

Meeting: Standards Board

Location: Juniper Room, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London,
WC2N 6AU

Date: 4 May 2023, 13.30 – 16.30

PRESENT:

The Chair (Richard Cooper), Michael Guthrie, Dani Saghafi and Yin Jones.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director – Practice Regulation (Stefan Pegram), Lead – Regulator Reporting (Laura Murphy) and Officer – Secretariat (Catriona Calnan).

OBSERVERS:

Lucy Winskell (Chair of the Regulatory Board) and Andrew Steele (Secretary).

1. MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes from the meeting held on 23 February 2023.

The Board noted the actions log.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Each member of the Board confirmed that they had no conflict of interest.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair confirmed that there are no updates to report.

5. WORK PLAN FOR 2022-23 COUNCIL YEAR AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board noted the work plan for the 2022-23 Council year and Terms of Reference table.

6. ACCA'S REGULATORY BOARD

The Board noted a presentation from the Chair of the Regulatory Board on the work of ACCA's Regulatory Board.

7. PROMULGATION AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RULEBOOK

The Board noted an update on the promulgation and accessibility of the Rulebook.

8. ACCA'S CORPORATE PLAN 2023-24

The Board noted a presentation from the Director – Practice Regulation on ACCA's Corporate Plan 2023-24.

9. ACCA'S BRAND THEMES FOR 2023-24

The Board noted a presentation from the Head of Marketing and Brand Reputation on ACCA's Brand Themes for 2023-24.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

RULEBOOK CHANGES – 15 DECEMBER 2023

10. CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Engagement teams and group audits

The Board approved proposed amendments to the Code of Ethics and Conduct relating to the Definition of Engagement Team and Group Audits which address holistically the various independence considerations in an audit of group financial statements.

Use of the designation 'Chartered Certified Accountants'

The Board approved proposed new regulations 16 and 17, and conforming amendments to extant regulations, in Section B4 of the Code of Ethics and Conduct to implement a new framework for the use of the designation 'Chartered Certified Accountants' by firms that do not meet the extant strict control and ownership requirements.

RULEBOOK CHANGES – 1 JANUARY 2024

11. GLOBAL PRACTISING REGULATIONS

Qualification for a practising certificate for members admitted through direct admission to membership

The Board approved a proposed amendment to regulation 7(1)(a)(ii) of the Global Practising Regulations to recognise practising certificates held by members admitted through direct admission to membership.

Qualification requirements for an audit qualification relating to Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man

The Board approved proposed amendments to regulation 1 in Appendix 3 of Annex 1 (Additional Practising Regulations for the United Kingdom, Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man) to the Global Practising Regulations to address an ambiguity relating to the qualification requirements for an audit qualification for Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man, specifically the statutory audit experience required.

12. PROPOSED RULEBOOK CHANGES FOR REGULATORY BOARD APPROVAL

The Board considered a paper to the Regulatory Board setting out the background to the proposed changes to the ACCA Rulebook that have been agreed by the Standards Board at its meetings in February and May 2023. The Board approved the paper, subject to the incorporation of wording that clarifies that the proposed changes to the professional indemnity insurance (PII) requirements for Public Interest Entity Registered Audit Firms are additional to previously approved PII changes.

[Post meeting note: the paper on proposed Rulebook changes for Regulatory Board approval was updated to reflect the Board's suggested amendments and to include further updates to the Code of Ethics and Conduct, which correct outstanding him/her references to gender neutral wording.]

ITEMS FOR NOTE

13. SCHEDULE OF REGULATION CHANGES FOR THE ACCA RULEBOOK

The Board noted the schedule of proposed Rulebook changes likely to be considered in 2023 and implemented in 2023/24, including proposed/potential Rulebook changes deferred from 2022, and Rulebook changes approved and on hold.

The Board requested that, if appropriate to do so, any contentious items are brought to the Board for initial discussion in advance of any Rulebook changes being presented. ACCA advised that this may not always be possible but will consider the request when bringing contentious items.

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted that the remaining dates of Standards Board meetings in the 2022-2023 Council year are as follows:

- 7 September 2023 (am)
- 2 November 2023 (am)