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Message from leadership

Message from leadership

Welcome to our 2021 Transparency report

This Report includes information about how the Firm is governed and update from Daniel Li, who leads our audit practice. While PwC is a multidisciplinary firm, this report is primarily focused on our audit practice and related services.

At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We're a network of firms in 156 countries with more than 295,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services. We are committed to driving a strong culture of quality and excellence that is core to our purpose.

In June 2021, we unveiled The New Equation, PwC's landmark global strategy which responds to fundamental changes in the world, including technological disruption, climate change, fractured geopolitics, and the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The New Equation is based on analysis of global trends and thousands of conversations with clients and stakeholders. It builds on more than a decade of sustained revenue growth and continued investment. The New Equation focuses on two interconnected needs that clients face in the coming years. The first is to build trust, which has never been more important, nor more difficult. The second is to deliver sustained outcomes in an environment where competition and the risk of disruption are more intense than ever and societal expectations have never been greater. For more information on The New Equation, please see https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/

Our new strategy builds on our ongoing commitment to quality.

Our people are the heart of our organisation and a fundamental element of delivering high quality audits. We draw on a wide range of specialist skills across our multi-disciplinary practice. We maintain a constant emphasis on our purpose and values that address integrity and independence. We continue to invest in our people by providing ongoing professional and personal development, with in depth training.

The ability to merge market-leading technology with the skills of our people and a robust audit approach is central to our audit strategy and quality. We are continuously investing in innovation and new technology to meet the changing audit challenges in a digital age to enhance the quality of our audit services.

Taken together, these measures represent a significant transformation of audit business and support our focus on audit quality and our public interest responsibilities.

Raymund Chao

Chairman and CEO



A message from our Assurance Leader

In these unprecedented times, organisational trust and transparency are more important than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to bring enormous challenges to assurance activities which are foundational to maintaining trust with stakeholders.

Recognising the important roles audit firms play in society, we will continue to build trust in the transparency, objectivity, effectiveness and quality of our audit work which is key to our purpose - to build trust and solve important problems - and critical to providing reporting that stakeholders can rely on.

Maintaining audit quality

The key factor in our success is our unrivalled reputation for quality. This Report demonstrates how we maintain quality in our audit work. It describes our policies, systems and processes for ensuring quality, the actions we have taken to develop our people, leverage new tools and technologies, and monitor audit quality.

Internal and external inspections/reviews

We continuously review and update our audit processes in response to internal monitoring programs and external regulatory findings. The investments and efforts we have made in audit quality have had a positive impact on the results of the internal and external inspections/reviews.

Ongoing investments

We are committed to improvement in audit quality and this is demonstrated by our continuous investment in new systems and technology, risk processes and learning & development for our people.

We will continue to drive audit quality to contribute to the success of our clients and stakeholders.

Daniel Li

Assurance Leader



Our quality improvement programmes

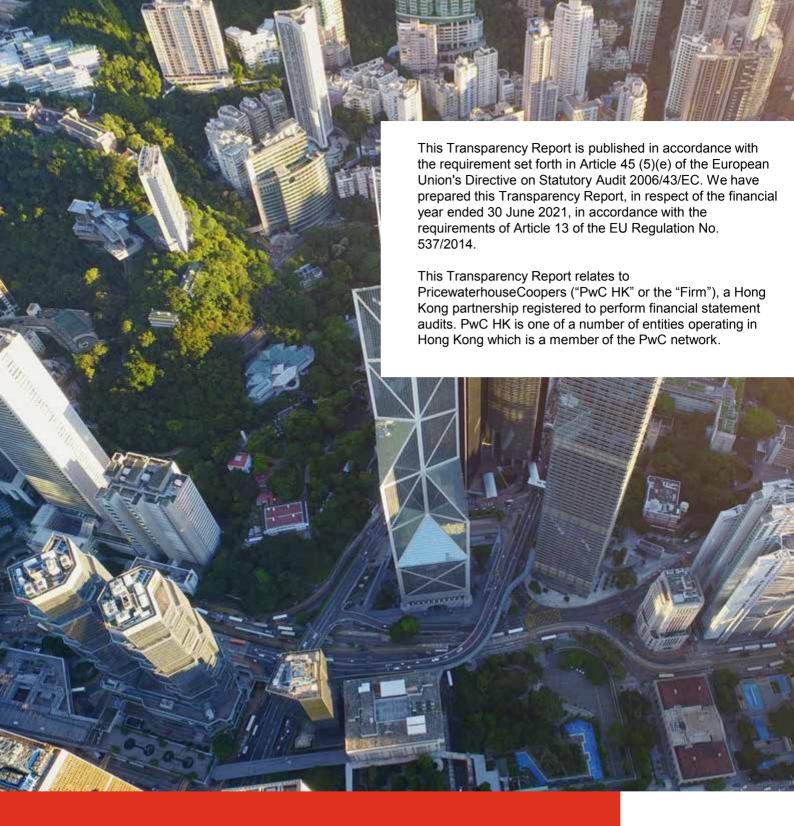
At PwC, we are invested in continuously improving our audit quality through the design and operation of an effective system of quality management. Further, as part of PwC's new global strategy, The New Equation, PwC will continue to invest to further enhance quality. This includes a focus on the following key areas:

- Continuing to strengthen our quality culture to support our partners and teams to drive behaviours consistent with enhancing audit quality.
- Integration of the use of Real Time Assurance to aim to prevent quality issues, Root Cause analysis to learn from quality issues and a Recognition and Accountability Framework to reinforce quality behaviours, cultures, and actions.
- Increasing our focus on ongoing and real-time quality monitoring including through the use of Real Time Assurance and Assurance Quality Indicators.
- Developing an implementation plan that addresses explicit requirements resulting from the recently approved IAASB quality management standards. However it is not expected that the changes related to ISQM 1 will have a significant impact on our SoQM.

In addition, we continue to work with our stakeholders to have real time engagement around the changes we are seeing in the world and their impact on audit quality and compliance like technology disruption, climate change, geopolitics - changes that have been magnified and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"At PwC, our purpose is at the core of what we do and why we do it."

Raymund Chao, Chairman and CEO



Introduction



Our approach to quality

Our approach to delivering quality services across all our operations and network

Focus on Quality

The quality of our work is at the heart of our organisation and we invest significant and increasing resources in its continuous enhancement across all of our businesses. This investment is targeted into many different areas, including training (technical, ethical and behavioural), methodologies, adding resources in key areas and exploring new ways of delivering our work. Each investment reflects a common determination to understand the factors that drive quality and identify opportunities for enhancement.

We are also investing heavily in new technology to drive continuous improvement in the capabilities and effectiveness of all of our services.

Definition and culture

At PwC, we define quality service as one that consistently meets the expectations of our stakeholders and which complies with all applicable standards and policies. An important part of delivering against this quality definition is building a culture across a network of 295,000 people that emphasises that quality is the responsibility of everyone including our people at PwC HK. Continuing to enhance this culture of quality is a significant area of focus for our global and local leadership teams and one which plays a key part in the measurement of their performance.

