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements⁴³

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,⁴⁴ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company’s financial reporting process.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a

⁴³ Throughout these illustrative auditor’s reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

⁴⁴ Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Paragraph 419(b) of this ISA explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 419(c) explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.⁴⁵
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

⁴⁵ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor’s report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[The form and content of this section of the auditor’s report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor’s other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law, regulation, or national auditing standards. The matters addressed by other law, regulation or national auditing standards (referred to as “other reporting responsibilities”) shall be addressed within this section unless the other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the ISAs as part of the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section. The reporting of other reporting responsibilities that address the same topics as those required by the ISAs may be combined (i.e., included in the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section under the appropriate subheadings) provided that the wording in the auditor’s report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the ISAs where such a difference exists.]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor’s report is [name].

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

Illustration 2 – Auditor’s Report on Consolidated Financial Statements of a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., ISA 600 applies).
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* comprises all of the relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the consolidated financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements⁴⁶

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material

⁴⁶ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the consolidated financial position of the Group as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements⁴⁷

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,⁴⁸ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group’s financial reporting process.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of

⁴⁷ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

⁴⁸ Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

Paragraph 419(b) of this ISA explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 419(c) explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.⁴⁹
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

⁴⁹ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the consolidated financial statements.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law, regulation, or national auditing standards. The matters addressed by other law, regulation or national auditing standards (referred to as "other reporting responsibilities") shall be addressed within this section unless the other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the ISAs as part of the Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section. The reporting of other reporting responsibilities that address the same topics as those required by the ISAs may be combined (i.e., included in the Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section under the appropriate subheadings) provided that the wording in the auditor's report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the ISAs where such a difference exists.]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

Illustration 3 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law.
- The auditor elects to refer to the description of the auditor’s responsibility included on a website of an appropriate authority.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (*of*) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements⁵⁰

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,⁵¹ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company’s financial reporting process.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial is located at [Organization’s] website at: [website link]. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

⁵⁰ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

⁵¹ Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

ISA UK AND IRELAND 700 (REVISED), FORMING AN OPINION AND REPORTING ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – REVISED

[Date]

Illustration 4 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a General Purpose Compliance Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity required by law or regulation. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework (XYZ Law) of Jurisdiction X (that is, a financial reporting framework, encompassing law or regulation, designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users, but which is not a fair presentation framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Company are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our

responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements⁵²

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X,⁵³ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company’s financial reporting process.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Paragraph 419(b) of this ISA explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor’s report. Paragraph 419(c) explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor’s responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor’s report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor’s responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

⁵² Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

⁵³ Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.⁵⁴
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

⁵⁴ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 701

**COMMUNICATING KEY AUDIT MATTERS IN THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
REPORT**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~December 15,
2016)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report. It is intended to address both the auditor's judgment as to what to communicate in the auditor's report and the form and content of such communication.

1-1. This ISA (UK and Ireland) also deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate other planning and scoping matters.

2. The purpose of communicating key audit matters is to enhance the communicative value of the auditor's report by providing greater transparency about the audit that was performed. Communicating key audit matters provides additional information to intended users of the financial statements ("intended users") to assist them in understanding those matters that, in the auditor's professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period. Communicating key audit matters may also assist intended users in understanding the entity and areas of significant management judgment in the audited financial statements. (Ref: Para. A1–A4)
3. The communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report may also provide intended users a basis to further engage with management and those charged with governance about certain matters relating to the entity, the audited financial statements, or the audit that was performed.
4. Communicating key audit matters in the auditor's report is in the context of the auditor having formed an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Communicating key audit matters in the auditor's report is not:
 - (a) A substitute for disclosures in the financial statements that the applicable financial reporting framework requires management to make, or that are otherwise necessary to achieve fair presentation;
 - (b) A substitute for the auditor expressing a modified opinion when required by the circumstances of a specific audit engagement in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised);¹
 - (c) A substitute for reporting in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised)² when a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on an entity's ability to continue as a going concern; or
 - (d) A separate opinion on individual matters. (Ref: Para. A5–A8)
5. This ISA (UK and Ireland) applies to audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities and circumstances when the auditor otherwise decides to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report. This ISA (UK and Ireland) also applies when the auditor is required by law or regulation to communicate key audit matters

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report."

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), "Going Concern," paragraphs 22–23.

in the auditor's report.³ However, ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) prohibits the auditor from communicating key audit matters when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, unless such reporting is required by law or regulation.⁴

In the UK and Ireland, this ISA (UK and Ireland) also applies to statutory audits of public-interest entities and for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements for entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code.

Effective Date

6. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June 2016~~December 15, 2016.

Objectives

7. The objectives of the auditor are to determine key audit matters and, having formed an opinion on the financial statements, communicate those matters by describing them in the auditor's report.

Definition

8. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following term has the meaning attributed below:

Key audit matters—Those matters that, in the auditor's professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period. Key audit matters are selected from matters communicated with those charged with governance.

In the UK and Ireland, key audit matters include:

- (a) Those assessed risks of material misstatement that were identified by the auditor and which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team; and [700.19A(a)]
- (b) For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement, including assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud. [AR/Article 10.2(c)]

Requirements

Determining Key Audit Matters

9. The auditor shall determine, from the matters communicated with those charged with governance, those matters that required significant auditor attention in performing the audit. In making this determination, the auditor shall take into account the following: (Ref: Para. A9–A18)

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements," paragraphs 30–31.

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), paragraph 29.

- (a) Areas of higher assessed risk of material misstatement, or significant risks identified in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised).⁵ (Ref: Para. A19–A22)
 - (b) Significant auditor judgments relating to areas in the financial statements that involved significant management judgment, including accounting estimates that have been identified as having high estimation uncertainty. (Ref: Para. A23–A24)
 - (c) The effect on the audit of significant events or transactions that occurred during the period. (Ref: Para. A25–A26)
10. The auditor shall determine which of the matters determined in accordance with paragraph 9 were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and therefore are the key audit matters. (Ref: Para. A9–A11, A27–A30-1)

10-1. In the UK and Ireland, the auditor shall also determine:

- (a) From those assessed risks of material misstatement that were identified by the auditor, those that in the auditor’s professional judgment had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team; and
- (b) For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the assessed risks of material misstatement, including assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, that in the auditor’s professional judgment were most significant.

Communicating Key Audit Matters

11. The auditor shall describe each key audit matter, using an appropriate subheading, in a separate section of the auditor’s report under the heading “Key Audit Matters,” unless the circumstances in paragraphs 14 or 15 apply. The introductory language in this section of the auditor’s report shall state that:
- (a) Key audit matters are those matters that, in the auditor’s professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements [of the current period]; and
 - (b) These matters were addressed in the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming the auditor’s opinion thereon, and the auditor does not provide a separate opinion on these matters. (Ref: Para. A31–A33)

11-1. In the UK and Ireland, the introductory language in paragraph 11(a) shall be amended as follows:

- (a) For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, key audit matters are those matters that, in the auditor’s professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements [of the current period] and the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement, including assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud or the assessed risks of material misstatement which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team; and

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment.”

(b) In other cases, key audit matters are those matters that, in the auditor's professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements [of the current period] and the assessed risks of material misstatement which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team.

Key Audit Matters Not a Substitute for Expressing a Modified Opinion

12. The auditor shall not communicate a matter in the Key Audit Matters section of the auditor's report when the auditor would be required to modify the opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) as a result of the matter. (Ref: Para. A5)

Descriptions of Individual Key Audit Matters

13. The description of each key audit matter in the Key Audit Matters section of the auditor's report shall include a reference to the related disclosure(s), if any, in the financial statements and shall address: (Ref: Para. A33-1–A41)

- (a) Why the matter was considered to be one of most significance in the audit and therefore determined to be a key audit matter; and (Ref: Para. A42–A45)
- (b) How the matter was addressed in the audit. (Ref: Para. A46–A51)

In the UK and Ireland, how the matter was addressed in the audit shall include an explanation of how the scope of the audit as disclosed in accordance with paragraph 16-1(b) addressed the key audit matters. [700.19A(c)]

13R-1. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor's report shall provide, in support of the audit opinion:

- (a) A description of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement, including assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- (b) A summary of the auditor's response to those risks; and
- (c) Where relevant, key observations arising with respect to those risks.

Where relevant to the above information provided in the auditor's report concerning each significant assessed risk of material misstatement, the auditor's report shall include a clear reference to the relevant disclosures in the financial statements. [AR/Article 10.2(c)]

13-2. In the UK and Ireland, any key audit matters reported in accordance with paragraph 13R-1 shall be identified as assessed risks of material misstatement, including assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, that were most significant.

Circumstances in Which a Matter Determined to Be a Key Audit Matter Is Not Communicated in the Auditor's Report

14. The auditor shall describe each key audit matter in the auditor's report unless: (Ref: Para. A53–A56)

- (a) Law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter; or (Ref: Para. A52)
- (b) In extremely rare circumstances, the auditor determines that the matter should not be communicated in the auditor's report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such

communication. This shall not apply if the entity has publicly disclosed information about the matter.

Interaction between Descriptions of Key Audit Matters and Other Elements Required to Be Included in the Auditor's Report

15. A matter giving rise to a modified opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), or a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), are by their nature key audit matters. However, in such circumstances, these matters shall not be described in the Key Audit Matters section of the auditor's report and the requirements in paragraphs 13–14 do not apply. Rather, the auditor shall:
- (a) Report on these matter(s) in accordance with the applicable ISA(s) (UK and Ireland); and
 - (b) Include a reference to the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion or the Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section(s) in the Key Audit Matters section. (Ref: Para. A6–A7)

Form and Content of the Key Audit Matters Section in Other Circumstances

16. If the auditor determines, depending on the facts and circumstances of the entity and the audit, that there are no key audit matters to communicate or that the only key audit matters communicated are those matters addressed by paragraph 15, the auditor shall include a statement to this effect in a separate section of the auditor's report under the heading "Key Audit Matters." (Ref: Para. A57–A59)

Communicating Other Planning and Scoping Matters

16-1. The auditor's report shall provide:

- (a) An explanation of how the auditor applied the concept of materiality in planning and performing the audit. Such explanation shall specify the threshold used by the auditor as being materiality for the financial statements as a whole,^{5a} and (Ref: Para. A59-1) [700.19A(b)]**
- (b) An overview of the scope of the audit,^{5b} including an explanation of how such scope was influenced by the auditor's application of materiality disclosed in accordance with paragraph 16-1(a). (Ref: Para. A59-2) [700.19A(c)]**

16-2. In order to be useful to users of the financial statements, the explanations of the matters required to be set out in the auditor's report in paragraphs 13 and 16-1 shall be described:

- (a) So as to enable a user to understand their significance in the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole and not as discrete opinions on separate elements of the financial statements;**

^{5a} As required by paragraph 10 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised) "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit".

^{5b} See also paragraphs 15 and A11 to A16 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) "Communication with Those Charged with Governance" and paragraph 49 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised) "Special considerations – Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)."

- (b) In a way that enables them to be related directly to the specific circumstances of the entity and are not, therefore, generic or abstract matters expressed in standardized language; and
- (c) In the case of entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code, or to explain why they have not, in a manner that complements the description of significant issues relating to the financial statements, required to be set out in the separate section of the annual report describing the work of the audit committee in discharging its responsibilities.^{5c} The auditor seeks to coordinate descriptions of overlapping topics addressed in these communications, to avoid duplication of reporting about them, whilst having appropriate regard to the separate responsibilities of the auditor and the board for directly communicating information primarily in their respective domains. [700.19B]

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

17. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance:
- (a) Those matters the auditor has determined to be the key audit matters; or
 - (b) If applicable, depending on the facts and circumstances of the entity and the audit, the auditor's determination that there are no key audit matters to communicate in the auditor's report. (Ref: Para. A60–A63)

Documentation

18. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation:⁶ (Ref: Para. A64)
- (a) The matters that required significant auditor attention as determined in accordance with paragraph 9, and the rationale for the auditor's determination as to whether or not each of these matters is a key audit matter in accordance with paragraph 10;
 - (b) Where applicable, the rationale for the auditor's determination that there are no key audit matters to communicate in the auditor's report or that the only key audit matters to communicate are those matters addressed by paragraph 15; and
 - (c) Where applicable, the rationale for the auditor's determination not to communicate in the auditor's report a matter determined to be a key audit matter.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland) (Ref: Para. 2)

- A1. Significance can be described as the relative importance of a matter, taken in context. The significance of a matter is judged by the auditor in the context in which it is being considered. Significance can be considered in the context of quantitative and qualitative factors, such as relative magnitude, the nature and effect on the subject matter and the expressed interests of intended users or recipients. This involves an objective analysis of

^{5c} In accordance with provision C.3.8 of the UK Corporate Governance Code.

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), "Audit Documentation," paragraphs 8–11 and A6.

the facts and circumstances, including the nature and extent of communication with those charged with governance.

- A2. Users of financial statements have expressed an interest in those matters about which the auditor had the most robust dialogue with those charged with governance as part of the two-way communication required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)⁷ and have called for additional transparency about those communications. For example, users have expressed particular interest in understanding significant judgments made by the auditor in forming the opinion on the financial statements as a whole, because they are often related to the areas of significant management judgment in preparing the financial statements.
- A3. Requiring auditors to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report may also enhance communications between the auditor and those charged with governance about those matters, and may increase attention by management and those charged with governance to the disclosures in the financial statements to which reference is made in the auditor's report.
- A4. ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised)⁸ explains that it is reasonable for the auditor to assume that users of the financial statements:
- (a) Have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information in the financial statements with reasonable diligence;
 - (b) Understand that the financial statements are prepared, presented and audited to levels of materiality;
 - (c) Recognize the uncertainties inherent in the measurement of amounts based on the use of estimates, judgment and the consideration of future events; and
 - (d) Make reasonable economic decisions on the basis of the information in the financial statements.

Because the auditor's report accompanies the audited financial statements, the users of the auditor's report are considered to be the same as the intended users of the financial statements.

Relationship between Key Audit Matters, the Auditor's Opinion and Other Elements of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 4, 12, 15)

- A5. ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) establishes requirements and provides guidance on forming an opinion on the financial statements.⁹ Communicating key audit matters is not a substitute for disclosures in the financial statements that the applicable financial reporting framework requires management to make, or that are otherwise necessary to achieve fair presentation. ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) addresses circumstances in which the auditor concludes that there is a material misstatement relating to the appropriateness or adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements.¹⁰

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), "Communication with Those Charged with Governance."

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised), "Materiality in Planning and Performing the Audit," paragraph 4.

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), paragraphs 10–15 and A1–A10.

¹⁰ See paragraph A7 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised).

- A6. When the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion in accordance with ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 705 (Revised), presenting the description of a matter giving rise to a modified opinion in the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion section helps to promote intended users' understanding and to identify such circumstances when they occur. Separating the communication of this matter from other key audit matters described in the Key Audit Matters section therefore gives it the appropriate prominence in the auditor's report (see paragraph 15). The Appendix in ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 705 (Revised) includes illustrative examples of how the introductory language in the Key Audit Matters section is affected when the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion and other key audit matters are communicated in the auditor's report. Paragraph A58 of this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) illustrates how the Key Audit Matters section is presented when the auditor has determined that there are no other key audit matters to be communicated in the auditor's report beyond matters addressed in the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion section or Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section of the auditor's report.
- A7. When the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion, communicating other key audit matters would still be relevant to enhancing intended users' understanding of the audit, and therefore the requirements to determine key audit matters apply. However, as an adverse opinion is expressed in circumstances when the auditor has concluded that misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, are both material and pervasive to the financial statements:¹¹
- Depending on the significance of the matter(s) giving rise to an adverse opinion, the auditor may determine that no other matters are key audit matters. In such circumstances, the requirement in paragraph 15 applies (see paragraph A58).
 - If one or more matters other than the matter(s) giving rise to an adverse opinion are determined to be key audit matters, it is particularly important that the descriptions of such other key audit matters do not imply that the financial statements as a whole are more credible in relation to those matters than would be appropriate in the circumstances, in view of the adverse opinion (see paragraph A47).
- A8. ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 706 (Revised)¹² establishes mechanisms for auditors of financial statements of all entities to include additional communication in the auditor's report through the use of Emphasis of Matter paragraphs and Other Matter paragraphs when the auditor considers it necessary to do so. In such cases, these paragraphs are presented separately from the Key Audit Matters section in the auditor's report. When a matter has been determined to be a key audit matter, the use of such paragraphs is not a substitute for the description of the individual key audit matter in accordance with paragraph 13.¹³ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 706 (Revised) provides further guidance on the relationship between key audit matters and Emphasis of Matter paragraphs in accordance with that ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#).¹⁴

¹¹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 705 (Revised), paragraph 8.

¹² ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 706 (Revised), "Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report."

¹³ See paragraphs 8(b) and 10(b) of ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 706 (Revised).

¹⁴ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 706 (Revised), paragraphs A1–A3.

Determining Key Audit Matters (Ref: Para. 9–10)

A9. The auditor’s decision-making process in determining key audit matters is designed to select a smaller number of matters from the matters communicated with those charged with governance, based on the auditor’s judgment about which matters were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period.

A9-1. In the UK and Ireland, ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised)^{14b} requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance:

(a) Those assessed risks of material misstatement that were identified by the auditor and which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy, the allocation of resources in the audit, and directing the efforts of the engagement team; and

(b) For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement, including assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

A10. The auditor’s determination of key audit matters is limited to those matters of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period, even when comparative financial statements are presented (i.e., even when the auditor’s opinion refers to each period for which financial statements are presented).¹⁵

A11. Notwithstanding that the auditor’s determination of key audit matters is for the audit of the financial statements of the current period and this ISA (UK and Ireland) does not require the auditor to update key audit matters included in the prior period’s auditor’s report, it may nevertheless be useful for the auditor to consider whether a matter that was a key audit matter in the audit of the financial statements of the prior period continues to be a key audit matter in the audit of the financial statements of the current period.

Matters that Required Significant Auditor Attention (Ref: Para. 9)

A12. The concept of significant auditor attention recognizes that an audit is risk-based and focuses on identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor’s opinion. For a particular account balance, class of transactions or disclosure, the higher an assessed risk of material misstatement at the assertion level, the more judgment is often involved in planning and performing the audit procedures and evaluating the results thereof. In designing further audit procedures, the auditor is required to obtain more persuasive audit evidence the higher the auditor’s assessment of risk.¹⁶ When obtaining more persuasive audit evidence because of a higher assessment of risk, the auditor may increase the quantity of the evidence, or obtain evidence that is more relevant or reliable, for example, by placing more emphasis on obtaining third party evidence or by obtaining corroborating evidence from a number of independent sources.¹⁷

^{14b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 15.

¹⁵ See ISA (UK and Ireland) 710, “Comparative Information—Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements.”

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks,” paragraph 7(b).

¹⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 330 (Revised), paragraph A19.

- A13. Accordingly, matters that pose challenges to the auditor in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence or pose challenges to the auditor in forming an opinion on the financial statements may be particularly relevant in the auditor's determination of key audit matters.
- A14. Areas of significant auditor attention often relate to areas of complexity and significant management judgment in the financial statements, and therefore often involve difficult or complex auditor judgments. In turn, this often affects the auditor's overall audit strategy, the allocation of resources and extent of audit effort in relation to such matters. These effects may include, for example, the extent of involvement of senior personnel on the audit engagement or the involvement of an auditor's expert or individuals with expertise in a specialized area of accounting or auditing, whether engaged or employed by the firm to address these areas.
- A15. Various ISAs (UK and Ireland) require specific communications with those charged with governance and others that may relate to areas of significant auditor attention. For example:
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit with those charged with governance.¹⁸ The ISAs (UK and Ireland) acknowledge potential difficulties in relation to, for example:
 - Related party transactions,¹⁹ in particular limitations on the auditor's ability to obtain audit evidence that all other aspects of a related party transaction (other than price) are equivalent to those of a similar arm's length transaction.
 - Limitations on the group audit, for example, where the group engagement team's access to information may have been restricted.²⁰
 - ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 establishes requirements for the engagement partner in relation to undertaking appropriate consultation on difficult or contentious matters.²¹ For example, the auditor may have consulted with others within the firm or outside the firm on a significant technical matter, which may be an indicator that it is a key audit matter. The engagement partner is also required to discuss, among other things, significant matters arising during the audit engagement with the engagement quality control reviewer.²²

Considerations in Determining Those Matters that Required Significant Auditor Attention (Ref: Para. 9)

- A16. The auditor may develop a preliminary view at the planning stage about matters that are likely to be areas of significant auditor attention in the audit and therefore may be key audit matters. The auditor may communicate this with those charged with governance when discussing the planned scope and timing of the audit in accordance with ISA (UK and

¹⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraphs 16(b) and A21.

¹⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 550, "Related Parties," paragraph A42.

²⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 600 (Revised), "Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)," paragraph 49(d).

²¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), "Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 18.

²² ISA (UK and Ireland) 220 (Revised), paragraph 19.

[Ireland](#)) 260 (Revised). However, the auditor's determination of key audit matters is based on the results of the audit or evidence obtained throughout the audit.

- A17. Paragraph 9 includes specific required considerations in the auditor's determination of those matters that required significant auditor attention. These considerations focus on the nature of matters communicated with those charged with governance that are often linked to matters disclosed in the financial statements, and are intended to reflect areas of the audit of the financial statements that may be of particular interest to intended users. The fact that these considerations are required is not intended to imply that matters related to them are always key audit matters; rather, matters related to such specific considerations are key audit matters only if they are determined to be of most significance in the audit in accordance with paragraph 10. As the considerations may be interrelated (e.g., matters relating to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9(b)-(c) may also be identified as significant risks), the applicability of more than one of the considerations to a particular matter communicated with those charged with governance may increase the likelihood of the auditor identifying that matter as a key audit matter.
- A18. In addition to matters that relate to the specific required considerations in paragraph 9, there may be other matters communicated with those charged with governance that required significant auditor attention and that therefore may be determined to be key audit matters in accordance with paragraph 10. Such matters may include, for example, matters relevant to the audit that was performed that may not be required to be disclosed in the financial statements. For example, the implementation of a new IT system (or significant changes to an existing IT system) during the period may be an area of significant auditor attention, in particular if such a change had a significant effect on the auditor's overall audit strategy or related to a significant risk (e.g., changes to a system affecting revenue recognition).

