



BP p.l.c

Terms of reference

Audit committee

Purpose

Monitoring the effectiveness of bp's financial reporting, systems of internal control and risk management, and the integrity of the bp's external and internal audit processes.

Membership

A minimum of three independent non-executive directors (including independent under Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended). At least one member shall have recent and relevant financial experience. At least one member must have competence in accounting and/or audit and be considered a financial expert as defined by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Committee, as determined by the board. The chair of the board shall not be a member. The committee as a whole shall have competence relevant to the sector in which bp operates, as determined by the board.

Quorum

Two members.

Chair

As appointed by the board. In the absence of the committee chair the remaining members present will elect one of themselves to chair the meeting.

Meetings

At least four times a year.

Attendance by invitation.

Responsibilities

Financial disclosure

1. Monitor and critically assess bp's financial statements and financial information, including its Annual Report and Accounts and Form 20-F, interim results announcements, preliminary announcements and any other formal announcements relating to bp's financial performance, or consistent with the committee's purpose. It will focus on:
 - the integrity of bp's financial reporting and related process
 - the context in which the statements are made, seeking to satisfy itself that the disclosures are clear, appropriate, complete and not misleading
 - compliance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and financial reporting standards
 - the going concern assumption and the viability statement as to the group's ability to continue to operate and meet its liabilities, taking account of its current position and principal risks.
2. Review and challenge, where necessary, the application and appropriateness of significant accounting policies and financial reporting judgements in the group's financial statements or announcements, as referred to above. This includes any changes to them and the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions, where different approaches are possible including whether the group has adopted appropriate accounting policies and made appropriate estimates and judgements, taking into account the external auditor's views on the financial statements.
3. Review all material information presented with the financial statements, including the strategic report and the corporate governance statements relating to audit and to risk management.
4. Meet with management and the external auditor to review and discuss the annual audit and the content of the annual report and accounts. Evaluate the risks to the quality and effectiveness of the financial reporting process in light of the external auditor's communications with the committee.
5. Where requested by the board, advise on whether, taken as a whole, the annual report and accounts (and, as applicable, relevant interim and other price sensitive public records and reports to regulators) are fair, balanced and understandable and provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the bp's performance, business model and strategy and inform the board's statement on these matters.
6. In relation to bp's dividend proposals, review and consider whether sufficient distributable reserves would be available when a dividend is proposed to be paid and whether sufficient resources would remain to continue to meet bp's needs.

Risks and reports

7. Monitor highest priority group risks allocated to the committee by the board.
8. Review and understand mitigation proposed by the executive in respect of any risks associated with the bp internal financial controls and financial reporting responsibilities, together with such emerging and other risks as it may determine fall within its scope from time to time, consistent with its purpose.
9. Review business or functional reports on the effectiveness of the systems of risk management and internal control processes, including in particular, first, second and third lines of defence policies. A plan setting out the businesses or functions to be reviewed shall be agreed annually with the committee.

Internal controls and risk management systems

10. Oversee the policies and procedures for the control, monitoring and mitigation of financial and non-financial risks across bp, including how effectively management is embedding and maintaining a risk management system and culture.
11. Monitor the effectiveness of bp's systems of internal financial control that identify, assess, manage and review financial risks, and other internal control and risk management systems including reviewing the quarterly reports of group audit.
12. Consider any findings and necessary disclosures relating to the group's internal financial control and risk management systems including any significant deficiencies or a significant failing or material weaknesses reported to the Committee by management or the auditors, management's response and the conclusions of any testing or audits carried out by group audit or external auditors.
13. Review bp's procedures for detecting fraud and independently assess the management of fraud risk across the group.
14. Review the reporting of longer-term viability, systems of risk management and internal control including the reporting of principal and emerging risks across bp.
15. Review bp's modelling for stress testing different financial and operational events and evaluate whether the period covered by the viability statement is appropriate.

Internal audit

16. Approve the appointment or termination of appointment of the chief auditor and recommend the remuneration of the chief auditor to the remuneration committee.
17. Review and approve the role and mandate of group audit. Monitor and review the effectiveness of its work, and annually approve the group audit charter to check it is appropriate for the current needs of bp and aligned to key risks.
18. Monitor that group audit has unrestricted scope, the necessary resources and access to information to enable it to fulfil its mandate, check there is open communication between different functions and that the group audit function evaluates the effectiveness of these functions as part of its group audit plan, and monitor that the group audit function is equipped to perform in accordance with appropriate professional standards for internal auditors.
19. Set the primary reporting line for the chief auditor to be the chair of the committee and monitor that the chief auditor has direct access to the chair of the board and to the committee chair, providing independence from the executive and accountability to the committee. Approve the secondary reporting line of the chief auditor.
20. Carry out an annual assessment of the effectiveness of the group audit function, including:
 - meeting with the chief auditor, without the presence of management, to discuss the effectiveness of the function
 - considering, assessing and approving the annual group audit work plan
 - receiving a report on the results of the group auditor's work
 - determining whether it is satisfied that the quality, experience and expertise of internal audit is appropriate for the business
 - reviewing the actions taken by management to implement the recommendations of group audit and to supporting the effective working of the internal audit function.
21. Monitor and assess the role and effectiveness of the group audit function in the overall context of the company's risk management system and the work of compliance, finance and the external auditor.
22. Set the objectives of the chief auditor and appraise performance annually. Where the tenure of the chief auditor exceeds seven years, the committee will discuss annually the committee chair's assessment of the chief auditor's independence and objectivity.