Measurement and transparency

For all our businesses, each PwC firm – as part of the agreement by which they are members of the PwC network – is required to have in place a comprehensive system of quality management (SoQM); to annually complete a SoQM performance assessment; and to communicate the results of these assessments to global leadership. These results are then discussed in detail with the leadership of each local firm and if they are not at the level expected, a remediation plan is agreed with local leadership taking personal responsibility for its successful implementation.

As our services change and develop, and the needs and expectations of our stakeholders also change, we are continually reviewing and updating the scale, scope and operations of our system of quality management and investing in programmes to enhance the quality of the services that we provide.

For example, we consistently reinforce our 'tone at the top' to cultivate the right culture for high performance and high quality. Knowing how important tone at the top is, we are implementing an enhanced and consistent measurement of leadership effectiveness and quality right across our network.



Specific focus on audit quality

Specific focus on audit quality

Delivering quality audits is core to our purpose. To that end, we are committed to providing a quality audit. However, where our work falls below the standards that we set for ourselves and are set by the regulators, we are disappointed and also rightly criticised. We take each of these instances very seriously and work hard to learn lessons and to enhance the quality of audits that we undertake in the future.

The right objectives and capabilities

To help us put this strategy into effect, the PwC network has established clear objectives around audit quality and provides support to help us meet these objectives. Our engagement teams can only deliver quality audit services if they have access to the necessary capabilities – both in terms of people and technology. That's why our quality objectives focus on having the right capabilities – both at a member firm level and across our network – and on using these capabilities to meet our own standards and the professional requirements. These capabilities can only be developed under the right leadership and quality culture, promoting the right values and behaviours.

Integrated and aligned in the right way

The quality objectives focus on having the right people supported by effective methodologies, processes, and technology appropriately directed and supervised. These represent the capabilities that we believe are relevant to achieving and sustaining audit quality. To help us achieve these objectives, there are a number of dedicated functions at a network level that develop practical tools, guidance and systems to support and monitor audit quality across our network. These elements have been integrated and aligned by our network to create a comprehensive, holistic and interconnected quality management framework that we tailor to reflect our individual circumstances.

Delivering a quality end-product consistently

Central to the framework is the recognition that quality management is not a separate concept; it needs to be embedded in everything we do as individuals, teams, firms and the network. The quality objectives are supported by designated key activities which are considered necessary to achieve the quality objectives, focused mainly on building a quality infrastructure and organisation. We supplement and design those key activities as appropriate to respond to risks we have identified to achieving each quality objective.

Values and judgments

Performing quality audits requires more than just the right processes. At its core, an auditor's role is to assess with a "reasonable" degree of assurance whether the financial statements prepared by the company's management are free of "material misstatements" – reaching a professional judgment on whether the financial statements present a fair picture of the company's financial performance and position. To carry out this assessment effectively, the auditor needs to use all the capabilities that have been built up in line with our quality objectives. These include applying ethical behaviour in accordance with PwC's values, professional scepticism, specialist skills and judgment – all supported by technology.



Delivering audit quality during the COVID-19 pandemic

Our response to COVID-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on our clients and our people over the last year and a half, as well as global and local economies and broader society.

At PwC, in addition to continuing to safeguard the health, safety and well-being of our people, we have remained focused on working together as a network, with our clients and other stakeholders to continue to deliver audit quality.

Sharing developments and experience

From the early stages of the pandemic, the PwC network put a team in place to monitor developments globally and to highlight areas of critical importance to ensure we did not compromise on audit quality. We have leveraged the guidance developed by our network to provide consistent leadership and guidance on audit quality and equip our teams to consider their client's unique circumstances and respond accordingly.

Our network response was comprehensive. It covered all aspects of audit quality, including regulatory and standard setting updates, auditor reporting, methodology, accounting and learning and education. Using the network guidance, we considered changes needed to our existing policies and procedures as well as what needed to be reinforced through appropriate communications to our staff and partners.

Identifying and addressing risks related to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in us facing a number of new challenges in our audits. This ranged from how we operate as a team to plan and complete the audit, to how we interact with our clients to obtain the necessary audit evidence and execute specific audit procedures such as completing physical inventory counts.

The foundation we have built for our system of quality management helped us navigate some of our biggest challenges as a result of the pandemic. We were able to monitor the actions we took to address identified risks and assess whether changes needed to be made on a real time basis. We used the experience and examples shared with us from across the network to support our assessment of the issues that had the potential to impact our system of quality management.

We focused on enhanced supervision and review, the use of consultations with specialists within our firm, enhanced Real-Time Assurance programs to respond to the risks we identified.

The investment in technology and moving quickly to upskill our partners and staff to work seamlessly in a digital world put us at the forefront in managing remote working during our busiest time of year without sacrificing quality in our audits. Our teams utilised the resources made available and worked cohesively to execute our audits remotely.

We continue to monitor and respond to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic on our people and clients including the implications of changing or easing restrictions.





Cultures and values

Cultures and values

Leadership and tone at the top

Our purpose and values are the foundation of our success. Our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems, and our values help us deliver on that purpose. Our purpose reflects 'why' we do what we do, and our strategy provides us with the 'what' we do. 'How' we deliver our purpose and strategy is driven by our culture, values and behaviours. This forms the foundation of our system of quality management and permeates how we operate, including guiding our leadership actions, and how we build trust in how we do business, with each other and in our communities.

Delivering service of the highest quality is core to our purpose and our assurance strategy, the focus of which is to strengthen trust and transparency in our clients, in the capital markets and wider society.

To help PwC HK put this strategy into effect, the PwC network has established the Quality Management for Service Excellence (QMSE) framework for quality management which integrates quality management into business processes and the firm-wide risk management process. The QMSE framework introduces an overall quality objective for the Assurance practice focused on having the people and processes to deliver services in an effective and efficient manner that meets the expectations of our clients and other stakeholders.

This overall quality objective is supported by a series of underlying quality management objectives and our system of quality management (SoQM) must be designed and operated so that these objectives are achieved with reasonable assurance.

The achievement of these objectives is supported by a **quality management process** established by our firm and Assurance leadership, business process owners, and partners and staff.

The Quality Management Process

This quality management process includes:

- · identifying risks to achieving the quality objectives
- designing and implementing responses to the assessed quality risks
- monitoring the design and operating effectiveness of the policies and procedures through the use of process-integrated monitoring activities such as real-time assurance as well as appropriate Assurance quality indicators
- continuously improving the system of quality management when areas for improvement are identified by performing root cause analyses and implementing remedial actions and
- establishing a quality-related recognition and accountability framework to be used in appraisals, remuneration, and career progression decisions



Aim to Prevent: Real Time Assurance

We have developed various Real Time Quality Assurance (RTA) programs designed to provide preventative monitoring that helps coach and support engagement teams get the 'right work' completed in realtime during the audit.