Areas of Higher Assessed Risk of Material Misstatement, or Significant Risks Identified in Accordance with ISA ([UK and Ireland](#)) 315 (Revised) (Ref: Para. 9(a))

- A19. ISA ([UK and Ireland](#)) 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance about the significant risks identified by the auditor.²³ Paragraph A13 of ISA ([UK and Ireland](#)) 260 (Revised) explains that the auditor may also communicate with those charged with governance about how the auditor plans to address areas of higher assessed risks of material misstatement.
- A20. ISA ([UK and Ireland](#)) 315 (Revised) defines a significant risk as an identified and assessed risk of material misstatement that, in the auditor's judgment, requires special audit consideration. Areas of significant management judgment and significant unusual transactions may often be identified as significant risks. Significant risks are therefore often areas that require significant auditor attention.
- A21. However, this may not be the case for all significant risks. For example, ISA ([UK and Ireland](#)) 240 presumes that there are risks of fraud in revenue recognition and requires the auditor to treat those assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud as significant

²³ ISA ([UK and Ireland](#)) 260 (Revised), paragraph 15.

risks.²⁴ In addition, ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 indicates that, due to the unpredictable way in which management override of controls could occur, it is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and thus a significant risk.²⁵ Depending on their nature, these risks may not require significant auditor attention, and therefore would not be considered in the auditor's determination of key audit matters in accordance with paragraph 10.

- A22. ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised) explains that the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level may change during the course of the audit as additional audit evidence is obtained.²⁶ Revision to the auditor's risk assessment and reevaluation of the planned audit procedures with respect to a particular area of the financial statements (i.e., a significant change in the audit approach, for example, if the auditor's risk assessment was based on an expectation that certain controls were operating effectively and the auditor has obtained audit evidence that they were not operating effectively throughout the audit period, particularly in an area with higher assessed risk of material misstatement) may result in an area being determined as one requiring significant auditor attention.

A22-1. In the UK and Ireland, the assessed risks of material misstatement which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team are likely to have been identified by the auditor in meeting the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised),^{26a} including those relating to significant risks. However, the auditor uses its judgment to determine which, if any, of the significant risks and which, if any, of the other identified risks meet the criteria set out in paragraph 10 and are to be described in the auditor's report. If the auditor significantly revises its risk assessment during the audit the auditor considers whether to disclose that fact and the circumstances giving rise to the changed assessment. [700.A13A]

Significant Auditor Judgments Relating to Areas in the Financial Statements that Involved Significant Management Judgment, Including Accounting Estimates that Have Been Identified as Having High Estimation Uncertainty (Ref: Para. 9(b))

- A23. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance the auditor's views about significant qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures.²⁷ In many cases, this relates to critical accounting estimates and related disclosures, which are likely to be areas of significant auditor attention, and also may be identified as significant risks.
- A24. However, users of the financial statements have highlighted their interest in accounting estimates that have been identified as having high estimation uncertainty in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 540²⁸ that may have not been determined to be significant risks.

²⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraphs 26–27.

²⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 240 (Revised), paragraph 31.

²⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraph 31.

^{26a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), paragraphs 25 to 31.

²⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 16(a).

²⁸ See paragraphs 10–11 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 540 (Revised), "Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures."

Among other things, such estimates are highly dependent on management judgment and are often the most complex areas of the financial statements, and may require the involvement of both a management's expert and an auditor's expert. Users have also highlighted that accounting policies that have a significant effect on the financial statements (and significant changes to those policies) are relevant to their understanding of the financial statements, especially in circumstances where an entity's practices are not consistent with others in its industry.

The Effect on the Audit of Significant Events or Transactions that Occurred during the Period (Ref: Para. 9(c))

- A25. Events or transactions that had a significant effect on the financial statements or the audit may be areas of significant auditor attention and may be identified as significant risks. For example, the auditor may have had extensive discussions with management and those charged with governance at various stages throughout the audit about the effect on the financial statements of significant transactions with related parties or significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual.²⁹ Management may have made difficult or complex judgments in relation to recognition, measurement, presentation or disclosure of such transactions, which may have had a significant effect on the auditor's overall strategy.
- A26. Significant economic, accounting, regulatory, industry, or other developments that affected management's assumptions or judgments may also affect the auditor's overall approach to the audit and result in a matter requiring significant auditor attention.

Matters of Most Significance (Ref: Para. 10)

- A27. Matters that required significant auditor attention also may have resulted in significant interaction with those charged with governance. The nature and extent of communication about such matters with those charged with governance often provides an indication of which matters are of most significance in the audit. For example, the auditor may have had more in-depth, frequent or robust interactions with those charged with governance on more difficult and complex matters, such as the application of significant accounting policies that were the subject of significant auditor or management judgment.
- A28. The concept of matters of most significance is applicable in the context of the entity and the audit that was performed. As such, the auditor's determination and communication of key audit matters is intended to identify matters specific to the audit and to involve making a judgment about their importance relative to other matters in the audit.
- A29. Other considerations that may be relevant to determining the relative significance of a matter communicated with those charged with governance and whether such a matter is a key audit matter include:
- The importance of the matter to intended users' understanding of the financial statements as a whole, in particular, its materiality to the financial statements.

²⁹ See paragraphs 16(a), 16(c) and A22, and Appendix 2, of ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised).

- The nature of the underlying accounting policy relating to the matter or the complexity or subjectivity involved in management’s selection of an appropriate policy compared to other entities within its industry.
 - The nature and materiality, quantitatively or qualitatively, of corrected and accumulated uncorrected misstatements due to fraud or error related to the matter, if any.
 - The nature and extent of audit effort needed to address the matter, including:
 - The extent of specialized skill or knowledge needed to apply audit procedures to address the matter or evaluate the results of those procedures, if any.
 - The nature of consultations outside the engagement team regarding the matter.
 - The nature and severity of difficulties in applying audit procedures, evaluating the results of those procedures, and obtaining relevant and reliable evidence on which to base the auditor’s opinion, in particular as the auditor’s judgments become more subjective.
 - The severity of any control deficiencies identified relevant to the matter.
 - Whether the matter involved a number of separate, but related, auditing considerations. For example, long-term contracts may involve significant auditor attention with respect to revenue recognition, litigation or other contingencies, and may have an effect on other accounting estimates.
- A30. Determining which, and how many, of those matters that required significant auditor attention were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period is a matter of professional judgment. The number of key audit matters to be included in the auditor’s report may be affected by the size and complexity of the entity, the nature of its business and environment, and the facts and circumstances of the audit engagement. In general, the greater the number of matters initially determined to be key audit matters, the more the auditor may need to reconsider whether each of these matters meets the definition of a key audit matter. Lengthy lists of key audit matters may be contrary to the notion of such matters being those of most significance in the audit.

Communicating Key Audit Matters

Separate Key Audit Matters Section in the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 11)

- A31. Placing the separate Key Audit Matters section in close proximity to the auditor’s opinion may give prominence to such information and acknowledge the perceived value of engagement-specific information to intended users.
- A32. The order of presentation of individual matters within the Key Audit Matters section is a matter of professional judgment. For example, such information may be organized in order of relative importance, based on the auditor’s judgment, or may correspond to the manner in which matters are disclosed in the financial statements. The requirement in paragraph 11 to include subheadings is intended to further differentiate the matters.
- A33. When comparative financial information is presented, the introductory language of the Key Audit Matters section is tailored to draw attention to the fact that the key audit matters described relate to only the audit of the financial statements of the current period, and may

include reference to the specific period covered by those financial statements (e.g., “for the year ended December 31, 20X1”).

Communicating Key Audit Matters for Group and Parent Company Financial Statements

A33-1. An auditor’s report for a group may include the auditor’s report with respect to both the group and the parent company financial statements. This is typically the case where both sets of financial statements are presented in accordance with IFRSs as adopted in the EU. However, where the financial statements of the group and the parent company are presented in accordance with different financial reporting frameworks, the financial statements might be presented separately within the Annual Report and in such circumstances separate auditor’s reports in respect of the group and the parent company financial statements might be provided within the Annual Report.

A33-2. Most of the key audit matters communicated in the audit of the parent company would likely also be key audit matters relating to risks of material misstatement in the audit of the group financial statements, subject to any differences in quantitative materiality considerations that may apply in those audits. However, there may be key audit matters that only arise in relation to the audit of the parent company financial statements (such as risks relating to investments in subsidiaries that could, for example, have implications for distributable reserves).

A33-3. An understanding of such key audit matters may be of interest to readers of auditor’s reports where such key audit matters have had the greatest effect on the overall audit strategy for the parent company audit. Readers may find such key audit matters to be of particular interest when their implications are relevant in the context of the parent company’s reported distributable reserves. However, readers of the auditor’s report(s) on the group and parent company financial statements will be assisted by avoiding unnecessary duplication or disaggregation of key audit matters arising from these audits in such report(s).

Application where there is a single auditor’s report

A33-4. Where the auditor’s reports on both the group and parent company financial statements are combined within a single report, it may be appropriate for any relevant key audit matters and other information required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 that are unique to the parent company audit to be separately identified but integrated within the disclosures in that report of corresponding matters arising from the audit of the group financial statements.

Application where the auditor reports separately on the group and parent company financial statements

A33-5. Where the auditor provides separate auditor’s reports on the group and parent company financial statements, it may also be appropriate for any relevant key audit matters and other information required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 that are unique to the parent company audit to be separately identified but integrated within the disclosures within the group auditor’s report of corresponding matters arising from the group audit. Except where such matters are required by law or regulation to be included in the auditor’s report, the parent company auditor’s report, the auditor could make reference in the other matter paragraph that refers to the separate auditor’s report on the group financial statements to the fact that

the key audit matters that relate to the parent company audit have been included in the group auditor's report, rather than repeating the information.

Descriptions of Individual Key Audit Matters (Ref: Para. 13)

- A34. The adequacy of the description of a key audit matter is a matter of professional judgment. The description of a key audit matter is intended to provide a succinct and balanced explanation to enable intended users to understand why the matter was one of most significance in the audit and how the matter was addressed in the audit. Limiting the use of highly technical auditing terms also helps to enable intended users who do not have a reasonable knowledge of auditing to understand the basis for the auditor's focus on particular matters during the audit. The nature and extent of information provided by the auditor is intended to be balanced in the context of the responsibilities of the respective parties (i.e., for the auditor to provide useful information in a concise and understandable form, while not inappropriately being the provider of original information about the entity).
- A35. Original information is any information about the entity that has not otherwise been made publicly available by the entity (e.g., has not been included in the financial statements or other information available at the date of the auditor's report, or addressed in other oral or written communications by management or those charged with governance, such as a preliminary announcement of financial information or investor briefings). Such information is the responsibility of the entity's management and those charged with governance.
- A36. It is appropriate for the auditor to seek to avoid the description of a key audit matter inappropriately providing original information about the entity. The description of a key audit matter is not usually of itself original information about the entity, as it describes the matter in the context of the audit. However, the auditor may consider it necessary to include additional information to explain why the matter was considered to be one of most significance in the audit and therefore determined to be a key audit matter, and how the matter was addressed in the audit, provided that disclosure of such information is not precluded by law or regulation. When such information is determined to be necessary by the auditor, the auditor may encourage management or those charged with governance to disclose additional information, rather than the auditor providing original information in the auditor's report.
- A37. Management or those charged with governance may decide to include new or enhanced disclosures in the financial statements or elsewhere in the annual report relating to a key audit matter in light of the fact that the matter will be communicated in the auditor's report. Such new or enhanced disclosures, for example, may be included to provide more robust information about the sensitivity of key assumptions used in accounting estimates or the entity's rationale for a particular accounting practice or policy when acceptable alternatives exist under the applicable financial reporting framework.
- A38. ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised) defines the term annual report and explains that documents such as a management report, management commentary, or operating and financial review or similar reports by those charged with governance (e.g., a directors' report); a Chairman's statement; corporate governance statement; or internal control and

risk assessment reports may form part of the annual report.³⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised) addresses the auditor’s responsibilities relating to other information included in the annual report. Although the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements does not ~~cover~~extend to the other information, ~~addressed by ISA (UK and Ireland) 720~~³¹-the auditor may consider this information, as well as other publicly available communications by the entity or other credible sources, in formulating the description of a key audit matter. [IAASB/OI]

- A39. Audit documentation prepared during the audit can also be useful to the auditor in formulating the description of a key audit matter. For example, written communications, or the auditor’s documentation of oral communications, with those charged with governance and other audit documentation provides a useful basis for the auditor’s communication in the auditor’s report. This is because audit documentation in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) is intended to address the significant matters arising during the audit, the conclusions reached thereon, and significant professional judgments made in reaching those conclusions, and serves as a record of the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed, the results of those procedures, and the audit evidence obtained. Such documentation may assist the auditor in developing a description of key audit matters that explains the significance of the matter and also in applying the requirement in paragraph 18.

Reference to Where the Matter Is Disclosed in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 13)

- A40. Paragraphs 13(a)-(b) requires the description of each key audit matter to address why the auditor considered the matter to be one of most significance in the audit and how the matter was addressed in the audit. Accordingly, the description of key audit matters is not a mere reiteration of what is disclosed in the financial statements. However, a reference to any related disclosures enables intended users to further understand how management has addressed the matter in preparing the financial statements.
- A41. In addition to referring to related disclosure(s), the auditor may draw attention to key aspects of them. The extent of disclosure by management about specific aspects or factors in relation to how a particular matter is affecting the financial statements of the current period may help the auditor in pinpointing particular aspects of how the matter was addressed in the audit such that intended users can understand why the matter is a key audit matter. For example:
- When an entity includes robust disclosure about accounting estimates, the auditor may draw attention to the disclosure of key assumptions, the disclosure of the range of possible outcomes, and other qualitative and quantitative disclosures relating to key sources of estimation uncertainty or critical accounting estimates, as part of addressing why the matter was one of most significance in the audit and how the matter was addressed in the audit.

³⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information,” paragraphs 12(a) and A1–A3.

³¹ ~~ISA (UK and Ireland) 720, *The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements*~~

- When the auditor concludes in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised) that no material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor may nevertheless determine that one or more matters relating to this conclusion arising from the auditor's work effort under ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised) are key audit matters. In such circumstances, the auditor's description of such key audit matters in the auditor's report could include aspects of the identified events or conditions disclosed in the financial statements, such as substantial operating losses, available borrowing facilities and possible debt refinancing, or non-compliance with loan agreements, and related mitigating factors.³²

Why the Auditor Considered the Matter to Be One of Most Significance in the Audit (Ref: Para. 13(a))

- A42. The description of a key audit matter in the auditor's report is intended to provide insight as to why the matter was determined to be a key audit matter. Accordingly, the requirements in paragraphs 9–10 and the application material in paragraphs A12–A29 related to determining key audit matters may also be helpful for the auditor in considering how such matters are to be communicated in the auditor's report. For example, explaining the factors that led the auditor to conclude that a particular matter required significant auditor attention and was of most significance in the audit is likely to be of interest to intended users.
- A43. The relevance of the information for intended users is a consideration for the auditor in determining what to include in the description of a key audit matter. This may include whether the description would enable a better understanding of the audit and the auditor's judgments.
- A44. Relating a matter directly to the specific circumstances of the entity may also help to minimize the potential that such descriptions become overly standardized and less useful over time. For example, certain matters may be determined as key audit matters in a particular industry across a number of entities due to the circumstances of the industry or the underlying complexity in financial reporting. In describing why the auditor considered the matter to be one of most significance, it may be useful for the auditor to highlight aspects specific to the entity (e.g., circumstances that affected the underlying judgments made in the financial statements of the current period) in order to make the description more relevant for intended users. This also may be important in describing a key audit matter that recurs over periods.
- A45. The description may also make reference to the principal considerations that led the auditor, in the circumstances of the audit, to determine the matter to be one of most significance, for example:
- Economic conditions that affected the auditor's ability to obtain audit evidence, for example illiquid markets for certain financial instruments.
 - New or emerging accounting policies, for example entity-specific or industry-specific matters on which the engagement team consulted within the firm.

³² See paragraph A3 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised).

- Changes in the entity's strategy or business model that had a material effect on the financial statements.

How the Matter Was Addressed in the Audit (Ref: Para. 13(b))

A46. The amount of detail to be provided in the auditor's report to describe how a key audit matter was addressed in the audit is a matter of professional judgment. In accordance with paragraph 13(b), the auditor may describe:

- Aspects of the auditor's response or approach that were most relevant to the matter or specific to the assessed risk of material misstatement;
- A brief overview of procedures performed;
- An indication of the outcome of the auditor's procedures; or
- Key observations with respect to the matter,

or some combination of these elements.

Law or regulation or national auditing standards may prescribe a specific form or content for the description of a key audit matter, or may specify the inclusion of one or more of these elements.

A47. In order for intended users to understand the significance of a key audit matter in the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole, as well as the relationship between key audit matters and other elements of the auditor's report, including the auditor's opinion, care may be necessary so that language used in the description of a key audit matter:

- Does not imply that the matter has not been appropriately resolved by the auditor in forming the opinion on the financial statements.
- Relates the matter directly to the specific circumstances of the entity, while avoiding generic or standardized language.
- Takes into account how the matter is addressed in the related disclosure(s) in the financial statements, if any.
- Does not contain or imply discrete opinions on separate elements of the financial statements.

A48. Describing aspects of the auditor's response or approach to a matter, in particular when the audit approach required significant tailoring to the facts and circumstances of the entity, may assist intended users in understanding unusual circumstances and significant auditor judgment required to address the risk of material misstatement. In addition, the audit approach in a particular period may have been influenced by entity-specific circumstances, economic conditions, or industry developments. It may also be useful for the auditor to make reference to the nature and extent of communications with those charged with governance about the matter.

A49. For example, in describing the auditor's approach to an accounting estimate that has been identified as having high estimation uncertainty, such as the valuation of complex financial instruments, the auditor may wish to highlight that the auditor employed or engaged an auditor's expert. Such a reference to the use of an auditor's expert does not reduce the

auditor's responsibility for the opinion on the financial statements and is therefore not inconsistent with paragraphs 14–15 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 620.³³

- A50. There may be challenges in describing the auditor's procedures, particularly in complex, judgmental areas of the audit. In particular, it may be difficult to summarize the procedures performed in a succinct way that adequately communicates the nature and extent of the auditor's response to the assessed risk of material misstatement, and the significant auditor judgments involved. Nonetheless, the auditor may consider it necessary to describe certain procedures performed to communicate how the matter was addressed in the audit. Such description may typically be at a high level, rather than include a detailed description of procedures.
- A51. As noted in paragraph A46, the auditor may also provide an indication of the outcome of the auditor's response in the description of the key audit matter in the auditor's report. However, if this is done, care is needed to avoid the auditor giving the impression that the description is conveying a separate opinion on an individual key audit matter or that in any way may call into question the auditor's opinion on the financial statements as a whole.

Circumstances in Which a Matter Determined to Be a Key Audit Matter Is Not Communicated in the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 14)

- A52. Law or regulation may preclude public disclosure by either management or the auditor about a specific matter determined to be a key audit matter. For example, law or regulation may specifically prohibit any public communication that might prejudice an investigation by an appropriate authority into an actual, or suspected, illegal act (e.g., matters that are or appear to be related to money laundering).
- A53. As indicated by paragraph 14(b), it will be extremely rare for a matter determined to be a key audit matter not to be communicated in the auditor's report. This is because there is presumed to be a public interest benefit in providing greater transparency about the audit for intended users. Accordingly, the judgment not to communicate a key audit matter is appropriate only in cases when the adverse consequences to the entity or the public as a result of such communication are viewed as so significant that they would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of communicating about the matter.
- A54. The determination not to communicate a key audit matter takes into account the facts and circumstances related to the matter. Communication with management and those charged with governance helps the auditor understand management's views about the significance of the adverse consequences that may arise as a result of communicating about a matter. In particular, communication with management and those charged with governance helps to inform the auditor's judgment in determining whether to communicate the matter by:
- Assisting the auditor in understanding why the matter has not been publicly disclosed by the entity (e.g., if law, regulation or certain financial reporting frameworks permit delayed disclosure or non-disclosure of the matter) and management's views as to the adverse consequences, if any, of disclosure. Management may draw attention to certain aspects in law or regulation or other authoritative sources that may be relevant to the consideration of adverse consequences (e.g., such aspects may include harm to the entity's commercial negotiations or competitive position). However,

³³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 620 (Revised), "Using the Work of an Auditor's Expert."

management's views about the adverse consequences alone do not alleviate the need for the auditor to determine whether the adverse consequences would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of communication in accordance with paragraph 14(b).

- Highlighting whether there have been any communications with applicable regulatory, enforcement or supervisory authorities in relation to the matter, in particular whether such discussions would appear to support management's assertion as to why public disclosure about the matter is not appropriate.
- Enabling the auditor, where appropriate, to encourage management and those charged with governance to make public disclosure of relevant information about the matter. In particular, this may be possible if the concerns of management and those charged with governance about communicating are limited to specific aspects relating to the matter, such that certain information about the matter may be less sensitive and could be communicated.

The auditor also may consider it necessary to obtain a written representation from management as to why public disclosure about the matter is not appropriate, including management's view about the significance of the adverse consequences that may arise as a result of such communication.

- A55. It may also be necessary for the auditor to consider the implications of communicating about a matter determined to be a key audit matter in light of relevant ethical requirements. In addition, the auditor may be required by law or regulation to communicate with applicable regulatory, enforcement or supervisory authorities in relation to the matter, regardless of whether the matter is communicated in the auditor's report. Such communication may also be useful to inform the auditor's consideration of the adverse consequences that may arise from communicating about the matter.
- A56. The issues considered by the auditor regarding a decision to not communicate a matter are complex and involve significant auditor judgment. Accordingly, the auditor may consider it appropriate to obtain legal advice.

Form and Content of the Key Audit Matters Section in Other Circumstances (Ref: Para. 16)

- A57. The requirement in paragraph 16 applies in three circumstances:
- (i) The auditor determines in accordance with paragraph 10 that there are no key audit matters (see paragraph A59).
 - (ii) The auditor determines in accordance with paragraph 14 that a key audit matter will not be communicated in the auditor's report and no other matters have been determined to be key audit matters.
 - (iii) The only matters determined to be key audit matters are those communicated in accordance with paragraph 15.
- A58. The following illustrates the presentation in the auditor's report if the auditor has determined there are no key audit matters to communicate:

Key Audit Matters

[Except for the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion* section or *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section,] We have determined that there are no [other] key audit matters to communicate in our report.

