

**Westminster Business Forum policy conference:
Next steps for corporate governance and audit reform in the UK**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 11th December 2024

Taking Place Online



**WESTMINSTER
BUSINESS
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **The current landscape of corporate governance and audit reform**
Professor Luca Enriques, Professor, Corporate Law, University of Oxford
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 **Assessing government legislative proposals for corporate governance in the UK**
scope of the draft Audit Reform and Corporate Governance Bill | strategies for enhancing risk management and internal controls, including the use of technology to improve reporting mechanisms | ARGAs intended role in reducing major company collapses, protecting jobs and supporting the UK's reputation as an investment destination | the potential effect of the Bill's proposed definition of public interest entities on smaller businesses | alignment of corporate governance with decarbonisation goals and ESG | addressing unnecessary rules on smaller public interest entities | priorities for director accountability | assessing the effect of the UK Corporate Governance Code 2024 on stakeholders | listings reform and corporate governance
Martin McTague, National Chair, Federation of Small Businesses
Gareth Sykes, Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills
Dr Roger Barker, Director, Policy and Corporate Governance, Institute of Directors
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, consultancy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Embedding the role of internal audit within corporate governance regimes**
Gavin Hayes, Head, Policy and Public Affairs, Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 **Trends in the audit market and best practice in financial reporting**
Paul Lee, Head, Stewardship and Sustainable Investment Strategy, Redington; and former Secretariat Member, Brydon Review of the Quality and Effectiveness of Audit
- 11.20 **'Institutional design for high quality corporate audits'**
Professor Peter Pope, Professor, Accounting, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 11.30 **Key issues for audit reform and coordination with wider policy aims**
priorities for the Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority | the future for the audit market | improving trust in the audit sector and protections against conflicts of interest | integration of ESG and wider sustainability considerations | building resilience in the audit market | balancing growth and increased audit market competition with robust regulatory frameworks
Professor Adam Leaver, Professor, Accounting and Society, University of Sheffield; and Director, Audit Reform Lab
Jacky So, ESG Director, OCS
Dr Luis Correia da Silva, Partner, Oxera
John Boulton, Director, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Senior representative, business
- 11.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 **Audit reform and the future of corporate governance in the UK - key policy priorities**
Matilda Curtis, Deputy Director, Audit Reform, Department for Business and Trade
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Business Forum