The selection criteria of engagements for the RTA programs is revisited every year to ensure engagements with specific risks or within specific industries are covered. Reviewers are nominated partners, senior managers and experienced managers from business units and Risk & Quality depending on the types of RTA programs, and the checklist questions are also enhanced where necessary to address key findings identified in recent engagement reviews and other inspections.

Learn: Root cause analysis

We perform analyses to identify potential factors contributing to our firm's audit quality so that we can take actions to continuously improve. Our primary objectives when conducting such analyses is to understand what our findings tell us about our SoQM and to identify how our firm can provide the best possible environment for our engagement teams to deliver a quality audit. We look at quality findings from all sources including our own ongoing monitoring of our SoQM as well as Network inspection of our SoQM, audits both with and without deficiencies — whether identified through our own internal inspections process or through external inspections to help identify possible distinctions and learning opportunities.

For individual audits, an objective team of reviewers identifies potential factors contributing to the overall quality of the audit. We consider factors relevant to technical knowledge, supervision and review, professional scepticism, engagement resources, and training, amongst others. Potential causal factors are identified by evaluating engagement information, performing interviews, and reviewing selected audit working papers to understand the factors that may have contributed to audit quality.

In addition, the data compiled for audits both with and without deficiencies is compared and contrasted to identify whether certain factors appear to correlate to audit quality. Examples of this data include nature and type of engagement; experience / hours / utilisation / prior year quality issues of key engagement team members.

Our goal is to understand how quality audits may differ from those with deficiencies, and to use these learnings to continuously improve all of our audits. We evaluate the results of these analyses to identify enhancements that may be useful to implement across the practice. We believe these analyses contribute significantly to the continuing effectiveness of our quality controls.



Reinforce: Recognition and Accountability Framework

Our Recognition and Accountability Framework (RAF) reinforces quality in everything our people do in delivering on our strategy, with a focus on the provision of services to our clients, how we work with our people and driving a high quality culture. It holds Partners and directors with engagement leader and other supporting roles accountable for quality behaviours and quality outcomes. Our RAF considers and addresses the following key elements:

- Quality outcomes: We provide transparent quality outcomes to measure the achievement of the quality objectives. Our quality outcomes take into account meeting professional standards and the PwC network and our firm's standards and policies
- Behaviours: We have set expectations of the right behaviours that support the right attitude to quality, the right tone from the top and a strong engagement with the quality objective
- Interventions/recognition: We have put in place interventions and recognition that promotes and reinforces positive behaviours and drives a culture of quality
- Consequences/reward: We have implemented financial and non-financial consequences and rewards that are commensurate to outcome and behavior and sufficient to incentivise the right behaviours to achieve the quality objectives



Ethics, independence and objectivity

Ethics

At PwC, we adhere to the fundamental principles of ethics set out in the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code), which are:

- i. Integrity to be straightforward and honest in all professional and business relationships.
- **ii. Objectivity** not to compromise professional or business judgements because of bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others.
- iii.Professional Competence and Due Care to attain and maintain professional knowledge and skill at the level required to ensure that a client or employer receives competent professional service based on current technical and professional standards and relevant legislation and act diligently and in accordance with applicable technical and professional standards.
- iv. Confidentiality to respect the confidentiality of information acquired as a result of professional and business relationships.
- v. **Professional Behaviour** to comply with relevant laws and regulations and avoid any conduct that the professional accountant knows or should know might discredit the profession.

Our network standards applicable to all network firms cover a variety of areas including ethics and business conduct, independence, anti-money laundering, anti-trust/fair-competition, anti-corruption, information protection, firm's and partner's taxes, sanctions laws, internal audit and insider trading. We take compliance with these ethical requirements seriously and strive to embrace the spirit and not just the letter of those requirements. All partners and staff undertake annual mandatory training, as well as submitting annual compliance confirmations, as part of the system to support appropriate understanding of the ethical requirements under which we operate. Partners and staff uphold and comply with the standards developed by the PwC network and leadership in PwC HK monitors compliance with these obligations.

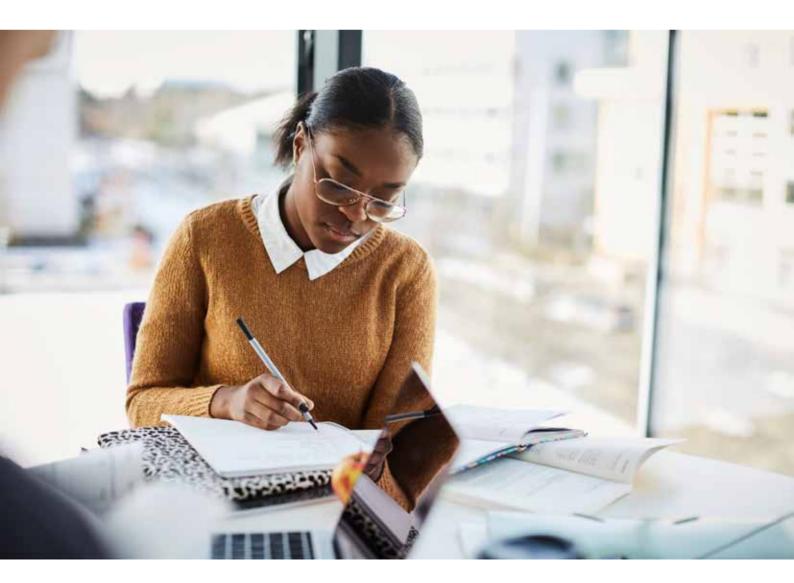


In addition to the PwC Values (Act with integrity, Make a difference, Care, Work together, Reimagine the possible) and PwC Purpose, PwC HK has adopted the PwC network standards which include a Code of Conduct, and related policies that clearly describe the behaviours expected of our partners and other professionals - behaviours that will enable us to build public trust. Because of the wide variety of situations that our professionals may face, our standards provide quidance under a broad range of circumstances, but all with a common goal - to do the right thing.

Upon hiring or admittance, all staff and partners of PwC HK are provided with the PwC Global Code of Conduct (PwC Code of Conduct). They are expected to live by the values expressed in the PwC Code of Conduct in the course of their professional careers and have a responsibility to report and express concerns, and to do so fairly, honestly, and professionally when dealing with a difficult situation or when observing behaviours inconsistent with the PwC Code of Conduct. Each firm in the PwC network provides a mechanism to report issues. There is also a confidential global reporting option on pwc.com/codeofconduct. PwC has adopted an accountability framework to facilitate remediation of behaviours that are inconsistent with the PwC Code of Conduct.

The PwC Code of Conduct is available on-line for all internal and external stakeholders on pwc.com/ethics.

Finally, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provides guidance, including the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (the OECD Guidelines), by way of non-binding principles and standards for responsible business conduct when operating globally. The OECD Guidelines provide a valuable framework for setting applicable compliance requirements and standards. Although the PwC network consists of firms that are separate legal entities which do not form a multinational corporation or enterprise, PwC's network standards and policies are informed by and meet the goals and objectives of the OECD Guidelines.