- A59. The determination of key audit matters involves making a judgment about the relative importance of matters that required significant auditor attention. Therefore, it may be rare that the auditor of a complete set of general purpose financial statements of a listed entity would not determine at least one key audit matter from the matters communicated with those charged with governance to be communicated in the auditor's report. However, in certain limited circumstances (e.g., for a listed entity that has very limited operations), the auditor may determine that there are no key audit matters in accordance with paragraph 10 because there are no matters that required significant auditor attention.

Communicating Other Planning and Scoping Matters (Ref: Para. 16-1)

A59-1. The explanation, of how the auditor applied the concept of materiality in planning and performing the audit, is tailored to the particular circumstances and complexity of the audit and, in addition to specifying the threshold used by the auditor as being materiality for the financial statements as a whole, might include, for example:

- Materiality level or levels for those classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures where such materiality levels are lower than materiality for the financial statements as a whole (as described in paragraph 10 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised)).
- Performance materiality (as described in paragraph 11 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 320 (Revised)).
- Any significant revisions of materiality thresholds that were made as the audit progressed.
- The threshold used for reporting unadjusted differences to the audit committee.
- Significant qualitative considerations relating to the auditor's evaluation of materiality. [700.A13B]

A59-2. The content of the overview of the scope of the audit is tailored to the particular circumstances of the audit and how the scope was influenced by the auditor's application of materiality and addressed the assessed risks of material misstatement described in the auditor's report. Such a summary might also include, for example:

- The coverage of revenue, total assets and profit before tax achieved.
- The coverage of revenue, total assets and profit before tax of reportable segments achieved.
- The number of locations visited by the auditor as a proportion of the total number of locations, and the rationale underlying any program of visits.
- The effect of the group structure on the scope. The audit approach to a group consisting of autonomous subsidiary companies may differ from that applied to one which consists of a number of non-autonomous divisions.

- The nature and extent of the group auditor's involvement in the work of component auditors. [700.A13C]

Communication with Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 17)

- A60. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance on a timely basis.³⁴ The appropriate timing for communications about key audit matters will vary with the circumstances of the engagement. However, the auditor may communicate preliminary views about key audit matters when discussing the planned scope and timing of the audit, and may further discuss such matters when communicating about audit findings. Doing so may help to alleviate the practical challenges of attempting to have a robust two-way dialogue about key audit matters at the time the financial statements are being finalized for issuance.
- A61. Communication with those charged with governance enables them to be made aware of the key audit matters that the auditor intends to communicate in the auditor's report, and provides them with an opportunity to obtain further clarification where necessary. The auditor may consider it useful to provide those charged with governance with a draft of the auditor's report to facilitate this discussion. Communication with those charged with governance recognizes their important role in overseeing the financial reporting process, and provides the opportunity for those charged with governance to understand the basis for the auditor's decisions in relation to key audit matters and how these matters will be described in the auditor's report. It also enables those charged with governance to consider whether new or enhanced disclosures may be useful in light of the fact that these matters will be communicated in the auditor's report.
- A62. The communication with those charged with governance required by paragraph 17(a) also addresses the extremely rare circumstances in which a matter determined to be a key audit matter is not communicated in the auditor's report (see paragraphs 14 and A54).
- A63. The requirement in paragraph 17(b) to communicate with those charged with governance when the auditor has determined there are no key audit matters to communicate in the auditor's report may provide an opportunity for the auditor to have further discussion with others who are familiar with the audit and the significant matters that may have arisen (including the engagement quality control reviewer, where one has been appointed). These discussions may cause the auditor to re-evaluate the auditor's determination that there are no key audit matters.

Documentation (Ref: Para. 18)

- A64. Paragraph 8 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised) requires the auditor to prepare audit documentation that is sufficient to enable an experienced auditor, having no previous connection with the audit, to understand, among other things, significant professional judgments. In the context of key audit matters, these professional judgments include the determination, from the matters communicated with those charged with governance, of the matters that required significant auditor attention, as well as whether or not each of those matters is a key audit matter. The auditor's judgments in this regard are likely to be supported by the documentation of the auditor's communications with those charged with governance and the audit documentation relating to each individual matter (see paragraph

³⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 21.

ISA (UK and Ireland) 701

A39), as well as certain other audit documentation of the significant matters arising during the audit (e.g., a completion memorandum). However, this ISA does not require the auditor to document why other matters communicated with those charged with governance were not matters that required significant auditor attention.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 705 (REVISED-~~OCTOBER 2012~~)**

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE OPINION IN THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
REPORT**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ ~~October 2012~~)

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<u>Appendix: Illustrations of Auditor's Reports with Modifications to the Opinion</u>	

International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 705 (Revised), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the

Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to issue an appropriate report in circumstances when, in forming an opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised),¹ the auditor concludes that a modification to the auditor's opinion on the financial statements is necessary. This ISA also deals with how the form and content of the auditor's report is affected when the auditor expresses a modified opinion. In all cases, the reporting requirements in ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) apply, and are not repeated in this ISA unless they are explicitly addressed or amended by the requirements of this ISA. [IAASB/AR]

Types of Modified Opinions

2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) establishes three types of modified opinions, namely, a qualified opinion, an adverse opinion, and a disclaimer of opinion. The decision regarding which type of modified opinion is appropriate depends upon:
 - (a) The nature of the matter giving rise to the modification, that is, whether the financial statements are materially misstated or, in the case of an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, may be materially misstated; and
 - (b) The auditor's judgment about the pervasiveness of the effects or possible effects of the matter on the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A1)

Effective Date

3. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 1 October 2012 17 June 2016. ~~Earlier adoption is permitted.~~

Objective

4. The objective of the auditor is to express clearly an appropriately modified opinion on the financial statements that is necessary when:
 - (a) The auditor concludes, based on the audit evidence obtained, that the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or
 - (b) The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

Definitions

5. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Pervasive – A term used, in the context of misstatements, to describe the effects on the financial statements of misstatements or the possible effects on the financial statements of misstatements, if any, that are undetected due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Pervasive effects on the financial statements are those that, in the auditor's judgment:

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and The Auditor's Reporting on Financial Statements."

- (i) Are not confined to specific elements, accounts or items of the financial statements;
 - (ii) If so confined, represent or could represent a substantial proportion of the financial statements; or
 - (iii) In relation to disclosures, are fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements.
- (b) Modified opinion – A qualified opinion, an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion.

Requirements

Circumstances When a Modification to the Auditor's Opinion Is Required

6. The auditor shall modify the opinion in the auditor's report when:
- (a) The auditor concludes that, based on the audit evidence obtained, the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or (Ref: Para. A2-A7)
 - (b) The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. (Ref: Para. A8-A12)

Determining the Type of Modification to the Auditor's Opinion

Qualified Opinion

7. The auditor shall express a qualified opinion when:
- (a) The auditor, having obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence, concludes that misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, are material, but not pervasive, to the financial statements; or
 - (b) The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the opinion, but the auditor concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be material but not pervasive.

Adverse Opinion

8. The auditor shall express an adverse opinion when the auditor, having obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence, concludes that misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, are both material and pervasive to the financial statements.

Disclaimer of Opinion

9. The auditor shall disclaim an opinion when the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the opinion, and the auditor concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive.
10. The auditor shall disclaim an opinion when, in extremely rare circumstances involving multiple uncertainties, the auditor concludes that, notwithstanding having obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding each of the individual uncertainties, it is not possible to form an opinion on the financial statements due to the potential interaction of the uncertainties and their possible cumulative effect on the financial statements.

Consequence of an Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence Due to a Management-Imposed Limitation after the Auditor Has Accepted the Engagement

11. If, after accepting the engagement, the auditor becomes aware that management has imposed a limitation on the scope of the audit that the auditor considers likely to result in the need to express a qualified opinion or to disclaim an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall request that management remove the limitation.
12. If management refuses to remove the limitation referred to in paragraph 11, the auditor shall communicate the matter to those charged with governance, unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity,² and determine whether it is possible to perform alternative procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.
13. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall determine the implications as follows:
 - (a) If the auditor concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be material but not pervasive, the auditor shall qualify the opinion; or
 - (b) If the auditor concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive so that a qualification of the opinion would be inadequate to communicate the gravity of the situation, the auditor shall:
 - (i) Withdraw from the audit, where practicable and possible under applicable law or regulation; or (Ref: Para. A13-A14)
 - (ii) If withdrawal from the audit before issuing the auditor’s report is not practicable or possible, disclaim an opinion on the financial statements.
14. If the auditor withdraws as contemplated by paragraph 13(b)(i), before withdrawing, the auditor shall communicate to those charged with governance any matters regarding misstatements identified during the audit that would have given rise to a modification of the opinion. (Ref: Para. A15 – A15-1)

Other Considerations Relating to an Adverse Opinion or Disclaimer of Opinion

15. When the auditor considers it necessary to express an adverse opinion or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements as a whole, the auditor’s report shall not also include an unmodified opinion with respect to the same financial reporting framework on a single financial statement or one or more specific elements, accounts or items of a financial statement. To include such an unmodified opinion in the same report³ in these circumstances would contradict the auditor’s adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole. (Ref: Para. A16)

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 13.

³ ISA 805, “Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement,” deals with circumstances where the auditor is engaged to express a separate opinion on one or more specific elements, accounts or items of a financial statement.

ISA 805 has not been promulgated by the FRC for application in the UK and Ireland.

Form and Content of the Auditor’s Report When the Opinion Is Modified

Basis for Modification Paragraph

16. ~~When the auditor modifies the opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall, in addition to the specific elements required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, include a paragraph in the auditor’s report that provides a description of the matter giving rise to the modification. The auditor shall place this paragraph immediately before the opinion paragraph in the auditor’s report and use the heading “Basis for Qualified Opinion on Financial Statements,” “Basis for Adverse Opinion on Financial Statements,” or “Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion on Financial Statements,” as appropriate. (Ref: Para. A17)~~
17. ~~If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to specific amounts in the financial statements (including quantitative disclosures), the auditor shall include in the basis for modification paragraph a description and quantification of the financial effects of the misstatement, unless impracticable. If it is not practicable to quantify the financial effects, the auditor shall so state in the basis for modification paragraph. (Ref: Para. A18)~~
18. ~~If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to narrative disclosures, the auditor shall include in the basis for modification paragraph an explanation of how the disclosures are misstated.~~
19. ~~If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to the non-disclosure of information required to be disclosed, the auditor shall:~~
- ~~(a) Discuss the non-disclosure with those charged with governance;~~
 - ~~(b) Describe in the basis for modification paragraph the nature of the omitted information; and~~
 - ~~(c) Unless prohibited by law or regulation, include the omitted disclosures, provided it is practicable to do so and the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the omitted information. (Ref: Para. A19)~~
20. ~~If the modification results from an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall include in the basis for modification paragraph the reasons for that inability.~~
21. ~~Even if the auditor has expressed an adverse opinion or disclaimed an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall describe in the basis for modification paragraph the reasons for any other matters of which the auditor is aware that would have required a modification to the opinion, and the effects thereof. (Ref: Para. A20)~~

Auditor’s Opinion ~~on the Financial Statements~~ Paragraph

- ~~1622.~~ When the auditor modifies the audit opinion, the auditor shall use the heading “Qualified Opinion ~~on Financial Statements~~,” “Adverse Opinion ~~on Financial Statements~~,” or “Disclaimer of Opinion ~~on Financial Statements~~,” as appropriate, for the opinion paragraph. (Ref: Para. ~~A21~~, ~~A1723~~-~~A1924~~)

Qualified Opinion

- ~~1723.~~ When the auditor expresses a qualified opinion due to a material misstatement in the financial statements, the auditor shall state ~~in the Qualified Opinion on Financial Statements paragraph~~ that, in the auditor’s opinion, except for the effects of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion ~~paragraph~~section:

- (a) ~~When reporting in accordance with a fair presentation framework, t~~he accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects (or give a true and fair view ~~of) when reporting~~ in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting a fair presentation framework]^{3a}; or
- (b) ~~When reporting in accordance with a compliance framework, t~~he accompanying financial statements have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework] ~~when reporting in accordance with a compliance framework.~~

When the modification arises from an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall use the corresponding phrase “except for the possible effects of the matter(s) ...” for the modified opinion. (Ref: Para. A202) [IAASB/AR]

Adverse Opinion

1824. When the auditor expresses an adverse opinion, the auditor shall ~~state in the Qualified Opinion on Financial Statements paragraph~~ that, in the auditor’s opinion, because of the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion ~~paragraph~~section:

- (a) ~~When reporting in accordance with a fair presentation framework, t~~he accompanying financial statements do not present fairly (or give a true and fair view ~~of) when reporting~~ in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting a fair presentation framework]⁴; or
- (b) ~~When reporting in accordance with a compliance framework, t~~he accompanying financial statements have not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework] ~~when reporting in accordance with a compliance framework.~~ [IAASB/AR]

Disclaimer of Opinion

1925. When the auditor disclaims an opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall ~~state in the Qualified Opinion on Financial Statements paragraph~~ that:

- (a) ~~State that the auditor does not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements;~~
- (b) ~~State that,~~ because of the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion ~~paragraph~~section, the auditor has not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements; and, ~~accordingly,~~
- (c) ~~Amend the statement required by paragraph 24(b) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), which indicates that the financial statements have been audited, to state that the auditor was engaged to audit the financial statements the auditor does not express an opinion on the financial statements.~~ [IAASB/AR]

Basis for Modification Paragraph Opinion

2016. When the auditor modifies the opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall, in addition to the specific elements required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised);

^{3a} Auditor’s reports prepared in accordance with Section 193 (4C) of the Irish Companies Act 1990 will express the opinion in terms of “true and fair view in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework”.

~~include a paragraph in the auditor’s report that provides a description of the matter giving rise to the modification. (Ref: Para. A21)~~

~~(a) The auditor shall place this paragraph immediately before the opinion paragraph in the auditor’s report and use Amend the heading “Basis for Opinion” required by paragraph 28 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) to “Basis for Qualified Opinion on Financial Statements,” “Basis for Adverse Opinion on Financial Statements,” or “Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion on Financial Statements,” as appropriate; and (Ref: Para. A17)~~

~~(b) Within this section, include a description of the matter giving rise to the modification. [IAASB/AR]~~

~~2147.~~ If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to specific amounts in the financial statements (including quantitative disclosures ~~in the notes to the financial statements~~), the auditor shall include in the ~~B~~ basis for Opinion section modification paragraph a description and quantification of the financial effects of the misstatement, unless impracticable. If it is not practicable to quantify the financial effects, the auditor shall so state in ~~this section the basis for modification paragraph~~. (Ref: Para. ~~A2248~~) [IAASB/AR][IAASB/Disclosures]

~~2218.~~ If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to ~~qualitative narrative~~ disclosures, the auditor shall include in the ~~B~~ basis for Opinion section modification paragraph an explanation of how the disclosures are misstated. [IAASB/AR][IAASB/Disclosures]

~~2319.~~ If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to the non-disclosure of information required to be disclosed, the auditor shall:

- ~~(a)~~ Discuss the non-disclosure with those charged with governance;
- ~~(b)~~ Describe in the ~~B~~ basis for Opinion section modification paragraph the nature of the omitted information; and
- ~~(c)~~ Unless prohibited by law or regulation, include the omitted disclosures, provided it is practicable to do so and the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the omitted information. (Ref: Para. ~~A2349~~) [IAASB/AR]

~~2420.~~ If the modification results from an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall include in the ~~B~~ basis for Opinion section modification paragraph the reasons for that inability. [IAASB/AR]

~~25.~~ When the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion, the auditor shall amend the statement about whether the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor’s opinion required by paragraph 28(d) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) to include the word “qualified” or “adverse”, as appropriate. [IAASB/AR]

~~26.~~ When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor’s report shall not include the elements required by paragraphs 28(b) and 28(d) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised). Those elements are:

- ~~(a)~~ A reference to the section of the auditor’s report where the auditor’s responsibilities are described; and
- ~~(b)~~ A statement about whether the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor’s opinion. [IAASB/AR]

~~2721.~~ Even if the auditor has expressed an adverse opinion or disclaimed an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall describe in the basis for modification paragraph the reasons for any other matters of which the auditor is aware that would have required a modification to the opinion, and the effects thereof. (Ref: Para. A20)

~~26. — [Deliberately left blank]~~

Description of Auditor's Responsibilities ~~iesy~~ for the Audit of the Financial Statements When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements

~~287.~~ When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall amend the description of the auditor's responsibilities required by paragraphs 38–40 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) to include only the following: (Ref: Para. A25)~~introductory paragraph of the auditor's report to state that the auditor was engaged to audit the financial statements.~~

- ~~(a)~~ A statement that the auditor's responsibility is to conduct an audit of the entity's financial statements in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) and to issue an auditor's report;
- ~~(b)~~ A statement that, however, because of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section, the auditor was not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements; and
- ~~(c)~~ The statement about auditor independence and other ethical responsibilities required by paragraph 28(c) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised). [IAASB/AR]

Considerations When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements

~~29.~~ Unless required by law or regulation, when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor's report shall not include a Key Audit Matters section in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701;⁴ or an Other Information section in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised).⁵ (Ref: Para. A26-A26-1) [IAASB/AR][IAASB/OI]

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

~~3028.~~ When the auditor expects to modify the opinion in the auditor's report, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance the circumstances that led to the expected modification and the proposed wording of the modification. (Ref: Para. A27~~5~~)

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, "Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report," paragraphs 11-13

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information," paragraph A54

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Types of Modified Opinions (Ref: Para. 2)

- A1. The table below illustrates how the auditor’s judgment about the nature of the matter giving rise to the modification, and the pervasiveness of its effects or possible effects on the financial statements, affects the type of opinion to be expressed.

<i>Nature of Matter Giving Rise to the Modification</i>	<i>Auditor’s Judgment about the Pervasiveness of the Effects or Possible Effects on the Financial Statements</i>	
	<i>Material but Not Pervasive</i>	<i>Material and Pervasive</i>
Financial statements are materially misstated	Qualified opinion	Adverse opinion
Inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence	Qualified opinion	Disclaimer of opinion

Circumstances When a Modification to the Auditor’s Opinion Is Required

Nature of Material Misstatements (Ref: Para. 6(a))

- A2. ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) requires the auditor, in order to form an opinion on the financial statements, to conclude as to whether reasonable assurance has been obtained about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.⁶ This conclusion takes into account the auditor’s evaluation of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised).⁷
- A3. ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised) defines a misstatement as a difference between the reported amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure of a ~~reported~~ financial statement item and the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure that is required for the item to be in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Accordingly, a material misstatement of the financial statements may arise in relation to:
- The appropriateness of the selected accounting policies;
 - The application of the selected accounting policies; or
 - The appropriateness or adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements. [IAASB/Disclosures]

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), paragraph 11.

~~— The FRC has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraph 8 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 requires evaluation of whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained.~~

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), “Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit,” paragraph 11.

Appropriateness of the Selected Accounting Policies

- A4. In relation to the appropriateness of the accounting policies management has selected, material misstatements of the financial statements may arise for example, when:
- (a) The selected accounting policies are not consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework;
 - (b) The financial statements do not correctly describe an accounting policy relating to a significant item in the statement of financial position, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity or the statement of cash flows; or
 - (c) The financial statements, including the related notes, do not represent or disclose the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. [IAASB/Disclosures]
- A5. Financial reporting frameworks often contain requirements for the accounting for, and disclosure of, changes in accounting policies. Where the entity has changed its selection of significant accounting policies, a material misstatement of the financial statements may arise when the entity has not complied with these requirements.

Application of the Selected Accounting Policies

- A6. In relation to the application of the selected accounting policies, material misstatements of the financial statements may arise:
- (a) When management has not applied the selected accounting policies consistently with the financial reporting framework, including when management has not applied the selected accounting policies consistently between periods or to similar transactions and events (consistency in application); or
 - (b) Due to the method of application of the selected accounting policies (such as an unintentional error in application).

Appropriateness or Adequacy of Disclosures in the Financial Statements

- A7. In relation to the appropriateness or adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements, material misstatements of the financial statements may arise when:
- (a) The financial statements do not include all of the disclosures required by the applicable financial reporting framework;
 - (b) The disclosures in the financial statements are not presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; or
 - (c) The financial statements do not provide the additional disclosures necessary to achieve fair presentation beyond disclosures specifically required by the applicable financial reporting framework.

Paragraph A13a of ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised) provides further examples of material misstatements in qualitative disclosures that may arise. [IAASB/AR][IAASB/Disclosures]

Nature of an Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 6(b))

- A8. The auditor's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence (also referred to as a limitation on the scope of the audit) may arise from:
- (a) Circumstances beyond the control of the entity;

- (b) Circumstances relating to the nature or timing of the auditor’s work; or
 - (c) Limitations imposed by management.
- A9. An inability to perform a specific procedure does not constitute a limitation on the scope of the audit if the auditor is able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by performing alternative procedures. If this is not possible, the requirements of paragraphs 7(b) and 9-10 apply as appropriate. Limitations imposed by management may have other implications for the audit, such as for the auditor’s assessment of fraud risks and consideration of engagement continuance.
- A10. Examples of circumstances beyond the control of the entity include when:
- The entity’s accounting records have been destroyed.
 - The accounting records of a significant component have been seized indefinitely by governmental authorities.
- A11. Examples of circumstances relating to the nature or timing of the auditor’s work include when:
- The entity is required to use the equity method of accounting for an associated entity, and the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the latter’s financial information to evaluate whether the equity method has been appropriately applied.
 - The timing of the auditor’s appointment is such that the auditor is unable to observe the counting of the physical inventories.
 - The auditor determines that performing substantive procedures alone is not sufficient, but the entity’s controls are not effective.
- A12. Examples of an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence arising from a limitation on the scope of the audit imposed by management include when:
- Management prevents the auditor from observing the counting of the physical inventory.
 - Management prevents the auditor from requesting external confirmation of specific account balances.

Determining the Type of Modification to the Auditor’s Opinion

Consequence of an Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence Due to a Management-Imposed Limitation after the Auditor Has Accepted the Engagement (Ref: Para. 13(b)(i)-14)

- A13. The practicality of withdrawing from the audit may depend on the stage of completion of the engagement at the time that management imposes the scope limitation. If the auditor has substantially completed the audit, the auditor may decide to complete the audit to the extent possible, disclaim an opinion and explain the scope limitation within the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion ~~paragraph~~ section prior to withdrawing. [IAASB/AR]
- A14. In certain circumstances, withdrawal from the audit may not be possible if the auditor is required by law or regulation to continue the audit engagement. This may be the case for an auditor that is appointed to audit the financial statements of public sector entities. It may also be the case in jurisdictions where the auditor is appointed to audit the financial statements covering a specific period, or appointed for a specific period and

is prohibited from withdrawing before the completion of the audit of those financial statements or before the end of that period, respectively. The auditor may also consider it necessary to include an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report.⁸

- A15. When the auditor concludes that withdrawal from the audit is necessary because of a scope limitation, there may be a professional, legal or regulatory requirement for the auditor to communicate matters relating to the withdrawal from the engagement to regulators or the entity’s owners.