23. Approve the group audit budget and disclose whether it is satisfied that internal audit has the appropriate resources in the annual report.
24. Obtain an independent and objective external quality assessment of the internal audit function as a whole at appropriate intervals and at least every five years. Oversee and approve the appointment process for the independent assessor.

External audit

25. In accordance with legal and professional requirements, consider and make recommendations to the board, to be put to shareholders, on the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the external auditor.
26. Oversee the tender process for the selection and make recommendations to the board about the appointment of the external auditor in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, monitoring that all tendering firms have such access as is necessary to information and individuals during the tendering process.
27. If an external auditor resigns, investigate the issues leading to this and decide whether any action is required.
28. Oversee the relationship with the external auditor. In this context the committee shall:
 - approve the external auditor's remuneration, including both fees for audit and non-audit services, and monitor that the level of fees is appropriate to enable an effective and high-quality audit to be conducted
 - approve the external auditor's terms of engagement, including any engagement letter issued at the start of each audit and the scope of the audit.
29. Develop and oversee the implementation of bp's policy on the provision of non-audit services by the external auditor, including prior approval of non-audit services by the committee and specifying the types of non-audit service to be pre-approved, and assessment of whether non-audit services have a direct or material effect on the audited financial statements.
30. Taking account of the policy on the provision of non-audit services, assess annually the external auditor's independence and objectivity taking into account professional and regulatory requirements and bp's relationship with the external auditor as a whole including the provision of any non-audit services.
31. Agree with the board a policy on the employment of current and former employees of the external auditor, taking into account the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) defined ethical standard and legal requirements, and monitor the application of this policy.

32. Monitor the external auditor's processes for maintaining independence, its compliance with relevant law, regulation, other professional requirements and the FRC's defined ethical standard, including the guidance on the rotation of audit partner and staff.
33. Monitor the level of fees paid by bp to the external auditor compared to the overall fee income of the firm, office and partner and assess these in the context of relevant legal, professional and regulatory requirements, guidance and the FRC's defined ethical standard.
34. Meet regularly with the external auditor (including once at the planning stage before the audit and once after the audit at the reporting stage) and, at least once a year, meet with the external auditor without management being present, to discuss the auditor's remit, any issues arising from the audit and any difficulties encountered during the course of the audit, including restrictions on activities or access to information and any significant disagreements with management.
35. Discuss with the external auditor the factors that could affect audit quality and review and approve the annual audit plan, checking it is consistent with the scope of the audit engagement, having regard to the seniority, expertise and experience of the audit team.
36. Review the findings of the audit with the external auditor including any major resolved or unresolved issues that arose during the course of the audit and the level of errors identified.
37. Review any audit representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before it is (they are) signed by management.
38. Review the insights report and management's response to the external auditor's findings and recommendations.
39. Assess annually the qualifications, expertise and resources of the external auditor.
40. Review the effectiveness of the external audit process, including an assessment of the quality of the external audit (which shall include a report from the external auditor on its own internal quality procedures), the handling of key judgements by the external auditor, the external auditor's response to questions from the committee and any audit problems or difficulties and management's response.
41. Review and discuss with the external auditors any significant issues arising from any regulatory inspections of the external auditor, to the extent relevant to the company, including the external auditor's response to any identified accounting deficiencies.

Reporting

42. Report to the board on:

- the significant issues that it considered in relation to the financial statements and how these issues were addressed
- significant financial reporting issues and judgements made in connection with the preparation of bp's financial statements, (having regard to matters communicated to it by the external auditor) form 20-F, interim reports, preliminary announcements and related formal statements
- its assessment of the effectiveness of the external audit process and its recommendation on the appointment or reappointment of the external auditor
- the outcome of the external audit, the role of the committee in the process and how the external audit contributed to the integrity of the financial reporting
- any other issues on which the board has requested the committee's opinion.

43. Report formally to the board on its proceedings after each meeting.

44. Make whatever recommendations to the board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit including where action or improvement is needed.

45. Compile a report on its activities to be included in the annual report.

46. In compiling the reports referred to in 42-45 above, the committee should include at least those matters that have informed the board's assessment of whether it is appropriate for the company to adopt the going concern basis of accounting and the effectiveness of the process to evaluate viability of bp. If the board has not accepted the committee's recommendation on the external auditor appointment, reappointment or removal, the annual report should include a statement explaining the committee's recommendation and the reasons why the board has taken a different position.

47. The committee shall have the right to publish in the annual report, details of any issues that cannot be resolved between the committee and the board.