Objectivity and Independence

As auditors of financial statements and providers of other types of professional services, PwC member firms and their partners and staff are expected to comply with the fundamental principles of objectivity, integrity and professional behaviour. In relation to assurance clients, independence underpins these requirements. Compliance with these principles is fundamental to serving the capital markets and our clients.

The PwC Global Independence Policy, which is based on the Code, including international Independence Standards, contains minimum standards with which PwC member firms have agreed to comply, including processes that are to be followed to maintain independence from clients, when necessary.

PwC HK has a designated partner (known as the 'Partner Responsible for Independence' or 'PRI') with appropriate seniority and standing, who is responsible for implementation of the PwC Global Independence Policy including managing the related independence processes and providing support to the business. The PRI is a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Ethics Committee and is supported by a team of about fifty independence specialists. Independence matters are reported to the Firm's Strategic Risk Council for discussion/resolution on a regular basis throughout the year, and are escalated to the Firm leadership for resolution, where necessary.

Independence policies and practices

The PwC Global Independence Policy covers, among others, the following areas:

- personal and firm independence, including policies and guidance on the holding of financial interests and other financial arrangements, e.g. bank accounts and loans by partners, staff, the firm and its benefit plans;
- non-audit services and fee arrangements. The policy is supported by Statements of Permitted Services ('SOPS'), which provide practical guidance on the application of the policy in respect of non-audit services to audit clients and related entities;
- business relationships, including policies and guidance on joint business relationships (such as joint ventures and joint marketing) and on purchasing of goods and services acquired in the normal course of business;
- acceptance of new audit and assurance clients, and the subsequent acceptance of non-assurance services for those clients

In addition, there is a Network Risk Management Policy governing the independence requirements related to the rotation of key audit partners.

These policies and processes are designed to help PwC comply with relevant professional and regulatory standards of independence that apply to the provision of assurance services. Policies and supporting guidance are reviewed and revised when changes arise such as updates to laws and regulations, including any changes to the Code or in response to operational matters.

PwC HK supplements the PwC network Independence Policy to include the independence requirements of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and those of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board of the United States and of the EU Audit Regulation where they are more restrictive than the network's policy.

Independence - related systems and tools

As a member of the PwC network, PwC HK has access to a number of systems and tools which support PwC member firms and their personnel in executing and complying with our independence policies and procedures. These include:

- The Central Entity Service ('CES'), which contains information about corporate entities including all PwC audit clients and their related entities (including all public interest audit clients and SEC restricted entities) as well as their related securities. CES assists in determining the independence restriction status of clients of the member firm and those of other PwC member firms before entering into a new non-audit service or business relationship. This system also feeds Independence Checkpoint and Authorisation for Services;
- 'Independence Checkpoint' which facilitates the pre-clearance of publicly traded securities by all partners and practice managers before acquisition and is used to record their subsequent purchases and disposals. Where a PwC member firm wins a new audit client, this system automatically informs those holding securities in that client of the requirement to sell the security where required:
- Authorisation for Services ('AFS') which is a global system that facilitates communication between a non-audit services engagement leader and the audit engagement leader, regarding a proposed non-audit service, documenting the analysis of any potential independence threats created by the service and proposed safeguards, where deemed necessary, and acts as a record of the audit partner's conclusion on the permissibility of the service; and

 Global Breaches Reporting System which is designed to be used to report any breaches of external auditor independence regulations (e.g. those set by regulation or professional requirements) where the breach has cross-border implications (e.g. where a breach occurs in one territory which affects an audit relationship in another territory). All breaches reported are evaluated and addressed in line with the Code.

PwC HK also has a number of Hong Kong-specific systems which include:

- A system that monitors compliance with PwC HK's audit partner rotation requirements in connection with the member firm's audits of public interest entities; and
- A system that records all approved close business relationships entered into by PwC HK. These relationships are reviewed on a six monthly basis to ensure their ongoing permissibility.

Independence training and confirmations

PwC HK provides (i) onboarding training on introducing independence policy and requirements to new joiners, (ii) milestone training on relevant independence knowledge at promotion, and (iii) annual training for changes in policy or external regulation to all partners and staff.

Partners and staff receive these trainings via computer-based training or face-to-face training delivered by PwC HK's independence specialists, as appropriate.

All partners and practice staff are required to complete an annual compliance confirmation, whereby they confirm their compliance with relevant aspects of the member firm's independence policy, including their own personal independence. In addition, all partners confirm that all non-audit services and business relationships for which they are responsible comply with policy and that the required processes have been followed in accepting these engagements and relationships.

Independence monitoring and disciplinary policy

PwC HK is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of its quality control system in managing compliance with independence requirements. In addition to the confirmations described above, as part of this monitoring, we perform:

- Compliance testing of independence controls and processes;
- Personal independence compliance testing of a random selection of, at a minimum, partners and practice staff as a means of monitoring compliance with independence policies; and
- An annual assessment of the member firm's adherence with the PwC network's standard relating to independence.

The results of PwC HK's monitoring and testing are reported to the firm's management on a regular basis with a summary reported to them on an annual basis.

PwC HK has disciplinary policies and mechanisms in place that promote compliance with independence policies and processes, and that require any breaches of independence requirements to be reported and addressed.

This would include discussion with the client's audit committee regarding the nature of a breach, an evaluation of the impact of the breach on the independence of the member firm and the engagement team and the need for actions or safeguards to maintain objectivity. Although most breaches are minor and attributable to an oversight, all breaches are taken seriously and investigated as appropriate. The investigations of any identified breaches of independence policies also serve to identify the need for improvements in PwC HK's systems and processes and for additional guidance and training.

Considerations in undertaking the audit

Our principles for determining whether to accept a new client or continue serving an existing client are fundamental to delivering quality, which we believe goes hand-in-hand with our purpose to build trust in society. We have established policies and procedures for the acceptance of client relationships and audit engagements that consider whether we are competent to perform the engagement and have the necessary capabilities including time and resources, can comply with relevant ethical requirements, including independence, and have appropriately considered the integrity of the client. We reassess these considerations in determining whether we should continue with the client engagement and have in place policies and procedures related to withdrawing from an engagement or a client relationship when necessary.

Client and Engagement Acceptance and Continuance

PwC HK has a process in place to identify acceptable clients based on the PwC network's proprietary decision support systems for audit client acceptance and retention (called Acceptance and Continuance (A&C)). A&C facilitates a determination by the engagement team, business management and risk management specialists of whether the risks related to an existing client or a potential client are manageable, and whether or not PwC should be associated with the particular client and its management. More specifically, this system enables:

Engagement teams:

- To document their consideration of matters required by professional standards related to acceptance and continuance:
- To identify and document issues or risk factors and their resolution, for example through consultation by adjusting the resource plan or audit approach or putting in place other safeguards to mitigate identified risks or by declining to perform the engagement; and
- To facilitate the evaluation of the risks associated with accepting or continuing with a client and engagement.