Statement by Auditor on Ceasing to Hold Office

A15-1. The auditor of a company in the UK who ceases to hold office as auditor is required to comply with the requirements of sections 519 and 521 of the Companies Act 2006 regarding the statement to be made by the auditor in relation to ceasing to hold office. In addition, the auditor may need to notify the appropriate audit authority in accordance with section 522 of the Companies Act 2006.

A15-2 Auditors of Irish Companies, generally, are obliged to notify the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA) within one month of ceasing to hold office on the appropriate form which includes stating the reason for resignation notwithstanding that the auditor may have nothing to report to the members or creditors regarding their ceasing to hold office^{8a}.

Other Considerations Relating to an Adverse Opinion or Disclaimer of Opinion (Ref: Para. 15)

- A16. The following are examples of reporting circumstances that would not contradict the auditor’s adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion:
- The expression of an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared under a given financial reporting framework and, within the same report, the expression of an adverse opinion on the same financial statements under a different financial reporting framework.⁹
 - The expression of a disclaimer of opinion regarding the results of operations, and cash flows, where relevant, and an unmodified opinion regarding the financial position (see ISA (UK and Ireland) 510¹⁰). In this case, the auditor has not expressed a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole.

Form and Content of the Auditor’s Report When the Opinion Is Modified

~~Basis for Modification Paragraph~~ (Ref: Para. 16, 17, 19, 21)

~~A17.—Consistency in the auditor’s report helps to promote users’ understanding and to identify unusual circumstances when they occur. Accordingly, although uniformity in the wording of a modified opinion and in the description of the basis for the modification~~

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraph A5.

^{8a} See section 161A. (1) of the Companies Act of 1990.

⁹ See paragraph A312 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) for a description of this circumstance.

~~—The FRC has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraph A13 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 provides guidance on expressing an opinion in respect of an additional financial reporting framework.~~

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 510, “Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances,” paragraph 10.

may not be possible, consistency in both the form and content of the auditor's report is desirable.

~~A18. An example of the financial effects of material misstatements that the auditor may describe in the basis for modification paragraph in the auditor's report is the quantification of the effects on income tax, income before taxes, net income and equity if inventory is overstated.~~

~~A19. Disclosing the omitted information in the basis for modification paragraph would not be practicable if:~~

~~(a) The disclosures have not been prepared by management or the disclosures are otherwise not readily available to the auditor; or~~

~~(b) In the auditor's judgment, the disclosures would be unduly voluminous in relation to the auditor's report.~~

~~A20. An adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion relating to a specific matter described in the basis for qualification paragraph does not justify the omission of a description of other identified matters that would have otherwise required a modification of the auditor's opinion. In such cases, the disclosure of such other matters of which the auditor is aware may be relevant to users of the financial statements.~~

Opinion on the Financial Statements Paragraph (Ref: Para. 22-23)

~~A21. Inclusion of this paragraph heading makes it clear to the user that the auditor's opinion is modified and indicates the type of modification.~~

~~A22. When the auditor expresses a qualified opinion, it would not be appropriate to use phrases such as "with the foregoing explanation" or "subject to" in the opinion paragraph as these are not sufficiently clear or forceful.~~

Illustrative Auditors' Reports^{10a8a}

~~A1723. Illustrations 1 and 2 in the Appendix contain auditor's reports with qualified and adverse opinions, respectively, as the financial statements are materially misstated. Illustrative auditor's reports tailored for use with audits conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) are given in the current versions of the FRC's compendia Auditor's Report Bulletins^{8a}. [IAASB/AR]~~

~~A1824. Illustration 3 in the Appendix contains an auditor's report with a qualified opinion as the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Illustration 4 contains a disclaimer of opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about a single element of the financial statements. Illustration 5 contains a disclaimer of opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements. In each of the latter two cases, the possible effects on the financial statements of the inability are both material and pervasive. The Appendices to other ISAs that include reporting requirements, including ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), also include illustrations of auditor's reports with modified opinions. [Deliberately left blank] [IAASB/AR]~~

^{10a} The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

^{8a} At the date of publication of this ISA (UK and Ireland), Bulletins 2010/2 (Revised) "Compendium of Illustrative Auditor's Reports on United Kingdom Private Sector Financial Statements for periods ended on or after 15 December 2010" and 1(I) "Compendium of Illustrative Auditor's Reports on Irish Financial Statements" were the current compendia Bulletins.

Auditor's Opinion on the Financial Statements Paragraph (Ref: Para. ~~1622-23~~)

~~A1921. Amending Inclusion of this paragraph~~ heading makes it clear to the user that the auditor's opinion is modified and indicates the type of modification. [IAASB/AR]

Qualified Opinion (Ref: Para. 17)

~~A2022.~~ When the auditor expresses a qualified opinion, it would not be appropriate to use phrases such as “with the foregoing explanation” or “subject to” in the opinion paragraph as these are not sufficiently clear or forceful.

Basis for ~~Opinion Modification Paragraph~~ (Ref: Para. ~~20, 21, 23, 27+6-17, 19, 21~~)

~~A2117.~~ Consistency in the auditor's report helps to promote users' understanding and to identify unusual circumstances when they occur. Accordingly, although uniformity in the wording of a modified opinion and in the description of the ~~reasons~~basis for the modification may not be possible, consistency in both the form and content of the auditor's report is desirable. [IAASB/AR]

~~A2218.~~ An example of the financial effects of material misstatements that the auditor may describe in the ~~B~~basis for ~~Opinion section modification paragraph~~ in the auditor's report is the quantification of the effects on income tax, income before taxes, net income and equity if inventory is overstated. [IAASB/AR]

~~A2319.~~ Disclosing the omitted information with in the ~~B~~basis for ~~Opinion section modification paragraph~~ would not be practicable if:

- (a) The disclosures have not been prepared by management or the disclosures are otherwise not readily available to the auditor; or
- (b) In the auditor's judgment, the disclosures would be unduly voluminous in relation to the auditor's report. [IAASB/AR]

~~A2420.~~ An adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion relating to a specific matter described in the ~~B~~basis for ~~Opinion section qualification paragraph~~ does not justify the omission of a description of other identified matters that would have otherwise required a modification of the auditor's opinion. In such cases, the disclosure of such other matters of which the auditor is aware may be relevant to users of the financial statements. [IAASB/AR]

Description of Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 28)

A25. When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, the following statements are better positioned within the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the auditor's report, as illustrated in Illustrations 4–5 of the Appendix to this ISA (UK and Ireland):^{10a}

- The statement required by paragraph 28(a) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), amended to state that the auditor's responsibility is to conduct an audit of the entity's financial statements in accordance with ISAs; and
- The statement required by paragraph 28(c) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) about independence and other ethical responsibilities. [IAASB/AR]

Considerations When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 29)

A26. Providing the reasons for the auditor’s inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence within the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of the auditor’s report provides useful information to users in understanding why the auditor has disclaimed an opinion on the financial statements and may further guard against inappropriate reliance on them. However, communication of any key audit matters other than the matter(s) giving rise to the disclaimer of opinion may suggest that the financial statements as a whole are more credible in relation to those matters than would be appropriate in the circumstances, and would be inconsistent with the disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Similarly, it would not be appropriate to include an Other Information section in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised) addressing the auditor’s consideration of the consistency of the other information with the financial statements. Accordingly, paragraph 29 of this ISA (UK and Ireland) prohibits a Key Audit Matters section or an Other Information section from being included in the auditor’s report when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, unless the auditor is otherwise required by law or regulation to communicate key audit matters or to report on other information. [IAASB/AR][IAASB/OI]

A26-1. In the UK and Ireland, the auditor is required in certain circumstances due to law or regulation to include a Key Audit Matters section or an Other Information section:

- For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor is required to communicate certain key audit matters in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.^{10b}
- For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor is required to report on the strategic report, the directors’ report and, where one is prepared, the separate corporate governance statement in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised).^{10c}
- For entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code, the auditor is required to report on certain aspects of the entity’s compliance with the UK Corporate Governance Code and the Listing Rules in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised).^{10d}

Communication with Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 28)

A2725. Communicating with those charged with governance the circumstances that lead to an expected modification to the auditor’s opinion and the proposed wording of the modification enables:

- (a) The auditor to give notice to those charged with governance of the intended modification(s) and the reasons (or circumstances) for the modification(s);

^{10b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraph 11R-1.

^{10c} ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information,” paragraphs 22D-1 and 22D-2.

^{10d} ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), paragraphs 22-3 and 22-4.

- (b) The auditor to seek the concurrence of those charged with governance regarding the facts of the matter(s) giving rise to the expected modification(s), or to confirm matters of disagreement with management as such; and
- (c) Those charged with governance to have an opportunity, where appropriate, to provide the auditor with further information and explanations in respect of the matter(s) giving rise to the expected modification(s).

The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

Illustrations of Auditor’s Reports with Modifications to the Opinion

- Illustration 1: An auditor’s report containing a qualified opinion due to a material misstatement of the financial statements.
- Illustration 2: An auditor’s report containing an adverse opinion due to a material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements.
- Illustration 3: An auditor’s report containing a qualified opinion due to the auditor’s inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding a foreign associate.
- Illustration 4: An auditor’s report containing a disclaimer of opinion due to the auditor’s inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about a single element of the consolidated financial statements.
- Illustration 5: An auditor’s report containing a disclaimer of opinion due to the auditor’s inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements.

Illustration 1 – Qualified Opinion due to a Material Misstatement of the Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600¹¹ does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210.¹²
- Inventories are misstated. The misstatement is deemed to be material but not pervasive to the financial statements (i.e., a qualified opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements¹³

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or give a true and fair view of) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with

¹¹ ISA 600, “Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors).”

¹² ISA 210, “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements.”

¹³ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).**Basis for Qualified Opinion**

The Company's inventories are carried in the statement of financial position at xxx. Management has not stated the inventories at the lower of cost and net realizable value but has stated them solely at cost, which constitutes a departure from IFRSs. The Company's records indicate that, had management stated the inventories at the lower of cost and net realizable value, an amount of xxx would have been required to write the inventories down to their net realizable value. Accordingly, cost of sales would have been increased by xxx, and income tax, net income and shareholders' equity would have been reduced by xxx, xxx and xxx, respectively.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 6 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 6 would be customized to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements¹⁴

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate]

¹⁴ Throughout the illustrative auditor's reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

Illustration 2 – Adverse Opinion due to a Material Misstatement of the Consolidated Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., ISA 600 applies).
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210.
- The consolidated financial statements are materially misstated due to the non-consolidation of a subsidiary. The material misstatement is deemed to be pervasive to the consolidated financial statements. The effects of the misstatement on the consolidated financial statements have not been determined because it was not practicable to do so (i.e., an adverse opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- ISA 701 applies; however, the auditor has determined that there are no key audit matters other than the matter described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and the matter giving rise to the adverse opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the consolidated financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements¹⁵

Adverse Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial statements do not present fairly (or do not give a true and fair view of) the consolidated financial position of the Group as at December

¹⁵ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

31, 20X1, and (of) its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Adverse Opinion

As explained in Note X, the Group has not consolidated subsidiary XYZ Company that the Group acquired during 20X1 because it has not yet been able to determine the fair values of certain of the subsidiary's material assets and liabilities at the acquisition date. This investment is therefore accounted for on a cost basis. Under IFRSs, the Company should have consolidated this subsidiary and accounted for the acquisition based on provisional amounts. Had XYZ Company been consolidated, many elements in the accompanying consolidated financial statements would have been materially affected. The effects on the consolidated financial statements of the failure to consolidate have not been determined.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 7 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 7 would be customized to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Key Audit Matters

Except for the matter described in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section, we have determined that there are no other key audit matters to communicate in our report.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements¹⁶

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

¹⁶ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

Illustration 3 – Qualified Opinion due to the Auditor’s Inability to Obtain Sufficient Audit Evidence Regarding a Foreign Associate

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., ISA 600 applies).
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding an investment in a foreign associate. The possible effects of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence are deemed to be material but not pervasive to the consolidated financial statements (i.e., a qualified opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the consolidated financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements¹⁷

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Group as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows

¹⁷ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Group's investment in XYZ Company, a foreign associate acquired during the year and accounted for by the equity method, is carried at xxx on the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and ABC's share of XYZ's net income of xxx is included in ABC's income for the year then ended. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the carrying amount of ABC's investment in XYZ as at December 31, 20X1 and ABC's share of XYZ's net income for the year because we were denied access to the financial information, management, and the auditors of XYZ. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to these amounts were necessary.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 6 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 6 would be customized to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements¹⁸

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

¹⁸ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

Illustration 4 – Disclaimer of Opinion due to the Auditor's Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence about a Single Element of the Consolidated Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., ISA 600 applies).
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about a single element of the consolidated financial statements. That is, the auditor was also unable to obtain audit evidence about the financial information of a joint venture investment that represents over 90% of the entity's net assets. The possible effects of this inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence are deemed to be both material and pervasive to the consolidated financial statements (i.e., a disclaimer of opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Those responsible for oversight of the consolidated financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.
- A more limited description of the auditor's responsibilities section is required.
- In addition to the audit of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements¹⁹

Disclaimer of Opinion

We were engaged to audit the consolidated financial statements of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Group. Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these consolidated financial statements.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

The Group's investment in its joint venture XYZ Company is carried at xxx on the Group's consolidated statement of financial position, which represents over 90% of the Group's net assets

¹⁹ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

as at December 31, 20X1. We were not allowed access to the management and the auditors of XYZ Company, including XYZ Company's auditors' audit documentation. As a result, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments were necessary in respect of the Group's proportional share of XYZ Company's assets that it controls jointly, its proportional share of XYZ Company's liabilities for which it is jointly responsible, its proportional share of XYZ's income and expenses for the year, and the elements making up the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated cash flow statement.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements²⁰

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Group's consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and to issue an auditor's report. However, because of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these consolidated financial statements.

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

²⁰ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

Illustration 5 – Disclaimer of Opinion due to the Auditor's Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence about Multiple Elements of the Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600, does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements, that is, the auditor was also unable to obtain audit evidence about the entity's inventories and accounts receivable. The possible effects of this inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence are deemed to be both material and pervasive to the financial statements.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- A more limited description of the auditor's responsibilities section is required.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements²¹

Disclaimer of Opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Company. Because of the significance of the matters described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

We were not appointed as auditors of the Company until after December 31, 20X1 and thus did not observe the counting of physical inventories at the beginning and end of the year. We were unable to satisfy ourselves by alternative means concerning the inventory quantities held at December 31, 20X0 and 20X1, which are stated in the statements of financial position at xxx and xxx, respectively. In addition, the introduction of a new computerized accounts receivable system in September 20X1 resulted in numerous errors in accounts receivable. As of the date

²¹ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

of our report, management was still in the process of rectifying the system deficiencies and correcting the errors. We were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means accounts receivable included in the statement of financial position at a total amount of xxx as at December 31, 20X1. As a result of these matters, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found necessary in respect of recorded or unrecorded inventories and accounts receivable, and the elements making up the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements²²

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Company's financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and to issue an auditor's report. However, because of the matters described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

²² Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 706 (REVISED-~~OCTOBER 2012~~)**

**EMPHASIS OF MATTER PARAGRAPHS AND OTHER MATTER
PARAGRAPHS IN THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after ~~17 June 2016~~ October 2012)

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<u>Placement of Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Auditor’s Report</u>	<u>A16–A17</u>
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Appendix 1: List of ISAs (UK and Ireland) Containing Requirements for Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs	
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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with additional communication in the auditor's report when the auditor considers it necessary to:
 - (a) Draw users' attention to a matter or matters presented or disclosed in the financial statements that are of such importance that they are fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements; or
 - (b) Draw users' attention to any matter or matters other than those presented or disclosed in the financial statements that are relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report.
2. ISA (UK and Ireland) 701¹ establishes requirements and provides guidance when the auditor determines key audit matters and communicates them in the auditor's report. When the auditor includes a Key Audit Matters section in the auditor's report, this ISA addresses the relationship between key audit matters and any additional communication in the auditor's report in accordance with this ISA (UK & Ireland). (Ref: Para. A1–A3) [IAASB/AR]
3. ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised)² and ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised)³ establish requirements and provide guidance about communication in the auditor's report relating to going concern and other information respectively. [IAASB/AR][IAASB/OI]
4. Appendices 1 and 2 identify ISAs (UK and Ireland) that contain specific requirements for the auditor to include Emphasis of Matter paragraphs or Other Matter paragraphs in the auditor's report. In those circumstances, the requirements in this ISA regarding the form and placement of such paragraphs apply. (Ref: Para. A4)

~~2.1 At the date of publication of this ISA (UK and Ireland) illustrative examples of emphasis of matter paragraphs for UK and Irish financial statements are contained in the compendia Bulletins 2010/2 "Compendium of Illustrative Auditor's Reports on United Kingdom Private Sector Financial Statements for periods ended on or after 15 December 2010" (Revised) and 1(I) "Compendium of Illustrative Auditor's Reports on Irish Financial Statements".~~

Effective Date

- ~~53.~~ This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 June 2016~~1 October 2012~~. ~~Earlier adoption is permitted.~~

Objective

- ~~64.~~ The objective of the auditor, having formed an opinion on the financial statements, is to draw users' attention, when in the auditor's judgment it is necessary to do so, by way of clear additional communication in the auditor's report, to:

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, "Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report"

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), "Going Concern"

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information"

- (a) A matter, although appropriately presented or disclosed in the financial statements, that is of such importance that it is fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements; or
- (b) As appropriate, any other matter that is relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report.

Definitions

75. For the purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

- (a) **Emphasis of Matter paragraph** – A paragraph included in the auditor's report that refers to a matter appropriately presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's judgment, is of such importance that it is fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements.
- (b) **Other Matter paragraph** – A paragraph included in the auditor's report that refers to a matter other than those presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's judgment, is relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report.

Requirements

Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs in the Auditor's Report

86. If the auditor considers it necessary to draw users' attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's judgment, is of such importance that it is fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements, the auditor shall include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor's report provided: ~~the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the matter is not materially misstated in the financial statements^{1a}. Such a paragraph shall refer only to information presented or disclosed in the financial statements.~~ (Ref: Para. A51-A62)

- (a) The auditor would not be required to modify the opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised)⁴ as a result of the matter; and
- (b) When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 applies, the matter has not been determined to be a key audit matter to be communicated in the auditor's report. (Ref: Para. A1-A3) [IAASB/AR]

8D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor shall refer to any other matters to which the auditor draws attention by way of emphasis without modifying the audit opinion. [AD/Article 28.2(d)]

^{1a} ~~Paragraph 19 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 570, "Going Concern," requires, where adequate disclosure is made in the financial statements, the auditor always include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor's report to highlight the existence of a material uncertainty relating to an event or condition that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.~~

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report"

97. When the auditor includes an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report, the auditor shall:
- (a) Include the paragraph within a separate section of the auditor’s report with an appropriate heading that includes the term “Emphasis of Matter” it immediately after the Opinion on Financial Statements paragraph in the auditor’s report;
 - (b) ~~Use the heading “Emphasis of Matter,” or other appropriate heading;~~
 - ~~(c) Include in the paragraph a clear reference to the matter being emphasized and to where relevant disclosures that fully describe the matter can be found in the financial statements. The paragraph shall refer only to information presented or disclosed in the financial statements;~~ and
 - (d) Indicate that the auditor’s opinion is not modified in respect of the matter emphasized. (Ref: Para. A73-A84, A16-A17)-[IAASB/AR]

Other Matter Paragraphs in the Auditor’s Report

108. If the auditor considers it necessary to communicate a matter other than those that are presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor’s judgment, is relevant to users’ understanding of the audit, the auditor’s responsibilities or the auditor’s report, the auditor shall include an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report, provided:

- (a) ~~And~~ this is not prohibited by law or regulation; and
- (b) When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 applies, the matter has not been determined to be a key audit matter to be communicated in the auditor’s report. (Ref: Para. A9–A14)-[IAASB/AR]

11. ~~When the auditor includes an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report, the auditor shall do so in include the paragraph within a separate section the auditor’s report, with the heading “Other Matter,” or other appropriate heading. The auditor shall include this paragraph immediately after the Opinion on Financial Statements paragraph and any Emphasis of Matter paragraph, or elsewhere in the auditor’s report if the content of the Other Matter paragraph is relevant to the Other Reporting Responsibilities section.~~ (Ref: Para. A15-A17~~4~~)-[IAASB/AR]

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

129. If the auditor expects to include an Emphasis of Matter or an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance regarding this expectation and the proposed wording of this paragraph. (Ref: Para. A18~~2~~)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs in the Auditor’s Report

The Relationship between Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Key Audit Matters in the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 2, 8(b))

- A1. Key audit matters are defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 as those matters that, in the auditor’s professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period. Key audit matters are selected from matters

communicated with those charged with governance, which include significant findings from the audit of the financial statements of the current period.⁵ Communicating key audit matters provides additional information to intended users of the financial statements to assist them in understanding those matters that, in the auditor’s professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit and may also assist them in understanding the entity and areas of significant management judgment in the audited financial statements. When ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 applies, the use of Emphasis of Matter paragraphs is not a substitute for a description of individual key audit matters. [IAASB/AR]

A2. Matters that are determined to be key audit matters in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 may also be, in the auditor’s judgment, fundamental to users’ understanding of the financial statements. In such cases, in communicating the matter as a key audit matter in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, the auditor may wish to highlight or draw further attention to its relative importance. The auditor may do so by presenting the matter more prominently than other matters in the Key Audit Matters section (e.g., as the first matter) or by including additional information in the description of the key audit matter to indicate the importance of the matter to users’ understanding of the financial statements. [IAASB/AR]

A2-1. In the UK and Ireland, law or regulation may require a matter to be emphasized in the auditor’s report in addition to communicating such a matter as a key audit matter in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.

