

## **Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference**

### **1. Purpose, Membership and Appointment**

- a) The Audit and Risk Committee (the “Committee”) will assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities. In performing its duties, the Committee will maintain effective working relationships with the Board of Governors, Wellcome’s Investment Committee, Wellcome’s Executive Leadership Team (ELT), Wellcome’s Internal Audit and the external auditors. Outside of the formal meeting programme, the Chair of the Committee will maintain a dialogue with key individuals involved in Wellcome’s governance, including the Chair of the Board of Governors, the Chair of the Investment Committee, Wellcome’s Director, Chief Operating Officer, Finance Director, General Counsel and Company Secretary, Head of Risk and Head of Internal Audit.
- b) The Committee shall comprise at least three members. All members of the Committee shall be independent of the day to day management of Wellcome and at least one of whom shall have recent and relevant financial experience and with competence in accounting and/or auditing. The Chair of the Board shall not be a member of the Committee.
- c) The Chair and members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board, normally on the recommendation of the Nominations and Governance Committee and, in the case of a member of the Committee but not the Chair, in consultation with the Committee Chair.
- d) The Board may, in consultation with the Chair and on the recommendation of the Nominations and Governance Committee, appoint observers to the Committee for limited periods as required. Observers may attend and participate in meetings and receive all information provided to Committee members.
- e) External members should normally serve for three years, subject to mutual review after one year. External members may serve for a second term of up to three years by mutual agreement and may, in exceptional cases, be appointed for a third term of up to three years.
- f) The Board shall approve the remuneration of the external members and observers from time to time. Governor members shall not be entitled to any extra remuneration for serving as Chair or members of the Committee.
- g) The General Counsel and Company Secretary or his or her nominee shall act as the Secretary of the Committee but will not be a member.

### **2. Frequency of Meetings**

- a. The Committee shall meet at least four times a year at appropriate times in the reporting and audit cycle and otherwise as required.
- b. During the period between meetings of the Committee, the Board may request the Chair and the Secretary to convene further meetings in which to discuss particular issues that may require the Committee’s advice. The Board may also ask the Chair or any member or members of the Committee to conduct reviews of any other issues or activities within its terms of reference.

### 3. Agenda and Papers for meetings

Unless otherwise agreed, an agenda of items to be discussed confirming the venue, time and date, together with supporting papers, shall be forwarded to each member of the Committee and any other person required to attend, to allow a week in which to review the papers.

### 4. Quorum

- a. The quorum for the proceedings of the Committee shall be any two members provided at least one is an external member, or such other quorum as may be fixed by the Board from time to time. Observers shall not be included in the quorum.
- b. If the Chair is not able to attend, the Chair will be a member elected by the Committee members present.

### 5. Participation in Committee Discussions

- a. Except as provided in paragraph d. below, the persons holding the following Wellcome positions may be invited to attend all or part of any meeting, but will not be members of the Committee:
  - i) Finance Director;
  - ii) Director;
  - iii) Chair of the Board;
  - iv) Head of Risk;
  - v) Head of Financial Accounting; and
  - vi) General Counsel and Company Secretary; and
  - vii) Chief Operating Officer
- b. Except as provided in paragraph d. below, the persons holding the following positions may be invited to attend relevant parts of each meeting:
  - (i) a senior representative of the internal auditors or the Head of Internal Audit; and
  - (ii) the Audit Partner of the external auditor.
- c. Other persons may be invited to attend for specific items or for the whole meeting at the discretion of the Chair.
- d. At the discretion of the Chair, the Committee may meet in private session with no observers or with any particular persons.
- e. A senior representative of the internal auditors or the Head of Internal Audit and the Audit Partner from the external auditor will have free and confidential access to the Committee Chair. In addition, the Committee will separately meet with a senior representative of the internal auditors or the Head of Internal Audit and the Audit Partner from the external auditor, without management being present to discuss the audit(s) remit and any issues arising from the audit(s).