Member firms (including member firm leadership and risk management):

- To facilitate the evaluation of the risks associated with accepting or continuing with clients and engagements;
- To provide an overview of the risks associated with accepting or continuing with clients and engagements across the client portfolio; and
- To understand the methodology, basis and minimum considerations all other member firms in the network have applied in assessing audit acceptance and continuance.





Our people



Our people

People strategy

Our people strategy is focused on being the world's leading developer of talent and enabling our people with greater agility and confidence in a rapidly changing world. Specific focus areas include creating a resilient foundation for times of change through supporting the well-being of our people and enabling effective delivery; developing inclusive leaders for a shifting world; and, enabling our workforce for today's realities and tomorrow's possibilities.

We hire candidates who have diverse backgrounds and appropriate skills; have a questioning mindset and intellectual curiosity; and demonstrate courage and integrity.

Our hiring standards include a structured interview process with behavior-based questions built from The PwC Professional framework, assessment of academic records, and background checks. In line with the Global Human Capital strategy, as part of our commitment in New World. New Skills. we have been investing heavily in digitally upskilling our people on the foundation of the hottest digital topics in today's market, as well as curating classroom and virtual training on the basics of data visualisation, data analytics and automation customised to various business units' unique needs. We also have Digital Accelerators embedded within our engagement teams who are dedicated to applying digital capabilities to each audit, as well as developing new digital solutions for the firm.



Diversity and inclusion

At PwC, we're committed to creating a culture of belonging. We are focused on ensuring our ways of working embrace diversity and fostering an inclusive environment in which our people are comfortable bringing their whole selves to work and feel that they belong and can reach their full potential. As demonstrated through our core values of Care and Work Together, we strive to more deeply understand and empathise with different backgrounds, perspectives and experiences. We know that when people from different backgrounds and with different points of view work together, we create the most value for our clients, our people, and society.



Recruitment

PwC HK aims to recruit, train, develop and retain the best and the brightest staff who share in the firm's strong sense of responsibility for delivering high-quality services. Our hiring standards include a structured interview process with behavior-based questions built from The PwC Professional framework, assessment of academic records, and background checks. Across the firm in the FY21, we recruited over 1.133 new people, including 588 university graduates.



Team selection, experience and supervision

Our audit engagements are staffed based on expertise, capabilities and years of experience. Engagement leaders determine the extent of direction, supervision and review of junior staff.



Feedback and continuous development

Our team members obtain feedback on their overall performance, including factors related to audit quality, such as technical knowledge, auditing skills and professional scepticism. Audit quality is an important factor in performance evaluation and career progression decisions for both our partners and staff. Feedback on performance and progression is collected via our Snapshot tool, a simple, mobile-enabled technology. We also use Workday to give and receive upward and peer feedback. Ongoing feedback conversations help our people grow and learn faster, adapt to new and complex environments, and bring the best to our clients and firm.



Career progression

PwC HK uses the PwC Professional, our global career progression framework, which sets out clear expectations at all staff levels across five key dimensions. The framework underpins all elements of career development and helps our people develop into well-rounded professionals and leaders with the capabilities and confidence to produce high-quality work, deliver an efficient and effective experience for our clients, execute our strategy, and support our brand. Our annual performance cycle is supported by continuous feedback conversations and regular check-ins with the individual's Team Leader to discuss their development, progression and performance.



Retention

Turnover in the public accounting profession is often high because as accounting standards and regulations change, accountants are in demand and the development experience we provide makes our staff highly sought after in the external market. Our voluntary turnover rate fluctuates based on many factors, including the overall market demand for talent.



Global People Survey

Each PwC member firm participates in an annual Global People Survey, administered across the network to all of our partners and staff. PwC HK is responsible for analysing and communicating results locally, along with clearly defined actions to address feedback.

The PwC Professional

The PwC Professional supports the development and career progression of our staff by providing a single set of expectations across all lines of service, geographies, and roles; outlining the capabilities needed to thrive as purpose-led and values-driven leaders at every level.

Professional Development

We are committed to putting the right people in the right place at the right time. Throughout our people's careers, they are presented with career development opportunities, classroom, virtual classroom and ondemand learning, and on-the-job real time coaching/development. Our flexible training portfolio facilitates personalized learning with access to a variety of educational materials, including webcasts, podcasts, articles, videos, and courses.

Achieving a professional credential supports our Firm's commitment to quality through consistent examination and certification standards. Our goal is to provide our staff with a more individualized path to promotion and support them in prioritising and managing their time more effectively when preparing for professional exams. Providing our people with the ability to meet their professional and personal commitments is a critical component of our people experience and retention strategy.

Continuing education

We, and other PwC member firms, are committed to delivering quality assurance services around the world. To maximise consistency in the network the formal curriculum, developed at the network level, provides access to training materials covering the PwC audit approach and tools - this includes updates on auditing standards and their implications, as well as areas of audit risk and areas of focus for quality improvement.

This formal learning is delivered using a blend of delivery approaches, which include remote access, classroom learning, virtual classroom and on-the-job support. The curriculum supports our primary training objective of audit quality, while providing practitioners with the opportunity to strengthen their technical and professional skills, including professional judgement while applying a sceptical mindset.

The design of the curriculum allows us to select, based on local needs, when we will deliver the training.

Based on the specific needs in the local environment, PwC HK supplements the globally developed curriculum with local specific content, both formal and informal to address our local specific needs. Such programmes include technical programmes, business personal skills programmes, and specialist industries programme for those with clients in specialist industries.

PwC HK also requires its partners and professional staff to complete mandatory training programmes to ensure they are up to date with latest technical knowledge and to equip them with other necessary skills to execute assignments, and to support them to comply with continuing professional development requirements.

The PwC Global Code of Conduct and PwC HK Code of Conduct Supplement set expectations of behaviour and values. Mandatory ethics and business conduct training covers the Code of Conduct as well as ethical, accounting, auditing and other regulatory matters.

PwC HK adopts a learning management system to monitor the learning status of partners and staff. Completing mandatory training by due dates is also a factor when evaluating staff's annual performance. Engagement leaders assess the on-going personal development needs of our people through performance appraisal process. By comparing performance to set objectives, we maintain a rigorous focus on quality. Unsatisfactory work results in reduced performance rewards.

PwC HK also maintains up-to-date reference materials which are accessible by all assurance practice partners and staff. These cover audit policy, procedure and methodology, and include a library of local and international accounting, auditing and ethical standards. To support and keep staff and partners' knowledge up to date, partners and staff receive regular communications on technical and regulatory topics as they arise. Support is available to partners and staff on auditing, accounting and regulatory requirements, including access to subject matter experts in specialist industries.



Our audit approach

Our audit approach



PwC HK uses a range of cutting-edge methods, processes, technologies, and approaches to ensure continuous improvement in the performance and quality of our audit engagements

Our audit approach

The quality and effectiveness of audit is critical to all of our stakeholders. We therefore invest heavily in the effectiveness of our audits, in the skills of our people, in our underlying methodology, the technology we use, and in making the right amount of time and resources available. We pay close attention to the internal indicators and processes that routinely monitor the effectiveness of our risk and quality processes, and provide timely information about the quality of our audit work and any areas for improvement. Details of these indicators and processes can be found in the Monitoring of Assurance quality section. Additionally, we consider what our various stakeholders require from us, what they tell us we need to improve and the findings of regulatory inspections on the quality of our work.