A3. There may be a matter that is not determined to be a key audit matter in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701 (i.e., because it did not require significant auditor attention), but which, in the auditor’s judgment, is fundamental to users’ understanding of the financial statements (e.g., a subsequent event). If the auditor considers it necessary to draw users’ attention to such a matter, the matter is included in an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report in accordance with this ISA. [IAASB/AR]

Circumstances in Which an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph May Be Necessary (Ref: Para. 4, 86)

A4. Appendix 1 identifies ISAs that contain specific requirements for the auditor to include Emphasis of Matter paragraphs in the auditor’s report in certain circumstances. These circumstances include:

- When a financial reporting framework prescribed by law or regulation would be unacceptable but for the fact that it is prescribed by law or regulation.
- To alert users that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.
- When facts become known to the auditor after the date of the auditor’s report and the auditor provides a new or amended auditor’s report (i.e., subsequent events).⁶ [IAASB/AR]

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance”, paragraph 16

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, Subsequent Events, paragraphs 12(b) and 16

A51. Examples of circumstances where the auditor may consider it necessary to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph are:

- An uncertainty relating to the future outcome of exceptional litigation or regulatory action.
- A significant subsequent event that occurs between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor’s report.⁷
- Early application (where permitted) of a new accounting standard ~~(for example, a new International Financial Reporting Standard)~~ that has a pervasive material effect on the financial statements in advance of its effective date.
- A major catastrophe that has had, or continues to have, a significant effect on the entity’s financial position. [IAASB/AR]

A62. ~~However, a~~ widespread use of Emphasis of Matter paragraphs may diminishes the effectiveness of the auditor’s communication of/about such matters. ~~Additionally, to include more information in an Emphasis of Matter paragraph than is presented or disclosed in the financial statements may imply that the matter has not been appropriately presented or disclosed; accordingly, paragraph 6 limits the use of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph to matters presented or disclosed in the financial statements.~~ [IAASB/AR]

Including an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph in the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 97)

A73. The inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report does not affect the auditor’s opinion. An Emphasis of Matter paragraph is not a substitute for either:

- (a) ~~The auditor expressing a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion, or disclaiming an opinion, when required by the circumstances of a specific audit engagement (in accordance with see ISA (UK and Ireland) 705. ⁸(Revised) when required by the circumstances of a specific audit engagement; or~~
- (b) Disclosures in the financial statements that the applicable financial reporting framework requires management to make, or that are otherwise necessary to achieve fair presentation; or-
- (c) Reporting in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised)⁹ when a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on an entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. [IAASB/AR]

A84. Paragraphs A16–A17 provide further guidance on the placement of Emphasis of Matter paragraphs in particular circumstances. ~~[Deliberately left blank].~~ [IAASB/AR]

Other Matter Paragraphs in the Auditor’s Report (Ref: Para. 10-118)

Circumstances in Which an Other Matter Paragraph May Be Necessary

Relevant to Users’ Understanding of the Audit

A9. ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance about the planned scope and timing of the audit, which

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, paragraph 6

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705, “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report.”

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised), paragraphs 22–23

includes communication about the significant risks identified by the auditor.¹⁰ Although matters relating to significant risks may be determined to be key audit matters, other planning and scoping matters (e.g., the planned scope of the audit, or the application of materiality in the context of the audit) are unlikely to be key audit matters because of how key audit matters are defined in ISA (UK and Ireland) 701. However, law or regulation may require the auditor to communicate about planning and scoping matters in the auditor’s report, or the auditor may consider it necessary to communicate about such matters in an Other Matter paragraph. [IAASB/AR]

~~A105.~~ In the rare circumstance where the auditor is unable to withdraw from an engagement even though the possible effect of an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence due to a limitation on the scope of the audit imposed by management is pervasive,¹¹ the auditor may consider it necessary to include an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report to explain why it is not possible for the auditor to withdraw from the engagement.

Relevant to Users’ Understanding of the Auditor’s Responsibilities or the Auditor’s Report

~~A116.~~ Law, regulation or generally accepted practice in a jurisdiction may require or permit the auditor to elaborate on matters that provide further explanation of the auditor’s responsibilities in the audit of the financial statements or of the auditor’s report thereon. When the Other Matter section includes more than one matter that, in the auditor’s judgment, is relevant to users’ understanding of the audit, the auditor’s responsibilities or the auditor’s report, it may be helpful to use different sub-headings for each matter. Where relevant, one or more sub-headings may be used that describe the content of the Other Matter paragraph. [IAASB/AR]

~~A127.~~ An Other Matter paragraph does not deal with circumstances where the auditor has other reporting responsibilities that are in addition to the auditor’s responsibility under the ISAs (UK and Ireland) ~~to report on the financial statements~~ (see “Other Reporting Responsibilities” section in ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised)¹²), or where the auditor has been asked to perform and report on additional specified procedures, or to express an opinion on specific matters.

Reporting on more than one set of financial statements

~~A138.~~ An entity may prepare one set of financial statements in accordance with a general purpose framework (~~e.g. for example~~, the national framework) and another set of financial statements in accordance with another general purpose framework (~~e.g. for example~~, International Financial Reporting Standards), and engage the auditor to report on both sets of financial statements. If the auditor has determined that the frameworks are acceptable in the respective circumstances, the auditor may include an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report, referring to the fact that another set of financial statements has been prepared by the same entity in accordance with another general

¹⁰ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), paragraph 15.

¹¹ See paragraph 13(b)(ii) of ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) for a discussion of this circumstance.

¹² ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements,” paragraphs 42-44, 38-39.

~~The FRC has not promulgated ISA 700 as issued by the IAASB for application in the UK and Ireland. In the UK and Ireland the applicable auditing standard is ISA (UK and Ireland) 700, “The Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements.” Paragraphs 21 and 22 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 are the equivalent paragraphs to 38-39 of ISA 700.~~

purpose framework and that the auditor has issued a report on those financial statements.

~~A138~~-1 The situation described in paragraph ~~A138~~ is differentiated from the ~~situation requirement~~ in paragraphs ~~A8 and A2519~~ of ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (~~Revised~~) in that, in the latter case, the auditor is engaged to express in the same auditor's report an opinion on the compliance of the financial statements with an additional financial reporting framework. This is only permissible if the auditor is satisfied that there are no differences between the two financial reporting frameworks that affect the financial statements being reported on.

Restriction on distribution or use of the auditor's report

~~A149~~. Financial statements prepared for a specific purpose may be prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework because the intended users have determined that such general purpose financial statements meet their financial information needs. Since the auditor's report is intended for specific users, the auditor may consider it necessary in the circumstances to include an Other Matter paragraph, stating that the auditor's report is intended solely for the intended users, and should not be distributed to or used by other parties.

Including an Other Matter Paragraph in the Auditor's Report

~~A150~~. The content of an Other Matter paragraph reflects clearly that such other matter is not required to be presented and disclosed in the financial statements. An Other Matter paragraph does not include information that the auditor is prohibited from providing by law, regulation or other professional standards, for example, ethical standards relating to confidentiality of information. An Other Matter paragraph also does not include information that is required to be provided by management.

Placement of Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 9, 11)

~~A161~~. The placement of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report depends on the nature of the information to be communicated, and the auditor's judgment as to the relative significance of such information to intended users compared to other elements required to be reported in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised). For example:

Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs

- When the Emphasis of Matter paragraph relates to the applicable financial reporting framework, including circumstances where the auditor determines that the financial reporting framework prescribed by law or regulation would otherwise be unacceptable,¹³ the auditor may consider it necessary to place the paragraph immediately following the Basis of Opinion section to provide appropriate context to the auditor's opinion.
- When a Key Audit Matters section is presented in the auditor's report, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph may be presented either directly before or after the

¹³ For example, as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 210, "Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements", paragraph 19 and ISA 800, Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks, paragraph 14.

ISA 800 has not been promulgated by the FRC for application in the UK and Ireland.

Key Audit Matters section, based on the auditor’s judgment as to the relative significance of the information included in the Emphasis of Matter paragraph. The auditor may also add further context to the heading “Emphasis of Matter”, such as “Emphasis of Matter – Subsequent Event”, to differentiate the Emphasis of Matter paragraph from the individual matters described in the Key Audit Matters section.

Other Matter Paragraphs

- When a Key Audit Matters section is presented in the auditor’s report and an Other Matter paragraph is also considered necessary, the auditor may add further context to the heading “Other Matter”, such as “Other Matter – Scope of the Audit”, to differentiate the Other Matter paragraph from the individual matters described in the Key Audit Matters section.
- ~~When an Other Matter paragraph is included to draw users’ attention to a matter relevant to their understanding of the audit of the financial statements, the paragraph is included immediately after the Opinion on Financial Statements paragraph and any Emphasis of Matter paragraph. When an Other Matter paragraph is included to draw users’ attention to a matter relating to Other Reporting Responsibilities addressed in the auditor’s report, the paragraph may be included in the Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements section.~~ Opinion on Other Matters (prescribed by applicable legislation under the terms of our engagement) paragraph.
- ~~Alternatively, W~~ When relevant to all the auditor’s responsibilities or users’ understanding of the auditor’s report, the Other Matter paragraph may be included as a separate section following the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements and the Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements at the end of the auditor’s report^{3a}. [IAASB/AR]

A17. Appendix 3^{13a} is an illustration of the interaction between the Key Audit Matters section, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph and an Other Matter paragraph when all are presented in the auditor’s report. The illustrative report in Appendix 4^{13a} includes an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in an auditor’s report for an entity other than a listed entity that contains a qualified opinion and for which key audit matters have not been communicated. [IAASB/AR]

Communication with Those Charged with Governance (Ref. Para. 129)

A182. ~~Such~~ The communication required by paragraph 12 enables those charged with governance to be made aware of the nature of any specific matters that the auditor intends to highlight in the auditor’s report, and provides them with an opportunity to obtain further clarification from the auditor where necessary. Where the inclusion of an Other Matter paragraph on a particular matter in the auditor’s report recurs on each successive engagement, the auditor may determine that it is unnecessary to repeat the communication on each engagement, unless otherwise required to do so by law or regulation. [IAASB/AR]

^{3a} ~~In the UK and Ireland separate auditor’s reports may be provided where the consolidated financial statements of a group of companies and the financial statements of the parent company are presented separately. In such cases, an “Other Matter” paragraph explaining that separate auditor’s reports have been provided is usually included as the final paragraph of both of the auditor’s reports.~~

^{13a} The examples in Appendices 3 and 4 have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.”

Appendix 1(Ref: Para. ~~42, A4~~)**List of ISAs (UK and Ireland) Containing Requirements for Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs**

This appendix identifies paragraphs in other ISAs (UK and Ireland) ~~in effect for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010~~ that require the auditor to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report in certain circumstances. The list is not a substitute for considering the requirements and related application and other explanatory material in ISAs.

- ISA (UK and Ireland) 210 ~~(Revised)~~, “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements” – paragraph 19(b)
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events” – paragraphs 12(b) and 16
- ~~• ISA (UK and Ireland) 570, “Going Concern” – paragraph 19~~
- ISA 800^{13b}, “Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks” – paragraph 14

^{13b} ISA 800 has not been promulgated by the FRC for application in the UK and Ireland.

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. ~~42~~)

List of ISAs (UK and Ireland) Containing Requirements for Other Matter Paragraphs

This appendix identifies paragraphs in other ISAs (UK and Ireland) ~~in effect for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010~~ that require the auditor to include an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report in certain circumstances. The list is not a substitute for considering the requirements and related application and other explanatory material in ISAs (UK and Ireland).

- ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events” – paragraphs 12(b) and 16
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 710, “Comparative Information—Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements” – paragraphs 13-14, 16-17 and 19
- ISA (UK and Ireland) 720 ~~Section A (Revised)~~, “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information ~~in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements~~” – paragraph 10(a)

Appendix 3

(Ref: Para. A17)

The example in the Appendix has not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

Illustration of an Auditor’s Report that Includes a Key Audit Matters Section, an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph, and an Other Matter Paragraph

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600¹ does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor’s report, there was a fire in the entity’s production facilities, which was disclosed by the entity as a subsequent event. In the auditor’s judgment, the matter is of such importance that it is fundamental to users’ understanding of the financial statements. The matter did not require significant auditor attention in the audit of the financial statements in the current period.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Corresponding figures are presented, and the prior period’s financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor. The auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor’s report on the corresponding figures and has decided to do so.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

¹ ISA 600, “Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors).”

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements²

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or give a true and fair view of) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter³

We draw attention to Note X of the financial statements, which describes the effects of a fire in the Company’s production facilities. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Other Matter

The financial statements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X0, were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on March 31, 20X1.

² The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

³ As noted in paragraph A16, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph may be presented either directly before or after the Key Audit Matters section based on the auditor’s judgment as to the relative significance of the information included in the Emphasis of Matter paragraph.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements⁴

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor’s report is *[name]*.

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

⁴ Throughout these illustrative auditor’s reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

Appendix 4

(Ref: Para. A8)

The example in the Appendix has not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

Illustration of an Auditor's Report Containing a Qualified Opinion Due to a Departure from the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework and that Includes an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- A departure from the applicable financial reporting framework resulted in a qualified opinion.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report, there was a fire in the entity's production facilities, which was disclosed by the entity as a subsequent event. In the auditor's judgment, the matter is of such importance that it is fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements. The matter did not require significant auditor attention in the audit of the financial statements in the current period.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has not obtained any other information prior to the date of the auditor's report.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements¹⁸**Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or give a true and fair view of) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Company’s short-term marketable securities are carried in the statement of financial position at xxx. Management has not marked these securities to market but has instead stated them at cost, which constitutes a departure from IFRSs. The Company’s records indicate that had management marked the marketable securities to market, the Company would have recognized an unrealized loss of xxx in the statement of comprehensive income for the year. The carrying amount of the securities in the statement of financial position would have been reduced by the same amount at December 31, 20X1, and income tax, net income and shareholders’ equity would have been reduced by xxx, xxx and xxx, respectively.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Effects of a Fire

We draw attention to Note X of the financial statements, which describes the effects of a fire in the Company’s production facilities. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements¹⁹

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

¹⁸ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

¹⁹ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 710**

**COMPARATIVE INFORMATION—
CORRESPONDING FIGURES AND COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010)

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International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) 710, “Comparative Information—Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised) , “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to comparative information in an audit of financial statements. When the financial statements of the prior period have been audited by a predecessor auditor or were not audited, the requirements and guidance in ISA (UK and Ireland) 510 (Revised)¹ regarding opening balances also apply.

The Nature of Comparative Information

2. The nature of the comparative information that is presented in an entity's financial statements depends on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. There are two different broad approaches to the auditor's reporting responsibilities in respect of such comparative information: corresponding figures and comparative financial statements. The approach to be adopted is often specified by law or regulation but may also be specified in the terms of engagement.

2-1. In the UK and Ireland the corresponding figures method of presentation is usually required.

3. The essential audit reporting differences between the approaches are:
 - (a) For corresponding figures, the auditor's opinion on the financial statements refers to the current period only; whereas
 - (b) For comparative financial statements, the auditor's opinion refers to each period for which financial statements are presented.

This ISA (UK and Ireland) addresses separately the auditor's reporting requirements for each approach.

Effective Date

4. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2010.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether the comparative information included in the financial statements has been presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements for comparative information in the applicable financial reporting framework; and
 - (b) To report in accordance with the auditor's reporting responsibilities.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 510 (Revised), "Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances."

Definitions

6. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
- (a) Comparative information – The amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements in respect of one or more prior periods in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
 - (b) Corresponding figures – Comparative information where amounts and other disclosures for the prior period are included as an integral part of the current period financial statements, and are intended to be read only in relation to the amounts and other disclosures relating to the current period (referred to as “current period figures”). The level of detail presented in the corresponding amounts and disclosures is dictated primarily by its relevance to the current period figures.
 - (c) Comparative financial statements – Comparative information where amounts and other disclosures for the prior period are included for comparison with the financial statements of the current period but, if audited, are referred to in the auditor’s opinion. The level of information included in those comparative financial statements is comparable with that of the financial statements of the current period.

For purposes of this ISA (UK and Ireland), references to “prior period” should be read as “prior periods” when the comparative information includes amounts and disclosures for more than one period.

Requirements

Audit Procedures

7. The auditor shall determine whether the financial statements include the comparative information required by the applicable financial reporting framework and whether such information is appropriately classified. For this purpose, the auditor shall evaluate whether:
- (a) The comparative information agrees with the amounts and other disclosures presented in the prior period or, when appropriate, have been restated; (Ref: Para. A1-1) and
 - (b) The accounting policies reflected in the comparative information are consistent with those applied in the current period or, if there have been changes in accounting policies, whether those changes have been properly accounted for and adequately presented and disclosed.
8. If the auditor becomes aware of a possible material misstatement in the comparative information while performing the current period audit, the auditor shall perform such additional audit procedures as are necessary in the circumstances to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to determine whether a material misstatement exists. If the auditor had audited the prior period’s financial statements, the auditor shall also follow the relevant requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 560.² If the prior period financial statements

² ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, “Subsequent Events,” paragraphs 14-17.

are amended, the auditor shall determine that the comparative information agrees with the amended financial statements.

9. As required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 580,³ the auditor shall request written representations for all periods referred to in the auditor's opinion. The auditor shall also obtain a specific written representation regarding any restatement made to correct a material misstatement in prior period financial statements that affect the comparative information. (Ref: Para. A1)

Audit Reporting

Corresponding Figures

10. When corresponding figures are presented, the auditor's opinion shall not refer to the corresponding figures except in the circumstances described in paragraphs 11, 12, and 14. (Ref: Para. A2)
11. If the auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion, or an adverse opinion and the matter which gave rise to the modification is unresolved, the auditor shall modify the auditor's opinion on the current period's financial statements. In the Basis for Modification paragraph in the auditor's report, the auditor shall either:
 - (a) Refer to both the current period's figures and the corresponding figures in the description of the matter giving rise to the modification when the effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are material; or
 - (b) In other cases, explain that the audit opinion has been modified because of the effects or possible effects of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures. (Ref: Para. A3-A5)
12. If the auditor obtains audit evidence that a material misstatement exists in the prior period financial statements on which an unmodified opinion has been previously issued, and the corresponding figures have not been properly restated or appropriate disclosures have not been made, the auditor shall express a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion in the auditor's report on the current period financial statements, modified with respect to the corresponding figures included therein. (Ref: Para. A6)

Prior Period Financial Statements Audited by a Predecessor Auditor

13. If the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor and the auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures and decides to do so, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report:
 - (a) That the financial statements of the prior period were audited by the predecessor auditor;
 - (b) The type of opinion expressed by the predecessor auditor and, if the opinion was modified, the reasons therefore; and

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 580, "Written Representations," paragraph 14.

- (c) The date of that report. (Ref: Para. A7 – A7-~~32~~)

Prior Period Financial Statements Not Audited

14. If the prior period financial statements were not audited, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor’s report that the corresponding figures are unaudited. Such a statement does not, however, relieve the auditor of the requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period’s financial statements.⁴ (Ref: Para. A7a)

Comparative Financial Statements

15. When comparative financial statements are presented, the auditor’s opinion shall refer to each period for which financial statements are presented and on which an audit opinion is expressed. (Ref: Para. A8-A9)
16. When reporting on prior period financial statements in connection with the current period’s audit, if the auditor’s opinion on such prior period financial statements differs from the opinion the auditor previously expressed, the auditor shall disclose the substantive reasons for the different opinion in an Other Matter paragraph in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised).⁵ (Ref: Para. A10)

Prior Period Financial Statements Audited by a Predecessor Auditor

17. If the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor, in addition to expressing an opinion on the current period’s financial statements, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph:
- (a) that the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor;
 - (b) the type of opinion expressed by the predecessor auditor and, if the opinion was modified, the reasons therefore; and
 - (c) the date of that report,
- unless the predecessor auditor’s report on the prior period’s financial statements is reissued with the financial statements.
18. If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement exists that affects the prior period financial statements on which the predecessor auditor had previously reported without modification, the auditor shall communicate the misstatement with the appropriate level of management and, unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity,⁶ those charged with governance and request that the predecessor auditor be informed. If the prior period financial statements are amended, and the predecessor auditor agrees to issue a new auditor’s report on the amended financial statements of the prior period, the auditor shall report only on the current period. (Ref: Para. A11)

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 510 (Revised), paragraph 6.

⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised), “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraph 8.

⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance,” paragraph 13.

Prior Period Financial Statements Not Audited

19. If the prior period financial statements were not audited, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph that the comparative financial statements are unaudited. Such a statement does not, however, relieve the auditor of the requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements.⁷ (Ref: Para. A12)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Audit Procedures (Ref: Para. 7(a))

A1-1. When evaluating whether the comparative information agrees with the amounts and other disclosures presented in the prior period or, where appropriate, have been restated, the auditor's procedures include checking whether the related opening balances in the accounting records were appropriately brought forward.

Written Representations (Ref: Para. 9)

- A1. In the case of comparative financial statements, the written representations are requested for all periods referred to in the auditor's opinion because management needs to reaffirm that the written representations it previously made with respect to the prior period remain appropriate. In the case of corresponding figures, the written representations are requested for the financial statements of the current period only because the auditor's opinion is on those financial statements, which include the corresponding figures. However, the auditor requests a specific written representation regarding any restatement made to correct a material misstatement in the prior period financial statements that affect the comparative information.

Audit Reporting

Corresponding Figures

No Reference in Auditor's Opinion (Ref: Para. 10)

- A2. The auditor's opinion does not refer to the corresponding figures because the auditor's opinion is on the current period financial statements as a whole, including the corresponding figures.

Modification in Auditor's Report on the Prior Period Unresolved (Ref: Para. 11)

- A3. When the auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion, or an adverse opinion and the matter which gave rise to the modified opinion is resolved and properly accounted for or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, the auditor's opinion on the current period need not refer to the previous modification.

⁷ ISA (UK and Ireland) 510 (Revised), paragraph 6.

A3-1. In some circumstances the auditor may consider it appropriate to qualify the audit opinion on the current period's financial statements. For example, if a provision which the auditor considered should have been made in the previous period is made in the current period.

A4. When the auditor's opinion on the prior period, as previously expressed, was modified, the unresolved matter that gave rise to the modification may not be relevant to the current period figures. Nevertheless, a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion, or an adverse opinion (as applicable) may be required on the current period's financial statements because of the effects or possible effects of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current and corresponding figures.

A5. Illustrative examples of the auditor's report if the auditor's report on the prior period included a modified opinion and the matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved are contained in Illustrations 1 and 2 of the Appendix.^{7a}

Misstatement in Prior Period Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 12)

A6. When the prior period financial statements that are misstated have not been amended and an auditor's report has not been reissued, but the corresponding figures have been properly restated or appropriate disclosures have been made in the current period financial statements, the auditor's report may include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph describing the circumstances and referring to where relevant disclosures that fully describe the matter can be found in the financial statements (see ISA (UK and Ireland) 706 (Revised)).

