

TRU | FIN

**Audit Committee
Terms of Reference**

TRUFIN PLC (THE "COMPANY")

AUDIT COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSTITUTION

1. The members of the Audit Committee for the time being shall be:

Penny Judd (Chairman)
Peter Whiting
2. The Audit Committee (the "**Committee**") shall consist of a minimum of 2 members appointed by the Board of the Company (the "**Board**") on the recommendation of the Nomination Committee and in consultation with the Committee Chairman, membership being confined to independent non-executive directors. The Chairman of the Committee, who shall be an independent non-executive director, shall be appointed by the Board which shall determine the period for which he/she shall hold office. In the absence of the Committee Chairman and/or an appointed deputy, the remaining members present shall elect one of themselves to chair the meeting. The Chairman of the Board shall not be eligible to be appointed as Chairman of the Committee but may serve on the Committee as an additional member if he or she was considered independent on appointment as Chairman.
3. Appointments to the Committee shall be for a period of up to one year, which may be extended by no more than six further one year periods, provided the members continue to be independent.
4. The Company Secretary or his or her nominee shall act as the Secretary of the Committee and will ensure that the Committee receives information and papers in a timely manner to enable full and proper consideration to be given to issues.
5. At least one member of the Committee should have recent and relevant financial experience ideally with a professional qualification from one of the professional accountancy bodies. The Committee as a whole should have competence relevant to the sector in which the Company operates.
6. The quorum for decisions of the Committee shall be any 2 members.

ROLE

7. The Committee should carry out the duties below for the Company.

7.1 Financial reporting

- 7.1.1** The Committee shall monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the Company including its annual and half-yearly reports, preliminary results announcement and any other formal announcement relating to its financial performance, reviewing significant financial reporting issues and judgements

which they contain having regard to matters communicated to it by the external auditor. The Committee shall also review summary financial statements, significant financial returns to regulators and any financial information contained in certain other documents, such as announcements of a price sensitive nature.

7.1.2 The Committee shall review and challenge where necessary:

- (a) the consistency of, and any changes to, accounting policies both on a year on year basis and across the Company/Group;
- (b) the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible;
- (c) whether the Company has followed appropriate accounting standards and made appropriate estimates and judgements, taking into account the views of the external auditor;
- (d) the clarity of disclosure in the Company's financial reports and the context in which statements are made; and
- (e) all material information presented with the financial statements, such as the strategic report and the corporate governance statement (insofar as it relates to the audit and risk management).

7.1.3 Where the Committee is not satisfied with any aspect of the proposed financial reporting by the Company, it shall report its views to the Board.

7.2 Narrative reporting

Where requested by the Board, the Committee should review the content of the annual report and accounts and advise the Board on whether, taken as a whole, it is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy.

7.3 Compliance, whistleblowing and fraud

The Committee shall:

7.3.1 review the adequacy and security of the Company's arrangements for its employees to raise concerns, in confidence, about possible wrongdoing in financial reporting or other matters. The Committee shall ensure that these arrangements allow proportionate and independent investigation of such matters and appropriate follow-up action; and

7.3.2 review the Company's procedures for detecting fraud.

7.4 Internal audit

The Committee shall:

- 7.4.1** approve the appointment and removal of the head of the internal audit function (it being noted that this function may be outsourced);
- 7.4.2** consider and approve the remit of the internal audit function and ensure it has adequate resources and appropriate access to information to enable it to perform its function effectively and in accordance with the relevant professional standards. The Committee shall also ensure the function has adequate standing and is free from management or other restrictions;
- 7.4.3** ensure the internal auditor has direct access to the Chairman of the Board and to the Committee Chairman, and is accountable to the Committee;
- 7.4.4** review and assess the annual internal audit workplan and the associated budgeted cost as approved by the Company;
- 7.4.5** review promptly all reports on the Company from the internal auditors on a periodic basis;
- 7.4.6** review and monitor management's responsiveness to the findings and recommendations of the internal auditor;
- 7.4.7** meet the head of internal audit at least once a year, without management being present, to discuss their remit and any issues arising from the internal audits carried out. In addition, the head of internal audit shall be given the right of direct access to the Chairman of the Board and to the Committee; and
- 7.4.8** monitor and review the effectiveness of the Company's internal audit function in the context of the Company's overall risk management system.