### 6. Minutes

- a. The Secretary shall minute the proceedings and decisions of all meetings of the Committee, including recording names of those present and in attendance.
- b. Draft minutes of Committee meetings shall be agreed with the Committee Chair and then circulated promptly to all members of the Committee.

- c. The Secretary shall arrange for the minutes of meetings of the Committee to be circulated to all members of the Board and the ELT.

## 7. Authority

The Committee is authorised by the Board to:

- a. investigate any activity within its terms of reference which shall apply, as appropriate, to Wellcome and each of its subsidiaries, associated companies and joint ventures;
- b. seek any information it requires from any employee of Wellcome or any employee of any of its subsidiaries and all such employees may be directed to co-operate with any request by the Committee;
- c. invite employees of any associated companies and joint ventures to provide any information it requires; and
- d. obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of external advisers with relevant experience and expertise, in each case if it considers this necessary.

## 8. Duties

The Committee should have oversight of the group as a whole and, unless required otherwise by regulation, carry out the duties below for Wellcome (both for itself and acting as Trustee for the Wellcome Trust), major subsidiary undertakings and the group as a whole, as appropriate.

### a. Financial reporting

The Committee shall:

- (i) monitor the integrity of the financial statements of Wellcome including any significant financial returns filed with a regulator, any document containing financial statements on which third parties might rely and any formal announcements relating to Wellcome's financial performance, reviewing significant financial reporting issues and judgements contained in them, and
- (ii) in particular, review the annual report and financial statements, including the Report from the Chair and Director and the Trustee's report, before submission to the Board, focusing on:
  - (A) the consistency of, and any changes to, accounting policies both on a year on year basis and across the company/group to comply with audit and legal requirements and recommended practices;
  - (B) major judgmental areas, taking into account the views of the external auditor;
  - (C) any significant adjustments resulting from the audit;
  - (D) the clarity of disclosure, consistency of the narrative at the front and financial information at the back of the annual report and context in which statements are made and whether taken as a whole the annual report and financial statements are fair, balanced and understandable and provide sufficient information to enable the reader to assess Wellcome's position and performance, business model and strategy; and
  - (E) compliance with accounting standards and legal requirements.

b. Internal controls and risk management systems

The Committee shall:

- (i) Review, prior to the recommendation to the Board, Wellcome's internal financial controls, internal control and risk management systems, and the statements to be included in the annual report on such control systems and Wellcome's compliance with the recommendations of the Charity Commission on internal control procedures, and any statements to be issued under the applicable obligations of any relevant Stock Exchange listing rules, including such updates and amendments to those recommendations or obligations as may be issued from time to time, and in particular to:
  - a. receive regular reports from the ELT, Internal Audit, the external auditor and the other Board Committees, and make recommendations to the Board, on the effectiveness of systems for risk management and internal control, covering all material controls;
  - b. review the timeliness and effectiveness of corrective action taken by management;
  - c. review material financial and non-financial risks, including but not limited to risks to reputation;
  - d. consider (in the absence of management at the discretion of the Committee) the major findings of any relevant internal investigations into control weaknesses, fraud or misconduct, and the relevant management response to this.
- (ii) review the adequacy and security of Wellcome's "Speak Up Policy", to ensure these arrangements allow proportionate and independent investigation of matters raised and appropriate follow up action;
- (iii) review the procedures for detecting fraud and corruption and receive reports on all discovered or suspected fraud, corruption, major errors or control failures;
- (iv) review Wellcome's systems and controls for the prevention of bribery and receive reports on non-compliance;
- (v) review Wellcome's Corporate Risk Register, as agreed by the ELT, and review any other risk matters escalated to the ELT;
- (vi) review the appropriateness of Wellcome's values and culture and reward systems for managing risk and internal controls; and the extent to which the culture and values are embedded at all levels of the organization; and
- (vii) consider general issues of risks and controls from time to time and advise the board on the Wellcome's overall risk appetite, tolerance and strategy, and the principal and emerging risks that Wellcome is willing to take in order to achieve its long-term strategic objectives.