Prior Period Financial Statements Audited by a Predecessor Auditor (Ref: Para. 13)

A7. An illustrative example of the auditor's report if the prior period financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor and the auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures is contained in Illustration 3 of the Appendix.^{7a}

A7-1. In the UK and Ireland the incoming auditor does not refer to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures in the incoming auditor's report for the current period. The incoming auditor assumes audit responsibility for the corresponding figures only in the context of the financial statements as a whole. The incoming auditor reads the preceding period's financial statements and, using the knowledge gained during the current audit, considers whether they have been properly reflected as corresponding figures in the current period's financial statements.

A7-2. Although the incoming auditor is not required to re-audit the financial statements of the preceding period, if the incoming auditor becomes aware of a possible material misstatement of corresponding figures, the requirement and guidance in paragraphs 12 and A6 apply.

A7-3. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the incoming auditor may become aware of a possible material misstatement of corresponding figures as part of

^{7a} The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland. ~~Illustrative auditor's reports tailored for use with audits conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) are given in the current versions of the APB Compendia Auditor's Report Bulletins.~~

the requirement in ISA (UK and Ireland) 510 (Revised) to obtain an understanding of the methodology used to carry out the audit in the preceding period.^{7b}

Prior Period Financial Statements Not Audited (Ref: Para. 14)

A7a. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the opening balances, the auditor is required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised)⁸ to express a qualified opinion or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements, as appropriate, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised). If the auditor encountered significant difficulty in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements, the auditor may determine this to be a key audit matter in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701.⁹ [IAASB/AR]

Comparative Financial Statements

Reference in Auditor's Opinion (Ref: Para. 15)

- A8. Because the auditor's report on comparative financial statements applies to the financial statements for each of the periods presented, the auditor may express a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion, disclaim an opinion, or include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph with respect to one or more periods, while expressing a different auditor's opinion on the financial statements of the other period.
- A9. An illustrative example of the auditor's report if the auditor is required to report on both the current and the prior period financial statements in connection with the current year's audit and the prior period included a modified opinion and the matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved, is contained in Illustration 4 of the Appendix.^{7a}

Opinion on Prior Period Financial Statements Different from Previous Opinion (Ref: Para. 16)

A10. When reporting on the prior period financial statements in connection with the current period's audit, the opinion expressed on the prior period financial statements may be different from the opinion previously expressed if the auditor becomes aware of circumstances or events that materially affect the financial statements of a prior period during the course of the audit of the current period. In some jurisdictions, the auditor may have additional reporting responsibilities designed to prevent future reliance on the auditor's previously issued report on the prior period financial statements.

Prior Period Financial Statements Audited by a Predecessor Auditor (Ref: Para. 18)

A11. The predecessor auditor may be unable or unwilling to reissue the auditor's report on the prior period financial statements. An Other Matter paragraph of the auditor's report may indicate that the predecessor auditor reported on the financial statements of the prior period before amendment. In addition, if the auditor is engaged to audit and obtains sufficient

^{7b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 510 (Revised), "Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances", paragraph 8R-1.

⁸ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report"

⁹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 701, "Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report"

appropriate audit evidence to be satisfied as to the appropriateness of the amendment, the auditor's report may also include the following paragraph:

As part of our audit of the 20X2 financial statements, we also audited the adjustments described in Note X that were applied to amend the 20X1 financial statements. In our opinion, such adjustments are appropriate and have been properly applied. We were not engaged to audit, review, or apply any procedures to the 20X1 financial statements of the company other than with respect to the adjustments and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on the 20X1 financial statements taken as a whole.

Prior Period Financial Statements Not Audited (Ref: Para. 19)

A12. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the opening balances, the auditor is required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised) to express a qualified opinion or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements, as appropriate, in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised). If the auditor encountered significant difficulty in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements, the auditor may determine this to be a key audit matter in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 701. [IAASB/AR]

Illustrations of Example Auditor's Reports

The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland. ~~Illustrative auditor's reports tailored for use with audits conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) are given in the current versions of the APB Compendia Auditor's Report Bulletins.~~

Note: Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the Opinion section has been positioned first in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised), and the Basis for Opinion section is positioned immediately after the Opinion section. Also, the first and last sentence that was included in the extant auditor's responsibilities section is now subsumed as part of the new Basis for Opinion section.

Illustration 1 Example A - Corresponding Figures (Ref: Para. A5)

For purposes of this Report illustrative auditor's report, the following of the circumstances are assumed described in paragraph 11(a), as follows:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600¹⁰ does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).¹¹
- The auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion.
- The matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved.
- The effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are material and require a modification to the auditor's opinion regarding the current period figures.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).¹²
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.¹³
- The auditor has not obtained any other information prior to the date of the auditor's report.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

¹⁰ ISA 600, Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)

¹¹ ISA 210 (Revised), Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements

¹² ISA 570 (Revised), Going Concern

¹³ ISA 701, Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements¹⁴

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the ~~statement of financial position~~~~balance sheet~~ as at December 31, 20X1, and the ~~income statement~~ of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows ~~statement~~ for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information~~.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report*~~paragraph~~, the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of ~~the~~ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As discussed in Note X to the financial statements, no depreciation has been provided in the financial statements, which constitutes a departure from ~~International Financial Reporting Standards~~. This is the result of a decision taken by management at the start of the preceding financial year and caused us to qualify our audit opinion on the financial statements relating to that year. Based on the straight-line method of depreciation and annual rates of 5% for the building and 20% for the equipment, the loss for the year should be increased by xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0, property, plant and equipment should be reduced by accumulated depreciation of xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0, and the accumulated loss should be increased by xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged With Governance²~~s~~¹⁵ **Responsibility** for the Financial Statements¹⁶

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

¹⁴ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

¹⁵ ~~Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.~~

¹⁶ Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction

~~Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,¹⁷ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.~~

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

~~*[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]*~~

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation¹⁸ of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.¹⁹ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.~~

~~We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.~~

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

~~*[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]*~~

¹⁷—Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such"

¹⁸—In the case of footnote 10, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control."

¹⁹—In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances." In the case of footnote 10, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."

~~[Form and content of this section of the auditor's report will vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities.]~~

~~[Auditor's Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]~~

~~[Auditor's Aaddress]-~~

~~[Date of the auditor's report]~~

Illustration 2 Example B - Corresponding Figures (Ref: Para. A5)

~~For purposes of this Report~~ illustrative auditor's report the following ~~of the~~ circumstances are ~~assumed described in paragraph 11(b), as follows:~~

- ~~Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).~~
- ~~The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).~~
- ~~The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).~~
- The auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion.
- The matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved.
- The effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are immaterial but require a modification to the auditor's opinion because of the effects or possible effects of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures.
- ~~The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.~~
- ~~Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).~~
- ~~The auditor is not required, and has otherwise has not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.~~
- ~~The auditor has not obtained any other information prior to the date of the auditor's report.~~
- ~~Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.~~
- ~~In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.~~

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [~~or Other~~ Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements²⁰

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the ~~statement of financial position~~ balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the ~~income~~ statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows

²⁰ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

~~statement~~ for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information~~.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects on the corresponding figures of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion ~~section of our report~~~~paragraph~~, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Because we were appointed auditors of the ABC Company during 20X0, we were not able to observe the counting of the physical inventories at the beginning of that period or satisfy ourselves concerning those inventory quantities by alternative means. Since opening inventories affect the determination of the results of operations, we were unable to determine whether adjustments to the results of operations and opening retained earnings might be necessary for 20X0. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the period ended December 31, 20X0 was modified accordingly. Our opinion on the current period's financial statements is also modified because of the possible effect of this matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged With Governance²¹ Responsibility for the Financial Statements²²

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

~~Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,²³ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.~~

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

²¹—Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

²²—Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction

²³—Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ..."

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation²⁴ of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.²⁵ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.~~

~~We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.~~

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

~~[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]~~

~~[Form and content of this section of the auditor's report will vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities.]~~

~~[*Auditor's sSignature* in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]~~

~~[Auditor's Aaddress]~~

~~[Date of the auditor's report]~~

²⁴— In the case of footnote 15, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control."

²⁵— In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances." In the case of footnote 15, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."

Illustration 3 Example C - Corresponding Figures: (Ref: Para. A7)

For purposes of this Report illustrative auditor's report the following of the circumstances are assumed described in paragraph 13, as follows:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise has not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Corresponding figures are presented, and tThe prior period's financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor.
- The auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures and decides to do so.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements²⁶

Opinion

We have audited the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the ~~statement of financial position~~balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the ~~income~~ statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows

²⁶ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

~~statement~~ for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information.~~

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of theABC Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Other Matter

The financial statements of theABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X0, were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on March 31, 20X1.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged With Governance²⁷ Responsibility for the Financial Statements²⁸

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).] Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,²⁹ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards~~

²⁷—Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

²⁸ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction

²⁹—Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

~~require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation³⁰ of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.³¹ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.~~

~~We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.~~

~~Other Matter~~

~~The financial statements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X0, were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on March 31, 20X1.~~

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

~~*[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]* *[Form and content of this section of the auditor's report will vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities.]*~~

~~*[Auditor's Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]*~~

~~*[Auditor's Address]*~~

~~*[Date of the auditor's report]*~~

³⁰ ~~In the case of footnote 20, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control."~~

³¹ ~~In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances." In the case of footnote 20, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."~~

Illustration 4 Example D - Comparative Financial Statements: (Ref: Para. A9)

For purposes of this Report illustrative auditor's report of the following circumstances are assumed described in paragraph 15, as follows:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor is required to report on both the current period financial statements and the prior period financial statements in connection with the current year's audit.
- The auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion.
- The matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved.
- The effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are material to both the current period financial statements and prior period financial statements and require a modification to the auditor's opinion.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise has not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has not obtained any other information prior to the date of the auditor's report.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements³²**Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the ~~statements of financial position~~balance sheets as at December 31, 20X1 and 20X0, and the ~~statements of comprehensive~~income~~statements~~, statements of changes in equity and

³² The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

statements of cash flows ~~statements~~ for the years then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information~~.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1 and 20X0 and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As discussed in Note X to the financial statements, no depreciation has been provided in the financial statements, which constitutes a departure from ~~International Financial Reporting Standards~~. Based on the straight-line method of depreciation and annual rates of 5% for the building and 20% for the equipment, the loss for the year should be increased by xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0, property, plant and equipment should be reduced by accumulated depreciation of xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0, and the accumulated loss should be increased by xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance^{26,33} ~~Responsibility~~ for the Financial Statements³⁴

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).] Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,³⁵ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibilities ~~for the Audit of the Financial Statements~~

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards~~

³³ — Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

³⁴ — Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction

³⁵ — Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

~~require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation³⁶ of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.³⁷ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.~~

~~We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.~~

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

~~*[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]*~~

~~[Form and content of this section of the auditor's report will vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities.]~~

~~*[Auditor's sSignature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]*~~

~~*[Auditor's Address]*~~

~~*[Date of the auditor's report]*~~

³⁶— ~~In the case of footnote 25, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control."~~

³⁷— ~~In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances." In the case of footnote 25, this may read: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."~~

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING
(UK AND IRELAND) 720 (REVISED)

THE AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO OTHER INFORMATION

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ~~commencing~~ending on or after ~~17 June~~December 15,
2016)

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ISA (UK AND IRELAND) 720 (REVISED), THE AUDITOR’S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO OTHER INFORMATION

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Appendix 1: Examples of Amounts or Other Items that May be Included in the Other Information

Appendix 2: Illustrations of Auditor’s Reports Relating to Other Information

International Standard on Auditing (ISA) (UK and Ireland) 720 (Revised), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information,” should be read in conjunction with ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).”

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) (ISA (UK and Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to other information, whether financial or non-financial information (other than financial statements and the auditor's report thereon), included in an entity's annual report. An entity's annual report may be a single document or a combination of documents that serve the same purpose.

1-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, this ISA (UK and Ireland) also deals with the additional obligation imposed by law on the auditor to report on the statutory other information based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit.

2. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is written in the context of an audit of financial statements by an independent auditor. Accordingly, the objectives of the auditor in this ISA (UK and Ireland) are to be understood in the context of the overall objectives of the auditor as stated in paragraph 11 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised).¹ The requirements in the ISAs (UK and Ireland) are designed to enable the auditor to achieve the objectives specified in the ISAs (UK and Ireland), and thereby the overall objectives of the auditor. The auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, nor does this ISA (UK and Ireland) require the auditor to obtain audit evidence beyond that required to form an opinion on the financial statements.
3. This ISA (UK and Ireland) requires the auditor to read and consider the other information because other information that is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit may indicate that there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or that a material misstatement of the other information exists, either of which may undermine the credibility of the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. Such material misstatements may also inappropriately influence the economic decisions of the users for whom the auditor's report is prepared.
4. This ISA (UK and Ireland) may also assist the auditor in complying with relevant ethical requirements² that require the auditor to avoid being knowingly associated with information that the auditor believes contains a materially false or misleading statement, statements or information furnished recklessly, or omits or obscures information required to be included where such omission or obscurity would be misleading.
5. Other information may include amounts or other items that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail, about amounts or other items in the financial statements, and other amounts or other items about which the auditor has obtained knowledge in the audit. Other information may also include other matters.
6. The auditor's responsibilities relating to other information (other than applicable reporting responsibilities) apply regardless of whether the other information is obtained by the auditor prior to, or after, the date of the auditor's report.

¹ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), "Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland)."

² International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' "Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants" (IESBA Code), paragraph 110.2.

ISA (UK AND IRELAND) 720 (REVISED), THE AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO OTHER INFORMATION

7. This ISA (UK and Ireland) does not apply to:
 - (a) Preliminary announcements of financial information; or
 - (b) Securities offering documents, including prospectuses.
8. The auditor's responsibilities under this ISA (UK and Ireland) do not constitute an assurance engagement on other information or impose an obligation on the auditor to obtain assurance about the other information.
9. Law or regulation may impose additional obligations on the auditor in relation to other information that are beyond the scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Effective Date

10. This ISA (UK and Ireland) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 17 JuneDecember 15, 2016.

Objectives

11. The objectives of the auditor, having read the other information, are:
 - (a) To consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the financial statements;
 - (b) To consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit;
 - (c) To respond appropriately when the auditor identifies that such material inconsistencies appear to exist, or when the auditor otherwise becomes aware that other information appears to be materially misstated; and
 - (d) To report in accordance with this ISA (UK and Ireland).
 - (e) For statutory audits of financial statements, to form an opinion on whether the information given in the other information is consistent with the financial statements and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit and to report in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Definitions

12. For purposes of the ISAs (UK and Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Annual report – A document, or combination of documents, prepared typically on an annual basis by management or those charged with governance in accordance with law, regulation or custom, the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on the entity's operations and the entity's financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements. An annual report contains or accompanies the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon and usually includes information about the entity's developments, its future outlook and risks and uncertainties, a statement by the entity's governing body, and reports covering governance matters. (Ref: Para. A1–A5)
 - (b) Misstatement of the other information – A misstatement of the other information exists when the other information is incorrectly stated or otherwise misleading (including because it omits or obscures information necessary for a proper understanding of a matter disclosed in the other information). (Ref: Para. A6–A7)

In the UK and Ireland, a misstatement of the other information also exists when the statutory other information has not been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the applicable other information reporting framework for the statutory other information.

- (c) Other information – Financial or non-financial information (other than financial statements and the auditor's report thereon) included in an entity's annual report. (Ref: Para. A8–A10)

In the UK and Ireland, the other information includes at least:

- (i) the statutory other information; and
- (ii) any other reports or documents that are included [or incorporated by cross-reference] in, or issued to shareholders broadly concurrently with, the entity's annual report either voluntarily or pursuant to law or regulation or the requirements of a stock exchange listing.

- (d) Applicable other information reporting framework – The applicable reporting framework adopted by management and, where applicable, those charged with governance, in the preparation of the other information that is acceptable in view of the nature of the entity and the objectives of the other information, or that is required by law or regulation.

- (e) Statutory other information – For statutory audits of financial statements, those documents or reports that are required to be prepared and issued by entities (including any reports or documents that are incorporated by cross reference) in relation to which the auditor is required to report publicly in accordance with law or regulation. (Ref: Para A10-1)

In the UK, the statutory other information includes, where required to be prepared, at least:

- (i) the director's report;
- (ii) the strategic report;
- (iii) the separate corporate governance statement.

In Ireland, the statutory other information includes, where required to be prepared, at least:

- (i) the director's report;
- (ii) the separate corporate governance statement.

Requirements

Obtaining an Understanding of the Entity and its Environment relating to Other Information

12D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, as part of obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised)^{2a}, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of:

^{2a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 315 (Revised), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and its Environment," paragraph 11.

- (a) The applicable other information reporting framework for the statutory other information; and
- (b) How the entity is complying with that framework.

Obtaining the Other Information

13. The auditor shall: (Ref: Para. A11–A22-1)
- (a) Determine, through discussion with management, which document(s) comprises the annual report, and the entity's planned manner and timing of the issuance of such document(s);
 - (b) Make appropriate arrangements with management to obtain in a timely manner and, if possible, prior to the date of the auditor's report, the final version of the document(s) comprising the annual report; and
 - (c) When some or all of the document(s) determined in (a) will not be available until after the date of the auditor's report, request management to provide a written representation that the final version of the document(s) will be provided to the auditor when available, and prior to its issuance by the entity, such that the auditor can complete the procedures required by this ISA (UK and Ireland). (Ref: Para. A22)

Reading and Considering the Other Information

14. The auditor shall read the other information and, in doing so shall: (Ref: Para. A23–A24)
- (a) Consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the financial statements. As the basis for this consideration, the auditor shall, to evaluate their consistency, compare selected amounts or other items in the other information (that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail about, the amounts or other items in the financial statements) with such amounts or other items in the financial statements; and (Ref: Para. A25–A29)
 - (b) Consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, in the context of audit evidence obtained and conclusions reached in the audit. (Ref: Para. A30–A36)

14D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, in reading the statutory other information, the auditor shall consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the statutory other information and the requirements of the applicable other information reporting framework for the statutory other information, in the context of audit evidence obtained and conclusions reached in the audit and the auditor's understanding of that framework. (Ref: Para. A36-1)

14-2. For statutory audits of financial statements, as the basis for the consideration required by paragraphs 14(a), 14(b) and 14D-1, the auditor shall perform such procedures as are necessary in the auditor's professional judgment to identify any material inconsistencies between:

- (a) The other information and the financial statements;
- (b) The other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, in the context of audit evidence obtained and conclusions reached in the audit; and
- (c) The statutory other information and the requirements of the applicable other information reporting framework.

15. While reading the other information in accordance with paragraph 14, the auditor shall remain alert for indications that the other information not related to the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit appears to be materially misstated. (Ref: Para. A24, A37–A38)

Responding When a Material Inconsistency Appears to Exist or Other Information Appears to Be Materially Misstated

16. If the auditor identifies that a material inconsistency appears to exist (or becomes aware that the other information appears to be materially misstated), the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, if necessary, perform other procedures to conclude whether: (Ref: Para. A39–A43)
- (a) A material misstatement of the other information exists;
 - (b) A material misstatement of the financial statements exists; or
 - (c) The auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment needs to be updated.

Responding When the Auditor Concludes That a Material Misstatement of the Other Information Exists

17. If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement of the other information exists, the auditor shall request management to correct the other information. If management:
- (a) Agrees to make the correction, the auditor shall determine that the correction has been made; or
 - (b) Refuses to make the correction, the auditor shall communicate the matter with those charged with governance and request that the correction be made.
18. If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement exists in other information obtained prior to the date of the auditor's report, and the other information is not corrected after communicating with those charged with governance, the auditor shall take appropriate action, including: (Ref: Para. A44-~~A44-2~~)
- (a) Considering the implications for the auditor's report and communicating with those charged with governance about how the auditor plans to address the material misstatement in the auditor's report (see paragraph 22(e)(ii)); or (Ref: Para. A45-~~A45-1~~)
 - (b) Withdrawing from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation. (Ref: Para. A46–A47)
19. If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement exists in other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report, the auditor shall:
- (a) If the other information is corrected, perform the procedures necessary in the circumstances; or (Ref: Para. A48)
 - (b) If the other information is not corrected after communicating with those charged with governance, take appropriate action considering the auditor's legal rights and obligations, to seek to have the uncorrected material misstatement appropriately brought to the attention of users for whom the auditor's report is prepared. (Ref: Para. A49–A50)

Responding When a Material Misstatement in the Financial Statements Exists or the Auditor's Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment Needs to Be Updated

20. If, as a result of performing the procedures in paragraphs 14–15, the auditor concludes that a material misstatement in the financial statements exists or the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment needs to be updated, the auditor shall respond appropriately in accordance with the other ISAs (UK and Ireland). (Ref: Para. A51)

Reporting

21. The auditor's report shall include a separate section with a heading "Other Information", or other appropriate heading, when, at the date of the auditor's report:
- (a) For an audit of financial statements of a listed entity, the auditor has obtained, or expects to obtain, the other information; or
 - (b) For an audit of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity, the auditor has obtained some or all of the other information. (Ref: Para. A52)

In the UK and Ireland, the auditor's report shall always include a separate section in accordance with paragraph 21 as ISA (UK and Ireland) 700 (Revised) requires that the auditor shall not sign, and hence date, the auditor's report earlier than the date on which all the other information has been approved by those charged with governance and the auditor has considered all necessary available evidence.

22. When the auditor's report is required to include an Other Information section in accordance with paragraph 21, this section shall include: (Ref: Para. A53)
- (a) A statement that management is responsible for the other information;
 - (b) An identification of:
 - (i) Other information, if any, obtained by the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report; and
 - (ii) For an audit of financial statements of a listed entity, other information, if any, expected to be obtained after the date of the auditor's report;
 - (c) A statement that the auditor's opinion does not cover the other information and, accordingly, that the auditor does not express (or will not express) an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon;

In the UK and Ireland, where the auditor is required to express an opinion on some or all of the other information in accordance with paragraphs 22D-1 or 22D-2 or otherwise in accordance with law or regulation, the statement required by paragraph 22(c) shall be a modified statement that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in the auditor's report the auditor does not express (or will not express) an audit opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

- (d) A description of the auditor's responsibilities relating to reading, considering and reporting on other information as required by this ISA (UK and Ireland); and

In the UK and Ireland, the description of the auditor's responsibilities in relation to the other information required by paragraph 22(d) shall also include the auditor's responsibilities under paragraph 14D-1.