7.5 External Audit

It should be noted that in the first instance the External Auditor should discuss and seek resolution to any issues raised by discussion with the Company's executive committee, with the executive committee keeping the Committee informed of any such issues, where necessary.

Following that the Committee shall:

- 7.5.1** consider and make recommendations to the Board, to be put to shareholders for approval at the annual general meeting, in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the Company's external auditor. The Committee shall oversee the selection process for a new external auditor and if an external

auditor resigns the Committee shall investigate the issues leading to this and decide whether any action is required;

7.5.2 ensure that at least once every ten years the audit services contract is put out to tender to enable the Committee to compare the quality and effectiveness of the services provided by the incumbent external auditor with those of other audit firms; and in respect of such tender oversee the selection process and ensure that all tendering firms have such access as is necessary to information and individuals during the duration of the tendering process;

7.5.3 oversee the relationship with the external auditor including (but not limited to):

- (a) approval of their remuneration, whether fees for audit or non-audit services and that the level of fees is appropriate to enable an adequate audit to be conducted;
- (b) approval of their terms of engagement, including any engagement letter issued at the start of each audit and the scope of the audit;
- (c) assessing annually their independence and objectivity taking into account relevant UK law, professional and regulatory requirements and the relationship with the auditor as a whole, including the provision of any non-audit services;
- (d) satisfying itself that there are no relationships (such as family, employment, investment, financial or business) between the auditor and the Company (other than in the ordinary course of business);
- (e) agreeing with the Board a policy on the employment of former employees of the Company's external auditor, then monitoring the implementation of this policy;
- (f) monitoring the external auditor's compliance with the relevant ethical and professional guidance on the rotation of audit partners, the level of fees paid by the Company compared to the overall fee income of the firm, office and partner and other related requirements;
- (g) assessing annually the qualifications, expertise and resources of the external auditor and the effectiveness of the audit process, which shall include a report from the external auditor on their own internal quality procedures;
- (h) seeking to ensure co-ordination with the activities of the internal audit function;

- (i) considering the risk of the withdrawal of the Company's present external auditor from the market; and
- (j) evaluating the risks to the quality and effectiveness of the financial reporting process and consideration of the need to include the risk of the withdrawal of their external auditor from the market in that evaluation.

7.5.4 meet regularly with the external auditor, including once at the planning stage before the audit and once after the audit at the reporting stage;

7.5.5 review and approve the annual audit plan and ensure that it is consistent with the scope of the audit engagement;

7.5.6 review the findings of the audit with the external auditor. This shall include but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) a discussion of any major issues which arose during the audit;
- (b) any accounting and audit judgements;
- (c) levels of errors identified during the audit; and
- (d) the effectiveness of the audit process;

7.5.7 The Committee shall also:

- (a) review any representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before they are signed by management;
- (b) review the management letter and management's response to the external auditor's findings and recommendations; and
- (c) develop and implement a policy on the supply of non-audit services by the external auditor, taking into account any relevant ethical guidance on the matter.

7.6 Reporting Responsibilities

7.6.1 All proceedings of the Committee shall be reported formally to the Board by the Committee Chairman.

7.6.2 The Committee Chairman shall also formally report to the Board on how it has discharged its responsibilities. This report shall include:

- (a) the significant issues that it considered in relation to the financial statements (required under paragraph 7.1.1) and how these were addressed;

- (b) its assessment of the effectiveness of the external audit process (required under paragraph 7.5.3(g)) and its recommendation on the appointment or reappointment of the external auditor; and
- (c) any other issues on which the Board has requested the Committee's opinion.