People

Data and technology can help reveal insights, but it takes an inquisitive person with well-rounded business knowledge to understand what those insights mean. We recruit professionals with these capabilities-people who can deliver the highest quality outcomes in terms of client service and compliance.

Technology

As technological change accelerates, our clients want to trust their information with organisations that don't merely keep up but lead the way. We've made a global commitment to offer leading audit technology, and we've invested heavily in tools to match our approach. The result is greater quality and insight to our clients.

Tools and technologies to support our audit

Our tools

As a member of the PwC network, PwC HK has access to and uses PwC Audit, a common audit methodology and process. This methodology is based on the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), with additional PwC policy and guidance provided where appropriate (for example, the requirements of Hong Kong Standards on Auditing issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, United States Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (USGAAS) issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and PCAOB Auditing Standards. PwC Audit policies and procedures are designed to facilitate audits conducted in compliance with all ISA requirements that are relevant to each individual audit engagement. Our common audit methodology provides the framework to enable PwC member firms to consistently comply in all respects with applicable professional standards, regulations and legal requirements.

Our technology

Aura, our global audit platform, is used across the PwC network. Aura helps drive how we build and execute our audit plans by supporting teams in applying our methodology effectively, by creating transparent linkage between risks, required procedures, controls and the work performed to address those risks, as well as providing comprehensive guidance and project management capabilities. Targeted audit plans specify risk levels, controls reliance and substantive testing. Real-time dashboards show teams audit progress and the impact of scoping decisions more quickly.

Connect is our collaborative platform that allows clients to quickly and securely share documents and deliverables. Connect also eases the burden of tracking the status of deliverables and resolving issues by automatically flagging and tracking outstanding items and issues identified through the audit for more immediate attention and resolution. Connect also allows our engagement teams to share audit adjustments, control deficiencies and statutory audit progress for all locations in real time.

Connect Audit Manager streamlines, standardises and automates group and component teams coordination for multi-location and statutory/regulatory audits. It provides a single digital platform to see all outbound and inbound work and digitises the entire coordination process which facilitates greater transparency, compliance and quality for complex multi-location audits.

Halo, our data auditing tools, test large volumes of data, analysing whole populations to improve risk assessment, analysis and testing. For example, Halo for Journals enables the identification of relevant journals based on defined criteria making it easier for engagement teams to explore and visualise the data to identify client journal entries to analyse and start the testing process.

Count, which facilitates the end-to-end process for inventory counts, allows our engagement teams to create and manage count procedures, counters to record results directly onto their mobile device or tablet and engagement teams to export final results into Aura.

PwC's Confirmation System, which facilitates an automated and standardised end-to-end process for all types of external confirmations, allows our engagement teams to create requests and receive external confirmation in a secure environment that helps mitigate the risks associated with receiving confirmation responses electronically.

Reliability and auditability of audit technologies

Our firm has designed and implemented processes and controls to underpin the reliability of these audit technologies. This includes clarification of the roles and responsibilities of audit technology owners and users. In addition, we have guidance focused on the sufficiency of audit documentation included in the workpapers related to the use of these audit technologies, including consideration of the reliability of the solution, and the documentation needed to assist the reviewer in meeting their supervision and review responsibilities as part of the normal course of the audit.



Confidentiality and information security

Confidentiality and information security are key elements of our professional responsibilities. Misuse or loss of confidential client information or personal data may expose the firm to legal proceedings, and it may also adversely impact our reputation. We take the protection of confidential and personal data very seriously.

Our focus on our clients requires a holistic and collaborative approach to reducing security, privacy and confidentiality risks with significant investment in appropriate controls and monitoring to embed an effective three lines of defence model. This model has enabled us to strengthen our information security organisation, align to industry good practice and improve our internal control frameworks.

Data Privacy

The firm maintains a robust and consistent approach to the management of all personal data, with everyone in our organisation having a role to play in safeguarding personal data. We have continued to build on our extensive Data Privacy and Protection Programme and are committed to embedding good data management practices across our business.

Information Security

Information security is a high priority for the PwC network. Member firms are accountable to their people, clients, suppliers, and other stakeholders to protect information that is entrusted to them.

The PwC Information Security Policy (ISP) is aligned with ISO/IEC 27001:2013, financial services industry standards, and other reputable frameworks (COBIT, NIST, etc.) as benchmarks for security effectiveness across the network of member firms. The PwC ISP directly supports the firm's strategic direction of cyber readiness to proactively safeguard its assets and client information. The PwC ISP is reviewed, at a minimum, on an annual basis.

PwC HK is required to adhere to the ISP requirements and complete an annual, evidence based assessment to demonstrate compliance. The CISO approved assessment undergoes a detailed and standardised Quality Assessment (QA) process performed by a centralised, objective Network Information Security Compliance team.

PwC HK is an ISO 27001:2013 certified data center audited annually by British Standards Organisation.



Supporting engagement performance



Evolving delivery model

We continue to evolve the way we deliver our services so our people give our clients an even better experience, further enhance the quality of what we do and create economic capacity to invest in the future. We use delivery centres to streamline, standardise, automate, and centralise portions of the audit.



Direction, coaching and supervision

Engagement leaders and senior engagement team members are responsible and accountable for providing quality coaching throughout the audit and supervising the work completed by junior members of the team, coaching the team and maintaining audit quality. Engagement teams utilise Aura which has capabilities to effectively monitor the progress of the engagement to determine that all work has been completed and reviewed by appropriate individuals, including the engagement leader.



Consultation culture

Consultation is key to maintaining high audit quality. We have formal protocols about mandatory consultation, in the pursuit of quality. For example, our engagement teams consult with appropriate groups in areas such as taxation, risk, valuation, actuarial and other specialities as well as individuals within our technical support functions.



Technical support

We have specialists supporting our engagement teams including technical accounting, auditing, and financial reporting groups as well as risk and quality. These specialists play a vital role in keeping our policies and guidance in these areas current by tracking new developments in accounting and auditing and providing those updates to professional staff.



Quality Review Partners (QRP)

Specific audit engagements are assigned a QRP as part of the member firm's system of quality management as required by professional standards. These partners, who have the necessary experience and technical knowledge, are involved in the most critical aspects of the audit. For example, they may advise on matters of firm independence, significant risks and a team's responses to those risks, and specific accounting, auditing, and financial reporting and disclosure issues.



Differences of opinion

Protocols exist to resolve the situations where a difference of opinion arises between the engagement leader and either the QRP, another Assurance partner or central functions such as specialists in our technical support functions.





Monitoring

Monitoring

Monitoring of Assurance quality

We recognise that quality in the Assurance services we deliver to clients is critical to maintaining the confidence of investors and other stakeholders in the integrity of our work. It is a key element to our Assurance strategy.

