

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE FRC TO EXTEND THE MAXIMUM DURATION OF AN AUDIT ENGAGEMENT

The Companies Act 2006 provides that, upon a request by a public-interest entity (**'the applicant'**), the maximum engagement period for an auditor may be extended with the approval of the Competent Authority (the FRC) for up to two years. In a case where a 10-year audit engagement is being extended, the Competent Authority may only grant an extension if the appointment of the auditor for the first complete financial year following the end of that period is made following a selection procedure carried out in accordance with the relevant 'selection requirements'. In any case, the Competent Authority may only approve an extension if it is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. In no case can an extension be granted which would result in an overall audit engagement period exceeding 22 years.

Where the FRC decides to extend the maximum duration of an audit engagement, the FRC has committed to publishing those decisions in full, except where that would risk harming the commercial interests of an applicant. In those cases, the decision will be published in abridged form.

During the quarter ending 31 October 2020, the FRC received seven applications for the extension of an audit engagement, one of which was ineligible as it related to an auditor appointment where the first period audited under that appointment commenced prior to 17 June 1994.

Decisions Taken

1. A two-year extension to PWC LLP's appointment to audit Accsys Technologies PLC, to avoid carrying out a tender during the Covid-19 pandemic;
2. A one-year extension to KPMG LLP's appointment to audit Card Factory plc, to avoid carrying out a tender during the Covid-19 pandemic;
3. A two-year extension to PWC LLP's appointment to audit Aviva plc, to avoid carrying out a tender during the Covid-19 pandemic;
4. A one-year extension to Deloitte LLP's appointment to audit Gulf Keystone Petroleum Limited, to avoid carrying out a tender during the Covid-19 pandemic;
5. A two-year extension to Deloitte LLP's appointment to audit Helios Towers plc, to avoid carrying out a tender during the Covid-19 pandemic; and
6. A one-year extension to Deloitte LLP's appointment to audit Mitchells & Butlers plc, to avoid carrying out a tender during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Financial Reporting Council

15 November 2020