7.6.3 The Committee shall make whatever recommendations to the Board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit where action or improvement is needed.

7.6.4 The Committee shall compile a report on its activities to be included in the Company's annual report. The report should include an explanation of how the Committee has addressed the effectiveness of the external audit process; the significant issues that the Committee considered in relation to the financial statements and how these issues were addressed, having regard to matters communicated to it by the external auditor; and all other information requirements set out in the Quoted Companies Alliance (QCA) Corporate Governance Code for Small and Mid-size Quoted Companies (the "**QCA Code**").

7.6.5 In compiling the reports referred to in paragraphs 7.6.2 and 7.6.4, the Committee should exercise judgement in deciding which of the issues it considers in relation to the financial statements are significant, but should include at least those matters that have informed the Board's assessment of whether the Company is a going concern. The report to shareholders need not repeat information disclosed elsewhere in the annual report and accounts, but could provide cross-references to that information.

7.7 Other matters

7.7.1 The Committee shall:

- (a) have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out its duties, including access to the Company Secretary for assistance as required;
- (b) be provided with appropriate and timely training, both in the form of an induction programme for new members and on an ongoing basis for all members;
- (c) give due consideration to laws and regulations, the provisions of the QCA Code, the QCA's Audit Committee Guide for Smaller Quoted Companies and the AIM Rules for Companies;
- (d) monitor and ensure the Company's adherence to the AIM Rules for Companies;

- (e) be responsible for co-ordination of the internal and external auditors;
- (f) oversee any investigation of activities which are within its terms of reference; and
- (g) work and liaise as necessary with all other Board committees.

PROCEDURE

- 8.** The Company's external auditors and the Company's Chairman, Chief Executive or Finance Director and other members of the Company's executive committee may attend and speak at meetings of the Committee at the invitation of the Committee. At least once each year representatives of the Company's external auditors shall meet the Committee without any executive directors being present, to discuss the external auditor's remit and any issues arising from the audit.
- 9.** The Committee shall meet at least twice each year and at such other times as the Chairman of the Committee shall require.
- 10.** Outside of the formal meeting programmes, the Chairman of the Committee will maintain a dialogue with key individuals involved in the Company's governance, including the Board Chairman, the Chief Executive, the Finance Director, the external audit lead partner and the head of internal audit.
- 11.** The Company's external or internal auditor may request a meeting if they consider it necessary. Meetings may also be called by the Secretary of the Committee at the request of any member of the Committee.
- 12.** At least 5 working days' notice of any meeting of the Committee shall be given, although such notice period may be waived or shortened with the consent in writing of all the members of the Committee for the time being. Notice of the meeting shall confirm the venue, time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed. Notice shall be sent to each member of the Committee, any other person required to attend and all other non-executive directors. Supporting papers shall be sent to Committee members and to other attendees as appropriate at the same time.
- 13.** The Secretary shall minute the proceedings and discussions of all meetings of the Committee, including recording the names of those present and in attendance.
- 14.** The minutes of the meeting of the Committee shall be circulated to all members of the Committee and, once agreed, to the Board unless it would be inappropriate to do so in the opinion of the Committee Chairman.
- 15.** The Chairman of the Committee shall attend the Company's Annual General Meeting prepared to respond to any shareholder questions on the Committee and its activities and responsibilities.

- 16.** The Committee is authorised:
 - 16.1** to investigate any activity within its terms of reference and seek directly any information it requires from any employee or contractor of the Company (all such persons being directed to co-operate with any such request by the Committee);
 - 16.2** to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice at the cost of the Company in accordance with the Company's agreed procedure under which Directors may obtain independent advice, and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary (but such persons shall not be members of the Committee); and
 - 16.3** to call any employee to be questioned at a meeting of the Committee as and when required.
- 17.** The Committee shall conduct an annual review of its work, constitution, performance and these terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and shall make recommendations for any changes to the Board.
- 18.** References in these terms of reference to the "**Group**" mean the Company and its subsidiaries.

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