Responsibility for appropriate quality management lies with the Leadership of PwC HK. This includes the design and operation of an effective System of Quality Management (SoQM) that is responsive to our specific risks to delivering quality audit engagements, using the network's QMSE framework.

The overall quality objective under the QMSE framework is to have the necessary capabilities in our firm and to deploy our people to consistently use our methodologies, processes and technology in the delivery of Assurance services in an effective and efficient manner to fulfil the valid expectations of our clients and other stakeholders.

Our firm's monitoring procedures include an ongoing assessment aimed at evaluating whether the policies and procedures which constitute our SoQM are designed appropriately and operating effectively to provide reasonable assurance that our audit and non-audit assurance engagements are performed in compliance with laws, regulations and professional standards. This includes the use of Real Time Assurance which is discussed in more detail on page 15 within The Quality Management Process section.

Our monitoring also encompasses a review of completed engagements (Engagement Compliance Reviews - ECR) as well as periodic monitoring of our SoQM by an objective team within our network firms. The results of these procedures, together with our ongoing monitoring, form the basis for the continuous improvement of our SoQM.

Our firm's monitoring program is based on a consistent network-wide inspections program for Assurance based on professional standards relating to quality control, including ISQC 1, as well as network policies, procedures, tools and guidance.

ECRs are risk-focused reviews of completed engagements covering, on a periodic basis, individuals in our firm who are authorised to sign audit or non-audit assurance reports. The review assesses whether an engagement was performed in compliance with PwC Audit guidance, applicable professional standards and other applicable engagement-related policies and procedures. Each signer is reviewed at least once every five years, unless a more frequent review is required based on the profile of that signer's client engagements or due to local regulatory requirements.

Reviews are led by experienced Assurance partners, supported by objective teams of partners, directors, senior managers and other specialists. ECR reviewers may be sourced from other member firms if needed to provide appropriate expertise or objectivity. Review teams receive training to support them in fulfilling their responsibilities and utilise a range of checklists and tools developed at the network level when conducting their inspection procedures. The network inspection team supports review teams on consistent application of guidance on classification of engagement findings and engagement assessments across the network.

In addition, the PwC network coordinates an inspection program to review the design and operating effectiveness of our SoQM. The use of a central team to monitor these inspections across the network enables a consistent view and sharing of relevant experience across the PwC network.

The results of all inspections are reported to our firm's leadership who are responsible for analysing the findings and implementing remedial actions as necessary. In situations where adverse quality matters on engagements are identified, based on the nature and circumstances of the issues, the responsible partner or our firm's Assurance leadership personnel may be subject to additional mentoring, training or further sanctions in accordance with our firm's Recognition and Accountability Framework.

Partners and employees of our firm are informed about the inspection results and the actions taken to enable them to draw the necessary conclusions for the performance of their engagements. In addition, engagement partners of our firm are informed by the network inspection program about relevant inspection findings in other PwC member firms, which enables our partners to consider these findings in planning and performing their audit work.





Statement on the effectiveness of the firm's internal quality control system



External inspections



Legal and governance structure

Legal and governance structure



Legal structure and ownership

PwC HK is a partnership wholly owned by its partners and established under the laws of Hong Kong SAR. There were 147 partners as at 30 June 2021. Partners have equal voting rights except for partners in their first 4 years of partnership, who have one quarter of one vote (and contribute a correspondingly reduced amount of Capital).

Governance structure

The Chairman and CEO is elected for a period of four years in accordance with a method recommended and overseen by the Firm's governance body, the Board of Partners. The Chairman and CEO has responsibility for the strategic direction and overall management of the Firm, and is supported by a Management Board which has responsibility for management of the Firm.

The Board of Partners is the governance body of the Firm, and its role includes to advise the Chairman and CEO of issues of concern to the partners, to review the processes adopted by management in its decision making, and to oversee the process of the Partner Income System. The Chairman and CEO is an ex officio member of the Board of Partners. The other members are elected for a four-year term. The Board of Partners meets approximately 10 times per year and each meeting is chaired by the Lead Director who controls the agenda. A private session is held in each meeting without the presence of the Chairman and CEO.





Partners' Remuneration



Financial Information



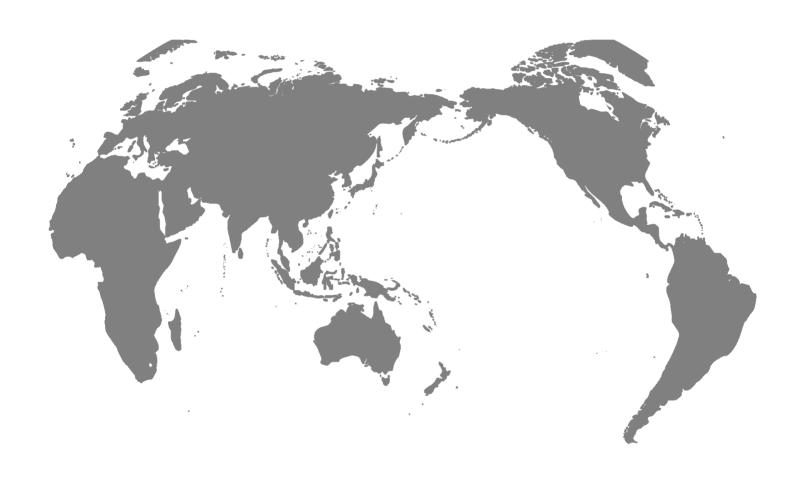
PwC network

PwC network

Global network

PwC is the brand under which the member firms of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited (PwCIL) operate and provide professional services. Together, these firms form the PwC network. 'PwC' is often used to refer either to individual firms within the PwC network or to several or all of them collectively.

In many parts of the world, accounting firms are required by law to be locally owned and independent. The PwC network is not a global partnership, a single firm, or a multinational corporation. The PwC network consists of firms which are separate legal entities.



PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited

Firms in the PwC network are members in, or have other connections to, PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited (PwCIL), an English private company limited by guarantee. PwCIL does not practise accountancy or provide services to clients. Rather its purpose is to act as a coordinating entity for member firms in the PwC network. Focusing on key areas such as strategy, brand, and risk and quality, PwCIL coordinates the development and implementation of policies and initiatives to achieve a common and coordinated approach amongst individual member firms where appropriate. Member firms of PwCIL can use the PwC name and draw on the resources and methodologies of the PwC network. In addition, member firms may draw upon the resources of other member firms and/or secure the provision of professional services by other member firms and/or other entities. In return, member firms are bound to abide by certain common policies and to maintain the standards of the PwC network as put forward by PwCIL.

The PwC network is not one international partnership. A member firm cannot act as agent of PwCIL or any other member firm, cannot obligate PwCIL or any other member firm, and is liable only for its own acts or omissions and not those of PwCIL or any other member firm. Similarly, PwCIL cannot act as an agent of any member firm, cannot obligate any member firm, and is liable only for its own acts or omissions. PwCIL has no right or ability to control member firm's exercise of professional judgement.