- (e) When other information has been obtained prior to the date of the auditor's report, either:
- (i) A statement that the auditor has nothing to report; or
 - (ii) If the auditor has concluded that there is an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information, a statement that describes the uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.

22D-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor shall in the auditor's report:

(Ref: Para A53-1)

(a) State whether, in the auditor's opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- (i) The information given in the strategic report (if any) and the directors' report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with those accounts; and
- (ii) Any such strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements;

(b) State whether, in the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, the auditor has identified material misstatements in the strategic report (if any) and the directors' report; and

(c) If applicable, give an indication of the nature of each of the misstatements referred to in paragraph 22D-1(b).

22D-2. For statutory audits of financial statements, where the entity prepares a separate corporate governance statement in respect of a financial year, the auditor shall in the auditor's report:

(a) State whether, in the auditor's opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the statement in compliance with rules 7.2.5 and 7.2.6 in the Disclosure Rules and Transparency Rules sourcebook made by the Financial Conduct Authority (information about internal control and risk management systems in relation to financial reporting processes and about share capital structures):

- (i) Is consistent with those accounts; and
- (ii) Has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements;

(b) State whether, in the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, the auditor has identified material misstatements in the information in the statement referred to in paragraph 22D-2(a);

(c) If applicable, give an indication of the nature of each of the misstatements referred to in paragraph 22D-2 (b), and

(d) State whether, in the auditor's opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, rules 7.2.2, 7.2.3 and 7.2.7 in the Disclosure Rules and Transparency Rules sourcebook made by the Financial Conduct Authority (information about the company's corporate governance code and practices and about its administrative, management and supervisory bodies and their committees) have been complied with, if applicable.

22-3. For entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code or to explain why they have not, in meeting its responsibilities under this ISA (UK and Ireland), the auditor shall specifically address each of the following elements of the other information:

(a) A statement given by the directors that they consider the annual report and accounts taken as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the entity's performance, business model and strategy, that is materially inconsistent with the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit;

(b) A section describing the work of the audit committee that does not appropriately address matters communicated by the auditor to the audit committee;

(c) An explanation, as to why the annual report does not include such a statement or section, that is materially inconsistent with the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit;

(d) The parts of the directors' statement required under the Listing Rules relating to the entity's compliance with the UK Corporate Governance Code containing provisions specified for review by the auditor in accordance with Listing Rule 9.8.10R(2) that do not properly disclose a departure from a relevant provision of the UK Corporate Governance Code; and

(e) The directors' statement relating to Going Concern required under the Listing Rules in accordance with Listing Rule 9.8.6R(3) is materially inconsistent with the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit.

In reporting under paragraph 21, the auditor shall report on each of these matters by providing a statement in accordance with paragraph 21(e) and shall describe the specific reporting responsibility relating to these matters in accordance with paragraph 21(d). If applicable, the auditor shall describe why the auditor believes that any such statement, section, or explanation or other information is materially inconsistent with the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise contains a material misstatement of the other information. If a section of the annual report describing the work of the audit committee does not appropriately disclose any matters communicated by the auditor to the audit committee that in the auditor's judgment should have been disclosed, or if the annual report does not contain such a section, the auditor's report shall also include any such information. (Ref: Para. A53-2) [ISA (UK&I) 700 Para 22B]

Statement on the Directors' Assessment of the Principal Risks that Would Threaten the Solvency or Liquidity of the Entity

22-4. For entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code or to explain why they have not, in meeting its requirements under this ISA (UK and Ireland), the auditor shall specifically

address each of the following elements of the other information, having particular regard to the work performed in accordance with the requirement of paragraph 18-2 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised):

- (a) The directors' confirmation in the annual report that they have carried out a robust assessment of the principal risks facing the entity, including those that would threaten its business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity;
- (b) The disclosures in the annual report that describe those risks and explain how they are being managed or mitigated; and
- (c) The director's explanation in the annual report as to how they have assessed the prospects of the entity, over what period they have done so and why they consider that period to be appropriate, and their statement as to whether they have a reasonable expectation that the entity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due over the period of their assessment, including any related disclosures drawing attention to any necessary qualifications or assumptions.

In reporting under paragraph 21, the description of the auditor's responsibilities in relation to the other information required by paragraph 22(d) shall also include its additional responsibilities under paragraph 18-2 of ISA (UK and Ireland) 570 (Revised) and its responsibility to report whether the auditor has anything material to add or draw attention to in relation to each of the above elements of the other information and shall provide either a statement in accordance with paragraph 21(e) or a statement that describes any other material information that the auditor considers it appropriate to add or draw attention to. [ISA (UK&I) 700 Para 22C]

23. When the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion in accordance with ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised)³, the auditor shall consider the implications of the matter giving rise to the modification of opinion for the statement required in paragraph 22(e). (Ref: Para. A54–A58)

Reporting Prescribed by Law or Regulation

24. If the auditor is required by law or regulation of a specific jurisdiction to refer to the other information in the auditor's report using a specific layout or wording, the auditor's report shall refer to International Standards on Auditing only if the auditor's report includes, at a minimum: (Ref: Para. A59-A59-1)
- (a) Identification of the other information obtained by the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report;
 - (b) A description of the auditor's responsibilities with respect to the other information; and
 - (c) An explicit statement addressing the outcome of the auditor's work for this purpose.

Documentation

25. In addressing the requirements of ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised)⁴ as it applies to this ISA (UK and Ireland), the auditor shall include in the audit documentation:

³ ISA (UK and Ireland) 705 (Revised), "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report."

⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 230 (Revised), "Audit Documentation," paragraphs 8–11.

- (a) Documentation of the procedures performed under this ISA (UK and Ireland); and
- (b) The final version of the other information on which the auditor has performed the work required under this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Definitions

Annual Report (Ref: Para. 12(a))

- A1. Law, regulation or custom may define the content of an annual report, and the name by which it is to be referred, for entities in a particular jurisdiction; however, the content and the name may vary within a jurisdiction and from one jurisdiction to another.
- A2. An annual report is typically prepared on an annual basis. However, when the financial statements being audited are prepared for a period less than or more than a year, an annual report may also be prepared that covers the same period as the financial statements.
- A3. In some cases, an entity's annual report may be a single document and referred to by the title "annual report" or by some other title. In other cases, law, regulation or custom may require the entity to report to owners (or similar stakeholders) information on the entity's operations and the entity's financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements (i.e., an annual report) by way of a single document, or by way of two or more separate documents that in combination serve the same purpose. For example, depending on law, regulation or custom in a particular jurisdiction, one or more of the following documents may form part of the annual report:
 - Management report, management commentary, or operating and financial review or similar reports by those charged with governance (for example, a directors' report).
 - Chairman's statement.
 - Corporate governance statement.
 - Internal control and risk assessment reports.
- A4. An annual report may be made available to users in printed form, or electronically, including on the entity's website. A document (or combination of documents) may meet the definition of an annual report, irrespective of the manner in which it is made available to users.
- A5. An annual report is different in nature, purpose and content from other reports, such as a report prepared to meet the information needs of a specific stakeholder group or a report prepared to comply with a specific regulatory reporting objective (even when such a report is required to be publicly available). Examples of reports that, when issued as standalone documents, are not typically part of the combination of documents that comprise an annual report (subject to law, regulation or custom), and that, therefore, are not other information within the scope of this ISA (UK and Ireland), include:
 - Separate industry or regulatory reports (for example, capital adequacy reports), such as may be prepared in the banking, insurance, and pension industries.
 - Corporate social responsibility reports.

- Sustainability reports.
- Diversity and equal opportunity reports.
- Product responsibility reports.
- Labor practices and working conditions reports.
- Human rights reports.

Misstatement of the Other Information (Ref: Para. 12(b))

- A6. When a particular matter is disclosed in the other information, the other information may omit or obscure information that is necessary for a proper understanding of that matter. For example, if the other information purports to address the key performance indicators used by management, then omission of a key performance indicator used by management could indicate that the other information is misleading.
- A7. The concept of materiality may be discussed in a framework applicable to the other information and, if so, such a framework may provide a frame of reference for the auditor in making judgments about materiality under this ISA (UK and Ireland). In many cases, however, there may be no applicable framework that includes a discussion of the concept of materiality as it applies to the other information. In such circumstances, the following characteristics provide the auditor with a frame of reference in determining if a misstatement of the other information is material:
- Materiality is considered in the context of the common information needs of users as a group. The users of the other information are expected to be the same as the users of the financial statements as such users may be expected to read the other information to provide context to the financial statements.
 - Judgments about materiality take into account the specific circumstances of the misstatement, considering whether users would be influenced by the effect of the uncorrected misstatement. Not all misstatements will influence the economic decisions of users.
 - Judgments about materiality involve both qualitative and quantitative considerations. Accordingly, such judgments may take into account the nature or magnitude of the items that the other information addresses in the context of the entity's annual report.

Other Information (Ref: Para. 12(c))

- A8. Appendix 1 contains examples of amounts or other items that may be included in the other information.
- A9. In some cases, the applicable financial reporting framework may require specific disclosures but permit them to be located outside of the financial statements.⁵ As such disclosures are required by the applicable financial reporting framework, they form part of the financial statements. Accordingly, they do not constitute other information for the purpose of this ISA (UK and Ireland).

⁵ For example, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 7, "Financial Instruments: Disclosures," permits certain disclosures required by the IFRSs to either be given in the financial statements or incorporated by cross-reference from the financial statements to some other statement, such as a management commentary or risk report, that is available to users of the financial statements on the same terms as the financial statements and at the same time.

- A10. eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) tags do not represent other information as defined in this ISA (UK and Ireland).

Statutory Other Information (Ref: Para. 12(e))

A10-1. Information given in the statutory other information includes information that is included by way of cross reference to other information presented separately from the statutory other information. For example, a UK entity may decide to present a voluntary Operating and Financial Review (OFR) which includes some or all of the matters required for the business performance review section of the Strategic Report or the Directors' Report. Rather than duplicate the information, the entity may cross refer from the Strategic Report or the Directors' Report to the relevant information provided in the OFR. [ISA (UK&I) 720B.3]

Obtaining the Other Information (Ref: Para. 13)

- A11. Determining the document(s) that is or comprises the annual report is often clear based on law, regulation or custom. In many cases, management or those charged with governance may have customarily issued a package of documents that together comprise the annual report, or may have committed to do so. In some cases, however, it may not be clear which document(s) is or comprises the annual report. In such cases, the timing and purpose of the documents (and for whom they are intended) are matters that may be relevant to the auditor's determination of which document(s) is or comprises the annual report.
- A12. When the annual report is translated into other languages pursuant to law or regulation (such as may occur when a jurisdiction has more than one official language), or when multiple "annual reports" are prepared under different legislation (for example, when an entity is listed in more than one jurisdiction), consideration may need to be given as to whether one, or more than one of the "annual reports" form part of the other information. Local law or regulation may provide further guidance in this respect.
- A13. Management, or those charged with governance, is responsible for preparing the annual report. The auditor may communicate with management or those charged with governance:
- The auditor's expectations in relation to obtaining the final version of the annual report (including a combination of documents that together comprise the annual report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report such that the auditor can complete the procedures required by this ISA (UK and Ireland) before the date of the auditor's report, or if that is not possible, as soon as practicable and in any case prior to the entity's issuance of such information.
 - The possible implications when the other information is obtained after the date of the auditor's report.
- A14. The communications referred to in paragraph A13 may be particularly appropriate for example:
- In an initial audit engagement.
 - When there has been a change in management or those charged with governance.
 - When other information is expected to be obtained after the date of the auditor's report.

- A15. Where those charged with governance are to approve the other information prior to its issuance by the entity, the final version of such other information is the one that has been approved by those charged with governance for issuance.
- A16. In some cases, the entity's annual report may be a single document to be released, in accordance with law or regulation or the entity's reporting practice, shortly after the entity's financial reporting period such that it is available to the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report. In other cases, such a document may not be required to be released until a later time, or at a time of the entity's choosing. There may also be circumstances when the entity's annual report is a combination of documents, each subject to different requirements or reporting practice by the entity with respect to the timing of their release.
- A17. There may be circumstances when, at the date of the auditor's report, the entity is considering the development of a document that may be part of the entity's annual report (for example, a voluntary report to stakeholders) but management is unable to confirm to the auditor the purpose or timing of such a document. If the auditor is unable to ascertain the purpose or timing of such a document, the document is not considered other information for purposes of this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#).
- A18. Obtaining the other information in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report enables any revisions that are found to be necessary to be made to the financial statements, the auditor's report, or the other information prior to their issuance. The audit engagement letter⁶ may make reference to an agreement with management to make available to the auditor the other information in a timely manner, and if possible prior to the date of the auditor's report.
- A19. When other information is only made available to users via the entity's website, the version of the other information obtained from the entity, rather than directly from the entity's website, is the relevant document on which the auditor would perform procedures in accordance with this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#). The auditor has no responsibility under this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) to search for other information, including other information that may be on the entity's website, nor to perform any procedures to confirm that other information is appropriately displayed on the entity's website or otherwise has been appropriately transmitted or displayed electronically.
- A20. The auditor is not precluded from dating or issuing the auditor's report if the auditor has not obtained some or all of the other information.
- In the UK and Ireland, ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 700 (Revised)^{6a} requires that the auditor shall not sign, and hence date, the report earlier than the date on which all the other information has been approved by those charged with governance and the auditor has considered all necessary available evidence.
- A21. When the other information is obtained after the date of the auditor's report, the auditor is not required to update the procedures performed in accordance with paragraphs 6 and 7 of ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 560.⁷

⁶ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 210, "Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements," paragraph A23.

^{6a} ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements," paragraph 49-2.

⁷ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 560, "Subsequent Events."

A22. ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 580⁸ establishes requirements and provides guidance on the use of written representations. The written representation required to be requested by paragraph 13(c) regarding other information that will be available only after the date of the auditor's report is intended to support the auditor's ability to complete the procedures required by this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) with respect to such information. In addition, the auditor may find it useful to request other written representations, for example, that:

- Management has informed the auditor of all the documents that it expects to issue that may comprise other information;
- The financial statements and any other information obtained by the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report are consistent with one another, and the other information does not contain any material misstatements; and
- With regard to other information that has not been obtained by the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report, that management intends to prepare and issue such other information and the expected timing of such issuance.

Reading and Considering the Other Information (Ref: Para. 14–15)

A23. The auditor is required by ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 200 [\(Revised\)](#)⁹ to plan and perform the audit with professional skepticism. Maintaining professional skepticism when reading and considering the other information includes, for example, recognizing that management may be overly optimistic about the success of its plans, and being alert to information that may be inconsistent with:

- (a) The financial statements; or
- (b) The auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit.

A24. In accordance with ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 220 [\(Revised\)](#),¹⁰ the engagement partner is required to take responsibility for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit engagement in compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. In the context of this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#), factors that may be taken into account when determining the appropriate engagement team members to address the requirements of paragraphs 14–15, include:

- The relative experience of engagement team members.
- Whether the engagement team members to be assigned the tasks have the relevant knowledge obtained in the audit to identify inconsistencies between the other information and that knowledge.
- The degree of judgment involved in addressing the requirements of paragraph 14–15. For example, performing procedures to evaluate the consistency of amounts in the other information that are intended to be the same as amounts in the financial statements may be carried out by less experienced engagement team members.

⁸ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 580, "Written Representations."

⁹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 200 [\(Revised\)](#), paragraph 15.

¹⁰ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 220 [\(Revised\)](#), "Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 15(a).

- Whether, in the case of a group audit, it is necessary to make inquiries of a component auditor in addressing the other information related to that component.

Considering Whether There is a Material Inconsistency between the Other Information and the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 14(a))

A25. Other information may include amounts or other items that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail about, the amounts or other items in the financial statements. Examples of such amounts or other items may include:

- Tables, charts or graphs containing extracts of the financial statements.
- A disclosure providing greater detail about a balance or account shown in the financial statements, such as “Revenue for 20X1 comprised XXX million from product X and YYY million from product Y.”
- Descriptions of the financial results, such as “Total research and development expense was XXX in 20X1.”

A26. In evaluating the consistency of selected amounts or other items in the other information with the financial statements, the auditor is not required to compare all amounts or other items in the other information that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail about, the amounts or other items in the financial statements, with such amounts or other items in the financial statements.

A27. Selecting the amounts or other items to compare is a matter of professional judgment. Factors relevant to this judgment include:

- The significance of the amount or other item in the context in which it is presented, which may affect the importance that users would attach to the amount or other item (for example, a key ratio or amount).
- If quantitative, the relative size of the amount compared with accounts or items in the financial statements or the other information to which they relate.
- The sensitivity of the particular amount or other item in the other information, for example, share based payments for senior management.

A28. Determining the nature and extent of procedures to address the requirement in paragraph 14(a) is a matter of professional judgment, recognizing that the auditor's responsibilities under this ISA (UK and Ireland) do not constitute an assurance engagement on the other information or impose an obligation to obtain assurance about the other information. Examples of such procedures include:

- For information that is intended to be the same as information in the financial statements, comparing the information to the financial statements.
- For information intended to convey the same meaning as disclosures in the financial statements, comparing the words used and considering the significance of differences in wording used and whether such differences imply different meanings.
- Obtaining a reconciliation between an amount within the other information and the financial statements from management and:
 - Comparing items in the reconciliation to the financial statements and the other information; and

- Checking whether the calculations within the reconciliation are arithmetically accurate.

A29. Evaluating the consistency of selected amounts or other items in the other information with the financial statements includes, when relevant given the nature of the other information, the manner of their presentation compared to the financial statements.

Considering Whether There Is a Material Inconsistency between the Other Information and the Auditor's Knowledge Obtained in the Audit (Ref: Para. 14(b))

A30. Other information may include amounts or items that are related to the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit (other than those in paragraph 14(a)). Examples of such amounts or items may include:

- A disclosure of the units produced, or a table summarizing such production by geographical region.
- A statement that "The company introduced product X and product Y during the year."
- A summary of the locations of the entity's major operations, such as "the entity's major center of operation is in country X, and there are also operations in countries Y and Z."

A31. The auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit includes the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control, obtained in accordance with ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 315 (Revised).¹¹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 315 (Revised) sets out the auditor's required understanding, which includes such matters as obtaining an understanding of:

- (a) The relevant industry, regulatory, and other external factors;
- (b) The nature of the entity;
- (c) The entity's selection and application of accounting policies;
- (d) The entity's objectives and strategies;
- (e) The measurement and review of the entity's financial performance; and
- (f) The entity's internal control.

A32. The auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit may also include matters that are prospective in nature. Such matters may include, for example, business prospects and future cash flows that the auditor considered when evaluating the assumptions used by management in performing impairment tests on intangible assets such as goodwill, or when evaluating management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

A33. In considering whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, the auditor may focus on those matters in the other information that are of sufficient importance that a misstatement of the other information in relation to that matter could be material.

A34. In relation to many matters in the other information, the auditor's recollection of the audit evidence obtained and conclusions reached in the audit may be sufficient to enable

¹¹ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 315 (Revised), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment," paragraphs 11–12.

the auditor to consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit. The more experienced and the more familiar with the key aspects of the audit the auditor is, the more likely it is that the auditor's recollection of relevant matters will be sufficient. For example, the auditor may be able to consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit in light of the auditor's recollection of discussions held with management or those charged with governance or findings from procedures carried out during the audit such as the reading of board minutes, without the need to take further action.

A35. The auditor may determine that referring to relevant audit documentation or making inquiries of relevant members of the engagement team or relevant component auditors is appropriate as a basis for the auditor's consideration of whether a material inconsistency exists. For example:

- When the other information describes the planned cessation of a major product line and, although the auditor is aware of the planned cessation, the auditor may make inquiries of the relevant engagement team member who performed the audit procedures in this area to support the auditor's consideration of whether the description is materially inconsistent with the auditor's knowledge obtained during the audit.
- When the other information describes important details of a lawsuit addressed in the audit, but the auditor cannot recall them adequately, it may be necessary to refer to the audit documentation where such details are summarized to support the auditor's recollection.

A36. Whether, and if so the extent to which, the auditor refers to relevant audit documentation, or makes inquiries of relevant members of the engagement team or relevant component auditors is a matter of professional judgment. However, it may not be necessary for the auditor to refer to relevant audit documentation, or to make inquiries of relevant members of the engagement team or relevant component auditors about any matter included in the other information.

Identifying whether the statutory other information has been prepared in accordance with the applicable other information reporting framework (Ref: Para. 14D-1)

A36-1. If the statutory other information has not been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the applicable other information reporting framework, the auditor considers whether the statutory other information appears to be materially misstated.

A36-2. In considering whether the statutory other information has been prepared in accordance with the applicable other information reporting framework, the auditor identifies whether information that is required by the applicable other information reporting framework to be included in the statutory other information has been omitted. This includes situations where the required information is presented separately from the statutory other information without appropriate cross reference.

A36-3. If the auditor concludes that the statutory other information has been prepared in accordance with the applicable other information reporting framework, the auditor

determines whether non-compliance with the applicable other information reporting framework has a material effect on the financial statements.^{11a}

A36-4. For statutory audits of financial statements of public-interest entities, the auditor considers whether to communicate any non-compliance with the applicable other information reporting framework in the additional report to the audit committee.^{11b}

Remaining Alert for Other Indications that the Other Information Appears to Be Materially Misstated (Ref: Para. 15)

A37. Other information may include discussion of matters that are not related to the financial statements and may also extend beyond the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit. For example, the other information may include statements about the entity's greenhouse gas emissions.

A38. Remaining alert for other indications that the other information not related to the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit appears to be materially misstated assists the auditor in complying with relevant ethical requirements that require the auditor to avoid being knowingly associated with other information that the auditor believes contains a materially false or misleading statement, a statement furnished recklessly, or omits or obscures necessary information such that the other information is misleading.¹² Remaining alert for other indications that the other information appears to be materially misstated could potentially result in the auditor identifying such matters as:

- Differences between the other information and the general knowledge, apart from the knowledge obtained in the audit, of the engagement team member reading the other information that lead the auditor to believe that the other information appears to be materially misstated; or
- An internal inconsistency in the other information that leads the auditor to believe that the other information appears to be materially misstated.

