

## **FRC Registration Protocol**

### **Preamble**

1. The FRC will undertake the application of the Eligibility Criteria for the purposes of determining whether persons are eligible for appointment as statutory auditors of Public Interest Entities (within the meaning given to the term "public interest entity" in SATCAR 2016) and may otherwise be registered as statutory auditors of such Public Interest Entities ("the PIE Auditor Registration Tasks").

### **Provision of information**

2. For the purposes of supporting the FRC's operation of the PIE Auditor Registration Tasks, an RSB will, where it is referring an audit monitoring report for any firm on the PIE Auditor Register to its Committee provide the FRC with a copy of:
  - (a) The report on the earlier of:
    - (i) the date that it notifies the relevant firm of the referral; and
    - (ii) the point at which the report is ready to be submitted to the Committee; and
  - (b) The outcome of the referral on the date that it notifies the relevant firm of the outcome.
3. For the purposes of supporting the FRC in the operation of the PIE Auditor Registration Tasks, an RSB will provide the following:
  - (a) Confirmation, within 10 working days (unless the FRC agrees a longer period) of the FRC requesting such confirmation, whether a firm or individual is currently eligible for inclusion on the Register of Statutory Auditors and/or whether there is information available to the RSB at the relevant time that:
    - (i) the firm or individual has requested to withdraw voluntarily from the Register of Statutory Auditors;
    - (ii) the firm or individual may currently be ineligible for inclusion on the Register of Statutory Auditors; and/or
    - (iii) appears relevant to the FRC's consideration of the firm or individual's registration, or application for registration, on the PIE Auditor Register as established under the 'Financial Reporting Council Public Interest Entity ('PIE') Auditor Registration Regulations';
  - (b) The most recent audit monitoring report of a firm which is applying to be registered on the PIE Auditor Register, and/or any outcome of a referral of that report to the RSB's Committee, within 10 working days (unless the FRC agrees a longer period) of the FRC requesting such report and/or outcome;
  - (c) Information on ongoing and completed regulatory and disciplinary matters which relate to or could affect the firm's or individual's inclusion on the Register of Statutory Auditors:
    - (i) within 10 working days (unless the FRC agrees a longer period) of the FRC requesting such information; and

- (ii) in the event of the RSB notifying a firm that it is, or a Responsible Individual that they are, under formal investigation by the RSB, within 10 working days of that information being communicated to the firm or Responsible Individual;
- (d) Confirmation of any urgent orders, undertakings, conditions, restrictions, suspensions or withdrawals which are relevant to a firm or individual registered on or applying to be registered on the PIE Auditor Register within 10 working days (unless the FRC agrees a longer period) of the earlier of:
  - (i) the FRC requesting such confirmation; and
  - (ii) the relevant sanction coming into effect;
- (e) Notification of:
  - (i) a recommendation to its Committee to impose urgent orders, undertakings, conditions, restrictions, suspension or withdrawal on a firm or individual who is or is applying to be registered on the PIE Auditor Register on the earlier of:
    - (A) the date that it notifies the firm or individual of the recommendation; and
    - (B) the point at which the recommendation is ready to be submitted to its Committee;
  - (ii) the outcome of such a recommendation on the date that it notifies the relevant firm or individual of the outcome;
- (f) In respect of a firm's registration, or application for registration, on the PIE Auditor Register, such details from that firm's RSB annual return (as the FRC may request within 10 working days (unless the FRC agrees a longer period) of the FRC's request;
- (g) Confirmation, within 10 working days (unless the FRC agrees a longer period) of the FRC requesting such confirmation, that all RSB registration fees due to be paid by a firm or individual have been paid to the RSB;
- (h) Confirmation (within 10 working days of the RSB agreeing to make any changes to the details on the Register of Statutory Auditors of a firm or individual who is also on the PIE Auditor Register) of the details of the change(s) made (or to be made) to the Register of Statutory Auditors in respect of that firm or individual (for example, change of name for an individual, change of address for a firm);
- (i) Confirmation of cessation of registration on the Register of Statutory Auditors of a firm or individual who is also on the PIE Auditor Register within 10 working days of the date that the RSB confirms the cessation;
- (j) Confirmation of cessation of RSB membership of an individual who is also on the PIE Auditor Register within 10 workings days of the date that the RSB confirms the cessation.

#### **Co-operation between FRC and RSBs**

4. For the purposes of the FRC operating the PIE Auditor Registration Tasks the FRC and each RSB agree:

- (a) The FRC may take regulatory action in relation to a firm or individual on the PIE Auditor Register (impose urgent decisions, conditions, agree undertakings or a waiver, suspend or remove) in accordance with the PIE Auditor Registration Regulations;
- (b) The FRC will be responsible for the monitoring of compliance with any undertakings, waivers, conditions and/or suspensions arising from the PIE Auditor Registration Regulations, and will at all times be responsible for varying or removing these;
- (c) The FRC will provide a copy of any Formal Notifications or Registration Notices (that it issues to a PIE Registered Audit Firm or PIE Registered RI) to the relevant RSB with which the relevant PIE Registered Audit Firm or PIE Registered RI is registered (and of which an individual is a member, if this is a different RSB), within 10 working days of the FRC issuing such Notification or Notice (unless a longer period is agreed);
- (d) Where the FRC has imposed conditions or agreed undertakings under the PIE Auditor Registration Regulations it expects that the RSB's Committee will have regard to these when considering the firm's or individual's ongoing suitability to remain on the Register of Statutory Auditors and that, if the Committee is considering imposing further measures, it will seek to:
  - (i) avoid duplicating measures;
  - (ii) ensure measures are proportionate;
  - (iii) ensure that any additional measures do not conflict with existing measures;
  - (iv) ensure that it is clear to the affected firm or individual whether compliance reporting is to be directed to the FRC or the RSB so as to minimise duplication.