The governance bodies of PwCIL are:

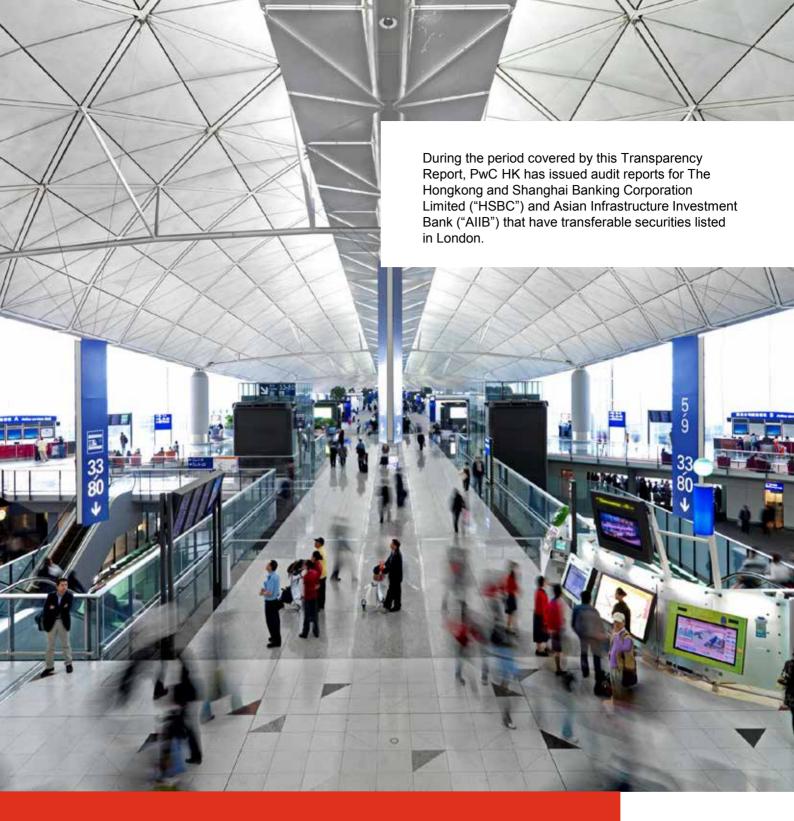
- Global Board, which is responsible for the governance of PwCIL, the oversight of the Network Leadership Team and the approval of network standards. The Board does not have an external role. Board members are elected by partners from all PwC firms around the world every four years.
- Network Leadership Team, which is responsible for setting the overall strategy for the PwC network and the standards to which the PwC firms agree to adhere.
- Strategy Council, which is made up of the leaders of the largest PwC firms and regions of the network, agrees on the strategic direction of the network and facilitates alignment for the execution of strategy.
- Global Leadership Team is appointed by and reports to the Network Leadership Team and the Chairman of the PwC network. Its members are responsible for leading teams drawn from member firms to coordinate activities across all areas of our business.

The Chairman and CEO of PwC HK is a member of the Strategy Council and the Network Leadership Team.

Total turnover achieved by statutory auditors and audit firms from EU/EEA Member States that are members of the PwC network resulting, to the best extent calculable, from the statutory audit of annual and consolidated financial statements is approximately €2.4 billion. This represents the turnover from each entity's most recent financial year converted to Euros at the exchange rate prevailing as of 30 June 2021.

A list of PwC Network audit firms and statutory auditors in European Union/European Economic Area Member States as at 30 June 2021 can be found in the Appendix.





Public interest audit clients

Appendix – EU entities

The table below is a list of statutory audit firms/auditors by country within our network as of 30 June 2021 (Article 13.2.(b) items (ii) and (iii)):

Member State	Name of firm
Austria	PwC Wirtschaftsprüfung GmbH, Wien
	PwC Oberösterreich Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung GmbH, Linz
	PwC Kärnten Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung GmbH, Klagenfurt
	PwC Steiermark Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung GmbH, Graz
	PwC Salzburg Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung GmbH, Salzburg
	PwC Österreich GmbH, Wien
Belgium	PwC Bedrijfsrevisoren bv/Reviseurs d'enterprises srl
Bulgaria	PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit OOD
Croatia	PricewaterhouseCoopers d.o.o
Croatia	PricewaterhouseCoopers Savjetovanje d.o.o
Cyprus	PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited
Czech Republic	PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit s.r.o.
Denmark	PricewaterhouseCoopers Statsautoriseret Revisionspartnerselskab
Estonia	AS PricewaterhouseCoopers
Finland	PricewaterhouseCoopers Oy
France	PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit
	PricewaterhouseCoopers Entreprises
	PricewaterhouseCoopers France
	PricewaterhouseCoopers Services France

Appendix – EU entities

Member State	Name of firm
France	PwC Entrepreneneurs CAC
	PwC Entrepreneurs Commissariat aux Comptes
	PwC Entrepreneurs Audit
	PwC Entrepreneurs Audit France
	PwC Entrepreneurs CAC France
	PwC Entrepreneurs Commissariat aux Comptes France
	PwC Entrepreneurs France
	PwC Entrepreneurs Services
	M. Philippe Aerts
	M. Jean-François Bourrin
	M. Jean-Laurent Bracieux
	M. Didier Brun
	Mme Elisabeth L'Hermite
	M. François Miane
	M. Pierre Pegaz-Fiornet
	M. Antoine Priollaud
	PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft
Germany	Wibera WPG AG
Greece	PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditing Company SA
Hungary	PricewaterhouseCoopers Könyvvizsgáló Kft.
Iceland	PricewaterhouseCoopers ehf
Ireland	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Italy	PricewaterhouseCoopers Spa

Appendix – EU entities

Member State	Name of firm
Latvia	PricewaterhouseCoopers SIA
Liechtenstein	PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH, Ruggell
Lithuania	PricewaterhouseCoopers UAB
Luxembourg	PricewaterhouseCoopers, Société cooperative
Malta	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Netherlands	PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V.
	Coöperatie PricewaterhouseCoopers Nederland U.A.
Norway	PricewaterhouseCoopers AS
Poland	PricewaterhouseCoopers Polska sp. z. o.o.
Portugal	PricewaterhouseCoopers & Associados - Sociedade de Revisores Oficiais de Contas, Lda
Romania	PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit S.R.L.
Slovakia (Slovak Republic)	PricewaterhouseCoopers Slovensko, s.r.o.
Slovenia	PricewaterhouseCoopers d.o.o.
Spain	PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditores, S.L.
Sweden	PricewaterhouseCoopers AB
	Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

We have prepared this Transparency Report, in respect of the financial year ended 30 June 2021, in

accordance with the requirements of Article 13 of the EU regulation No. 537/2014 issued by The European

PricewaterhouseCoopers is referred to throughout this report as "the Firm", "PwC HK", "we", "our" and "us".

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Parliament and The Council of the European Union.

entity. Please see www.pwc.com/structure for further details.