

Meeting: Internal Audit Sector Panel
Location: Virtual meeting
Date: 20 August 2024 – 10.30 AM

PRESENT

Lee Glover (Chair), Sophie Corbett, Neville de Spretter, Kiryl Katushkin, Brooke Love, Si Mathavan, Natalie Schopen, Sonia Shah, John Webb, Shamsul Zaman and Jon Bennett (observer).

APOLOGIES

Claire Pretty (Vice Chair), Tim Ahlborn, Zara Ambartsumova, Fadeke Ayoola, Annabel Faulkner, Sue Hibbert and Stephanie Hume.

IN ATTENDANCE

Rachael Johnson (Senior Subject Manager – Risk Management and Corporate Governance, ACCA) and Pat Delbridge (Sectors & Communities Manager, ACCA UK).

1 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the last meeting were agreed.

2 PANEL PURPOSE

The Panel was happy to keep its agreed purposes unchanged:

- Act as advocates for ACCA and share insight into the support that ACCA members working in Internal Audit would benefit from. ACCA will then seek to provide what support it can either with its own resources or in partnership with other organisations or professional bodies.
- As an Internal Audit panel within an accountancy body, this panel is uniquely placed to not only provide information and education to other members working in internal audit, but also members working in other sectors whose knowledge and understanding of Internal Audit may be limited. Discourse on shared experiences of internal auditors and future challenges provide a symbiotic environment to improve good governance and successful businesses.

3 ACCA POLICY & INSIGHTS – RACHAEL JOHNSON

Rachael Johnson - ACCA's Head of Risk Management and Corporate Governance for ACCA Policy & Insights – discussed the work she does in the risk and governance arena, the growing focus on the behaviours behind risks, as well as the evolving relationship between risk and Internal Audit in today's fast changing world.

Rachael highlighted the following reports and ACCA resources:

- ACCA's [Risk Culture podcast series](#)
- ACCA's report on [Risk cultures in banking](#)
- ACCA's report on [Risk Culture: Building resilience and seizing opportunities](#)
- Article in ACCA's Accounting & Business e-magazine in July 2024 on [Banks auditing culture](#)
- Culture Audit in Financial Services by [Dr Roger Miles](#)
- [Good Governance Academy webinar](#) on the risks and opportunities of Generative AI for companies and their governance.

The panel commented that whilst governance audits are straightforward, culture audits are difficult because organisations do not have one single cultures – the culture can vary significantly from area to area. For example, the back office will have a very different culture to the sales & marketing department. However internal auditors can audit behaviours rather than culture.

4 MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC)

The Panel noted the notes from the June meeting of ACCA UK's Member Advisory Committee which is made up of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all the UK sector panels and UK representatives of the International Assembly. MAC meets quarterly and will next meet in early September.

5 SUPPORT FOR INTERNAL AUDITORS

[INTERNAL AUDIT LENS PODCASTS](#)

The Panel noted the plans for upcoming episodes of the monthly Internal Audit Lens podcast series with episodes on AI adoption and utilisation, moving forward with AI, cyber security, the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS), auditing culture, and a series on ESG.

For the podcast on the new GIAS, the Panel suggested that the following questions be put to the subject matter expert:

- The standards require the internal auditor to have an input into what goes into the annual report and accounts, however internal auditors have almost no control over what goes into the annual report and accounts. That leaves internal auditors to try to influence people but that depends on the strength of the internal audit voice in the organisation. Does he have any suggestions for how they try and influence in the context of the new standards?
- Do the standards go far enough?
- Did the new standards document need to be so lengthy?

E-BULLETIN

The copy deadline for the November Internal Audit e-bulletin is 8 November. The Panel noted the articles that are currently planned.

WEBINARS

The panel noted that a webinar on the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) and will be presented by IIA UK on 20 November and the Panel advised that the webinar be pitched for an audience that already has a good knowledge of the new GIAS.

RESOURCES

The Panel noted that many resources for Internal Auditors that used to be free – such as AuditNET – are now under a subscription model. Any resources – both paid for and free – that panel members are aware of will be curated on a page of ACCA UK's Internal Audit hub.

6 MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Professional services firms reported that recruitment had eased significantly in the past 12 months – whereas previously you would struggle to get even one application, now you'll get a good number of applicants with good experience. This is thought to be a result of larger firms (particularly Big 4) releasing staff where they have previously over-recruited. Some in-house teams have successfully developed internal pipelines in the past 12 months to deal with the talent shortage.

7 NEXT MEETING

The next panel meeting will take place virtually on 19 November.

8 CLOSE.