Responding When a Material Inconsistency Appears to Exist or Other Information Appears to Be Materially Misstated (Ref: Para. 16)

A39. The auditor's discussion with management about a material inconsistency (or other information that appears to be materially misstated) may include requesting management to provide support for the basis of management's statements in the other information. Based on management's further information or explanations, the auditor may be satisfied that the other information is not materially misstated. For example, management explanations may indicate reasonable and sufficient grounds for valid differences of judgment.

A40. Conversely, the discussion with management may provide further information that supports the auditor's conclusion that a material misstatement of the other information exists.

^{11a} ISA (UK and Ireland) 250 (Revised), "Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements."

^{11b} ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 (Revised), "Communication with Those Charged with Governance", paragraph 16R-2(k).

¹² IESBA Code, paragraph 110.2.

- A41. It may be more difficult for the auditor to challenge management on matters of judgment than on those of a more factual nature. However, there may be circumstances where the auditor concludes that the other information contains a statement that is not consistent with the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit. These circumstances may raise doubt about the other information, the financial statements, or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit.
- A42. As there is a wide range of possible material misstatements of the other information, the nature and extent of other procedures the auditor may perform to conclude whether a material misstatement of the other information exists are matters of the auditor's professional judgment in the circumstances.
- A43. When a matter is unrelated to the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, the auditor may not be able to fully assess management's responses to the auditor's inquiries. Nevertheless, based on management's further information or explanations, or following changes made by management to the other information, the auditor may be satisfied that a material inconsistency no longer appears to exist or that the other information no longer appears to be materially misstated. When the auditor is unable to conclude that a material inconsistency no longer appears to exist or that the other information no longer appears to be materially misstated, the auditor may request management to consult with a qualified third party (for example, a management's expert or legal counsel). In certain cases, after considering the responses from management's consultation, the auditor may not be able to conclude whether or not a material misstatement of the other information exists. Actions the auditor may then take include one or more of the following:
- Obtaining advice from the auditor's legal counsel;
 - Considering the implications for the auditor's report for example, whether to describe the circumstances when there is a limitation imposed by management; or
 - Withdrawing from the audit, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation.

Responding When the Auditor Concludes That a Material Misstatement of the Other Information Exists

Responding When the Auditor Concludes That a Material Misstatement Exists in Other Information Obtained prior to the Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 18)

- A44. The actions the auditor takes if the other information is not corrected after communicating with those charged with governance are a matter of the auditor's professional judgment. The auditor may take into account whether the rationale given by management and those charged with governance for not making the correction raises doubt about the integrity or honesty of management or those charged with governance, such as when the auditor suspects an intention to mislead. The auditor may also consider it appropriate to seek legal advice. In some cases, the auditor may be required by law, regulation or other professional standards to communicate the matter to a regulator or relevant professional body.

A44-1. If the auditor concludes that the other information contains inconsistencies with the financial statements or with the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, and the auditor is unable to resolve them through discussion with those charged with governance, the auditor considers requesting those charged with governance to consult

with a qualified third party, such as the entity's legal counsel and considers the advice received. [ISA (UK&I) 720.A6-1]

Further Actions Available to the Auditor when a Material Inconsistency or Material Misstatement of Fact in Other Information is not Corrected

A44-2. The auditor of a limited company in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland may use the auditor's right to be heard at any general meeting of the members on any part of the business of the meeting which concerns the auditor as auditor^{12a}. [ISA (UK&I) 720.A11-2]

Reporting Implications (Ref: Para. 18(a))

A45. In rare circumstances, a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements may be appropriate when the refusal to correct the material misstatement of the other information casts such doubt on the integrity of management and those charged with governance as to call into question the reliability of audit evidence in general.

A45-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, if the auditor concludes that the statutory other information contains inconsistencies with either:

- the financial statements; or
- the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit; or
- the requirements of the applicable other information reporting framework for the statutory other information,

and the auditor is unable to resolve them through discussion with those charged with governance, the auditor is required to include a statement in the auditor's report in accordance with paragraph 22D-1 or 22D-2 as appropriate.

Withdrawal from the Engagement (Ref: Para. 18(b))

A46. Withdrawal from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation, may be appropriate when the circumstances surrounding the refusal to correct the material misstatement of the other information cast such doubt on the integrity of management and those charged with governance as to call into question the reliability of representations obtained from them during the audit.

A46-1. In the case of auditors of limited companies in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, the requirements for the auditor to make a statement on ceasing to hold office as auditor apply^{12b}. In addition, in the UK the auditor may need to notify the relevant audit authority. [ISA (UK&I) 720.A11-3]

Considerations specific to public sector entities (Ref: Para. 18(b))

A47. In the public sector, withdrawal from the engagement may not be possible. In such cases, the auditor may issue a report to the legislature providing details of the matter or may take other appropriate actions.

^{12a} The relevant reference for the UK is section 502 of the Companies Act 2006, and for the Republic of Ireland is section 398 of the Companies Act 2014.

^{12b} The relevant reference for the UK is section 519 of the Companies Act 2006, and for the Republic of Ireland is section 400 of the Companies Act 2014.

Responding When the Auditor Concludes That a Material Misstatement Exists in Other Information Obtained after the Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 19)

- A48. If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement exists in other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report, and such a material misstatement has been corrected, the auditor's procedures necessary in the circumstances include determining that the correction has been made (in accordance with paragraph 17(a)) and may include reviewing the steps taken by management to communicate with those in receipt of the other information, if previously issued, to inform them of the revision.
- A49. If those charged with governance do not agree to revise the other information, taking appropriate action to seek to have the uncorrected misstatement appropriately brought to the attention of users for whom the auditor's report is prepared requires the exercise of professional judgment, and may be affected by relevant law or regulation in the jurisdiction. Accordingly, the auditor may consider it appropriate to seek legal advice about the auditor's legal rights and obligations.
- A50. When a material misstatement of the other information remains uncorrected, appropriate actions that the auditor may take to seek to have the uncorrected material misstatement appropriately brought to the attention of users for whom the auditor's report is prepared, when permitted by law or regulation, include, for example:
- Providing a new or amended auditor's report to management including a modified section in accordance with paragraph 22, and requesting management to provide this new or amended auditor's report to users for whom the auditor's report is prepared. In doing so, the auditor may need to consider the effect, if any, on the date of the new or amended auditor's report, in view of the requirements of the ISAs [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) or applicable law or regulation. The auditor may also review the steps taken by management to provide the new or amended auditor's report to such users;
 - Bringing the material misstatement of the other information to the attention of the users for whom the auditor's report is prepared (for example, by addressing the matter in a general meeting of shareholders);
 - Communicating with a regulator or relevant professional body about the uncorrected material misstatement; or
 - Considering the implications for engagement continuance (see also paragraph A46).

Responding When a Material Misstatement in the Financial Statements Exists or the Auditor's Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment Needs to Be Updated (Ref: Para. 20)

- A51. In reading the other information, the auditor may become aware of new information that has implications for:
- The auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment and, accordingly, may indicate the need to revise the auditor's risk assessment.¹³

¹³ ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 315 (Revised), paragraphs 11, 31, and A1.

ISA (UK AND IRELAND) 720 (REVISED), THE AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO OTHER INFORMATION

- The auditor's responsibility to evaluate the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements.¹⁴
- The auditor's responsibilities relating to subsequent events.¹⁵

Reporting (Ref: Para. 21–24)

A52. For an audit of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity, the auditor may consider that the identification in the auditor's report of other information that the auditor expects to obtain after the date of the auditor's report would be appropriate in order to provide additional transparency about the other information that is subject to the auditor's responsibilities under this ISA (UK and Ireland). The auditor may consider it appropriate to do so, for example, when management is able to represent to the auditor that such other information will be issued after the date of the auditor's report.

Illustrative Statements (Ref: Para. 21–22)

A53. Illustrative examples of the "Other Information" section of the auditor's report are included in Appendix 2^{15a}.

Other Reporting Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 22D-1)

A53-1. In the UK, under Section 497A of the Companies Act 2006 the auditor is required to consider whether the information given in the separate Corporate Governance Statement in compliance with rules 7.2.5 and 7.2.6 in the Disclosure Rules and Transparency Rules sourcebook made by the Financial Conduct Authority (information about internal control and risk management systems in relation to financial reporting processes and about share capital structures) is consistent with those accounts, and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements. The auditor is also required to consider whether rules 7.2.2, 7.2.3 and 7.2.7 in the Disclosure Rules and Transparency Rules sourcebook made by the Financial Conduct Authority (information about the company's corporate governance code and practices and about its administrative, management and supervisory bodies and their committees) have been complied with.

A53-2. For entities that apply the UK Corporate Governance Code, the directors are required to give a statement in the annual report that they consider the annual report and accounts taken as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the entity's performance, business model and strategy. Such entities are also required to include a separate section of the annual report that describes the work of the audit committee in discharging its responsibilities. This should include, inter alia, the significant issues that the audit committee considered in relation to the financial statements, including appropriate matters considered that were communicated to it by the auditor, and how these issues were addressed. [ISA (UK&I) 700.A18A]

Reporting Implications When the Auditor's Opinion on the Financial Statements Is Qualified or Adverse (Ref: Para. 23)

A54. A qualified or adverse auditor's opinion on the financial statements may not have an impact on the statement required by paragraph 22(e) if the matter in respect of which

¹⁴ ISA (UK and Ireland) 450 (Revised), "Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit."

¹⁵ ISA (UK and Ireland) 560, paragraphs 10 and 14.

^{15a} The examples in Appendix 2 have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

the auditor's opinion has been modified is not included or otherwise addressed in the other information and the matter does not affect any part of the other information. For example, a qualified opinion on the financial statements because of non-disclosure of directors' remuneration as required by the applicable financial reporting framework may have no implications for the reporting required under this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#). In other circumstances, there may be implications for such reporting as described in paragraphs A55–A58.

Qualified Opinion Due to a Material Misstatement in the Financial Statements

A55. In circumstances when the auditor's opinion is qualified, consideration may be given as to whether the other information is also materially misstated for the same matter as, or a related matter to, the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the financial statements.

Qualified Opinion Due to Limitation of Scope

A56. When there is a limitation of scope with respect to a material item in the financial statements, the auditor will not have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence about that matter. In these circumstances, the auditor may be unable to conclude whether or not the amounts or other items in the other information related to this matter result in a material misstatement of the other information. Accordingly, the auditor may need to modify the statement required by paragraph 22(e) to refer to the auditor's inability to consider management's description of the matter in the other information in respect of which the auditor's opinion on the financial statements has been qualified as explained in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph. The auditor is nevertheless required to report any other uncorrected material misstatements of the other information that have been identified.

Adverse Opinion

A57. An adverse opinion on the financial statements relating to a specific matter(s) described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion paragraph does not justify the omission of reporting of material misstatements of the other information that the auditor has identified in the auditor's report in accordance with paragraph 22(e)(ii). When an adverse opinion has been expressed on the financial statements, the auditor may need to appropriately modify the statement required by paragraph 22(e) for example, to indicate that amounts or items in the other information is materially misstated for the same matter as, or a related matter to, the matter giving rise to the adverse opinion on the financial statements.

Disclaimer of Opinion

A58. When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, providing further details about the audit, including a section to address other information may overshadow the disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, in those circumstances, as required by ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#) 705 (Revised), the auditor's report does not include a section addressing the reporting requirements under this ISA [\(UK and Ireland\)](#).

Reporting Prescribed by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para. 24)

A59. ISA (UK and Ireland) 200¹⁶ explains that the auditor may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements in addition to the ISAs (UK and Ireland). Where this is the case, the auditor may be obliged to use a specific layout or wording in the auditor's report that differs from that described in this ISA (UK and Ireland). Consistency in the auditor's report, when the audit has been conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland), promotes credibility in the global marketplace by making more readily identifiable those audits that have been conducted in accordance with globally recognized standards. When the differences between the legal or regulatory requirements to report with respect to the other information and this ISA (UK and Ireland) relate only to the layout and wording in the auditor's report and, at a minimum, each of the elements identified in paragraph 24 is included in the auditor's report, the auditor's report may refer to International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, in such circumstances the auditor is considered to have complied with the requirements of this ISA (UK and Ireland), even when the layout and wording used in the auditor's report are specified by legal or regulatory reporting requirements.

A59-1. In the UK and Ireland, an example of an auditor's additional responsibilities for a listed company would include the auditor's review of whether the Corporate Governance Statement reflects the company's compliance with the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code specified by the Listing Rules for review by the auditor. [ISA (UK&I) 720.A1-1]

¹⁶ ISA (UK and Ireland) 200 (Revised), paragraph A55.

Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. 14, A8)

Examples of Amounts or Other Items that May Be Included in the Other Information

The following are examples of amounts and other items that may be included in other information. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Amounts

- Items in a summary of key financial results, such as net income, earnings per share, dividends, sales and other operating revenues, and purchases and operating expenses.
- Selected operating data, such as income from continuing operations by major operating area, or sales by geographical segment or product line.
- Special items, such as asset dispositions, litigation provisions, asset impairments, tax adjustments, environmental remediation provisions, and restructuring and reorganization expenses.
- Liquidity and capital resource information, such as cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities; dividends; and debt, capital lease and minority interest obligations.
- Capital expenditures by segment or division.
- Amounts involved in, and related financial effects of, off-balance sheet arrangements.
- Amounts involved in guarantees, contractual obligations, legal or environmental claims, and other contingencies.
- Financial measures or ratios, such as gross margin, return on average capital employed, return on average shareholders' equity, current ratio, interest coverage ratio and debt ratio. Some of these may be directly reconcilable to the financial statements.

Other Items

- Explanations of critical accounting estimates and related assumptions.
- Identification of related parties and descriptions of transactions with them.
- Articulation of the entity's policies or approach to manage commodity, foreign exchange or interest rate risks, such as through the use of forward contracts, interest rate swaps, or other financial instruments.
- Descriptions of the nature of off-balance sheet arrangements.
- Descriptions of guarantees, indemnifications, contractual obligations, litigation or environmental liability cases, and other contingencies, including management's qualitative assessments of the entity's related exposures.
- Descriptions of changes in legal or regulatory requirements, such as new tax or environmental regulations, that have materially impacted the entity's operations or fiscal position, or will have a material impact on the entity's future financial prospects.

ISA (UK AND IRELAND) 720 (REVISED), THE AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO OTHER INFORMATION

- Management's qualitative assessments of the impacts of new financial reporting standards that have come into effect during the period, or will come into effect in the following period, on the entity's financial results, financial position and cash flows.
- General descriptions of the business environment and outlook.
- Overview of strategy.
- Descriptions of trends in market prices of key commodities or raw materials.
- Contrasts of supply, demand and regulatory circumstances between geographic regions.
- Explanations of specific factors influencing the entity's profitability in specific segments.

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. 21–22, A53)

The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for the UK and Ireland.

Illustrations 2, 3 and 4 would not be relevant for audits of financial statements in the UK and Ireland as the auditor is required to obtain all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report.

Illustrations of Auditor's Reports Relating to Other Information

- Illustration 1: An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Illustration 2: An auditor's report of a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained part of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report, has not identified a material misstatement of the other information, and expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report of an entity other than a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained part of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report, has not identified a material misstatement of the other information, and expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.
- Illustration 4: An auditor's report of a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained no other information prior to the date of the auditor's report but expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.
- Illustration 5: An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has concluded that a material misstatement of the other information exists.
- Illustration 6: An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing a qualified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and there is a limitation of scope with respect to a material item in the consolidated financial statements which also affects the other information.
- Illustration 7: An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an adverse opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and the adverse opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information.

Illustration 1 – An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600¹⁷ does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).¹⁸
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.¹⁹
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements²⁰

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of

¹⁷ ISA 600, "Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)."

¹⁸ ISA 570 (Revised), "Going Concern."

¹⁹ ISA 701, "Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report." The Key Audit Matters section is required for listed entities only.

²⁰ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

[Key Audit Matters]²¹

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Other Information [or another title if appropriate, such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

Management²² is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the [information included in the X report,²³ but does not include the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon.]

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

²¹ The Key Audit Matters section is required for listed entities only.

²² Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

²³ A more specific description of the other information, such as “the management report and chairman’s statement,” may be used to identify the other information.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements²⁴

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised)²⁵ – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

[The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].²⁶]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

²⁴ Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

²⁵ ISA 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements."

²⁶ The name of the engagement partner is included in the auditor's report for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat (see ISA 700 (Revised), paragraph 46).

Illustration 2 – An auditor's report of a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained part of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report, has not identified a material misstatement of the other information, and expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained part of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report, has not identified a material misstatement of the other information, and expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements²⁷

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

²⁷ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Other Information [or another title if appropriate, such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

Management²⁸ is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the X report²⁹ (but does not include the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon), which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor’s report, and the Y report, which is expected to be made available to us after that date.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor’s report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

[When we read the Y report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and [describe actions applicable in the jurisdiction].]³⁰

²⁸ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

²⁹ A more specific description of the other information, such as “the management report and chair’s statement,” may be used to identify the other information.

³⁰ This additional paragraph may be useful when the auditor has identified an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report and has a legal obligation to take specific action in response.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements³¹

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is *[name]*.³²

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

³¹ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

³² The name of the engagement partner is included in the auditor's report for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat (see ISA 700 (Revised), paragraph 46).

Illustration 3 – An auditor's report of an entity other than a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained part of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report, has not identified a material misstatement of the other information, and expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained part of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report, has not identified a material misstatement of the other information, and expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under law or regulation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Company as at December 31,

20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate, such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

Management³³ is responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is [information included in the X report,³⁴ but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon].

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements³⁵

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

³³ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

³⁴ A more specific description of the other information, such as "the management report and chair's statement," may be used to identify the other information.

³⁵ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

Illustration 4 – An auditor's report of a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained no other information prior to the date of the auditor's report but expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained no other information prior to the date of the auditor's report but expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements³⁶

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (*or give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Company as at December 31,

³⁶ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[*Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.*]

Other Information [or another title if appropriate, such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]

Management³⁷ is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the [information included in the X report,³⁸ but does not include the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon]. The X report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

[When we read the X report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and [*describe actions applicable in the jurisdiction*].]³⁹

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements⁴⁰

[*Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).*]

³⁷ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

³⁸ A more specific description of the other information, such as “the management report and chair’s statement,” may be used to identify the other information.

³⁹ This additional paragraph may be useful when the auditor has identified an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report and has a legal obligation to take specific action in response.

⁴⁰ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is *[name]*.

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

Illustration 5 – An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has concluded that a material misstatement of the other information exists.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has concluded that a material misstatement of the other information exists
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under law or regulation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate, such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

Management⁴¹ is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the [information included in the X report,⁴² but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.]

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. As described below, we have concluded that such a material misstatement of the other information exists.

[Description of material misstatement of the other information]

[Key Audit Matters]⁴³

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements⁴⁴

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

⁴¹ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

⁴² A more specific description of the other information, such as "the management report and chairman's statement," may be used to identify the other information.

⁴³ The Key Audit Matters section is required for listed entities only.

⁴⁴ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

ISA (UK AND IRELAND) 720 (REVISED), THE AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO OTHER INFORMATION

[The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is *[name]*.⁴⁵]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

⁴⁵ The name of the engagement partner is included in the auditor's report for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat (see ISA 700 (Revised), paragraph 46).

Illustration 6 – An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing a qualified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and there is a limitation of scope with respect to a material item in the consolidated financial statements which also affects the other information.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 applies).
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The auditor was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding an investment in a foreign associate. The possible effects of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence are deemed to be material but not pervasive to the consolidated financial statements (i.e., a qualified opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information
- Those responsible for oversight of the consolidated financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under law or regulation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Group as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Group's investment in XYZ Company, a foreign associate acquired during the year and accounted for by the equity method, is carried at xxx on the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and ABC's share of XYZ's net income of xxx is included in ABC's income for the year then ended. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the carrying amount of ABC's investment in XYZ as at December 31, 20X1 and ABC's share of XYZ's net income for the year because we were denied access to the financial information, management, and the auditors of XYZ. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to these amounts were necessary.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate, such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

Management⁴⁶ is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the [information included in the X report,⁴⁷ but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.]

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. As described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section above, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about the carrying amount of ABC's investment in XYZ as at December 31, 20X1 and ABC's share of XYZ's net income for the year. Accordingly, we are unable to conclude whether or not the other information is materially misstated with respect to this matter.

⁴⁶ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

⁴⁷ A more specific description of the other information, such as "the management report and chairman's statement," may be used to identify the other information.

[Key Audit Matters]⁴⁸

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements⁴⁹

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

[The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].⁵⁰]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

⁴⁸ The Key Audit Matters section is required for listed entities only.

⁴⁹ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

⁵⁰ The name of the engagement partner is included in the auditor's report for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat (see ISA 700 (Revised), paragraph 46).

Illustration 7 – An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an adverse opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and the adverse opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 applies).
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210 (Revised).
- The consolidated financial statements are materially misstated due to the non-consolidation of a subsidiary. The material misstatement is deemed to be pervasive to the consolidated financial statements. The effects of the misstatement on the consolidated financial statements have not been determined because it was not practicable to do so (i.e., an adverse opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and the matter giving rise to the adverse opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information
- Those responsible for oversight of the consolidated financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under law or regulation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Adverse Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial statements do not present fairly (or *do not give a true and fair view of*) the consolidated financial position of the Group as at December 31, 20X1, and (*of*) its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Adverse Opinion

As explained in Note X, the Group has not consolidated subsidiary XYZ Company that the Group acquired during 20X1 because it has not yet been able to determine the fair values of certain of the subsidiary's material assets and liabilities at the acquisition date. This investment is therefore accounted for on a cost basis. Under IFRSs, the Group should have consolidated this subsidiary and accounted for the acquisition based on provisional amounts. Had XYZ Company been consolidated, many elements in the accompanying consolidated financial statements would have been materially affected. The effects on the consolidated financial statements of the failure to consolidate have not been determined.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in [*jurisdiction*], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate, such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

Management⁵¹ is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the [information included in the X report,⁵² but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.]

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. As described in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section above, the Group should have consolidated XYZ Company and accounted for the acquisition based on provisional amounts. We have concluded that the other information is materially misstated for the same reason with respect to the amounts or other items in the X report affected by the failure to consolidate XYZ Company.

⁵¹ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

⁵² A more specific description of the other information, such as "the management report and chairman's statement," may be used to identify the other information.

[Key Audit Matters]⁵³

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements⁵⁴

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in ISA 700 (Revised).]

[The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].⁵⁵]

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

⁵³ The Key Audit Matters section is required for listed entities only.

⁵⁴ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

⁵⁵ The name of the engagement partner is included in the auditor's report for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat (see ISA 700 (Revised), paragraph 46).



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