With respect to risks associated with the Investment Portfolio, the Investment Committee will have responsibility for the monitoring of performance, risk profile, arrangements for custodianship and safe keeping of assets and asset allocation ranges /guidelines, whereas the Audit and Risk Committee will have responsibility for Valuation.

c. Internal audit

The Committee shall:

- (i) monitor and review the effectiveness of Wellcome's internal audit function in the context of its overall risk management system;
- (ii) advise the ELT on the use of staff or external firms to provide the internal audit function, on the appointment of the head of internal audit or appointment of internal auditors, and on any questions of resignation or termination of such appointment;
- (iii) review the remit of the internal audit function, having regard to the complementary roles of internal and external audit functions;
- (iv) monitor and review the internal audit programme and consider and advise whether in the Committee's opinion the internal audit function is adequately resourced, has appropriate standing within Wellcome to perform its duties and is free from management or other restrictions;
- (v) consider the major findings of internal investigations and monitor management's responsiveness to the findings and recommendations; and
- (vi) review and monitor the independence and objectivity of the internal auditor function, taking into consideration relevant UK professional standards and guidance.

d. External Audit

The Committee shall:

- (i) consider and make recommendations to the Board, to be put to the Members of Wellcome, in relation to the appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditor. The Committee shall oversee the selection process for a new auditor and if an auditor resigns the Committee shall investigate the issues leading to this and advise the Board as to whether any action is required;
- (ii) satisfy itself that the level of fee payable is appropriate and that an effective, high quality audit can be conducted for such a fee and make recommendations to the Board concerning the external auditor's remuneration;
- (iii) approve the terms of engagement of the external auditor, including any engagement letter, and the scope of each audit;
- (iv) at least annually review and monitor the a) qualification, expertise and resources, b) independence and c) objectivity of the external auditor and the effectiveness of the audit process, taking into account relevant UK law, regulation, the Ethical Standard and other professional requirements;
- (v) develop and oversee a policy on the engagement of the external auditor to supply non-audit services, taking into account relevant ethical and professional guidance regarding the provision of non-audit services by the external audit firm;
- (vi) advise the Board on a policy on the employment of former employees of the external auditor, taking into account the Ethical Standard and legal requirements, and monitor the application of the policy;
- (vii) monitor the external auditor's compliance with relevant ethical and professional guidance on the rotation of audit partner, the level of fees paid by Wellcome

compared to the overall fee income of the firm, office and partner and other related requirements;

- (viii) review the findings of the audit with the external auditor;
- (ix) review any representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before they are signed by management; and
- (x) review the management letter and management's response to the auditor's findings and recommendations.

e. Reporting to the Board

The Committee shall report to the Board on how it has discharged its responsibilities, including:

- (i) the significant issues that it considered in relation to the financial statements and how these issues were addressed;
- (ii) its assessment of the external auditor and the effectiveness of the external audit process and its recommendations on the appointment or reappointment of the external auditor; and
- (iii) any matters in respect of which it considers that action or improvement is needed and making recommendations as to the steps to be taken.

f. Other matters

The Committee shall consider other topics, as defined by the Board.

9. Conflicts of Interest

Where a member of the Committee believes he or she has a potential conflict of interest, the Wellcome Trust Policy on Conflicts of Interest (relating to exclusion from a meeting) shall apply.

10. Training and Performance Evaluation

The Committee shall:

- a. have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out its duties, including access to the company secretariat 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; and
- c. at least once a year, review its own performance and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and recommend any changes it considers necessary to the Board for approval. The Board should also receive a report on the Committee's effectiveness annually.

These Terms of Reference were adopted by the Board of Governors at its meeting in July 2010 and updated October 2010, July and December 2011, September 2012, July 2013, July 2015, September and December 2018 and June 2021.