

# Notes.



**Meeting:** ACCA UK Internal Audit Sector Panel

**Location:** Virtual (Teams)

**Date:** 09 June 2026

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## **PRESENT:**

Reshma Shah (Chair), Fadeke Ayoola, Rob Hanley, Jane Nnadi, Si Mathavan, Robert Wilkinson, Clement Tambandini, Rebecca Hamilton, Sophie Corbett, Stephanie Hume, Samie Rathnayake, Grace Museka, Brooke Love and Laura Tovey.

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gemma Gathercole (Strategic Engagement Lead, ACCA UK), George Tsounais (Early Careers Manager, ACCA UK) and Sophie Hall (Sectors & Communities Manager, ACCA UK).

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Apologies received from Noman, Annabel, Melina, Tim and Natalie.

## **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS**

No objections were raised, and the Panel approved the March meeting notes for publication.

The Panel discussed the WhatsApp group and its purpose. It was agreed that the main form of communication between panel members would be via email, however the WhatsApp group will be used for informal conversation and information sharing in between meetings.

The Panel agreed that there is a significant amount of useful and relevant content available such as webinars and podcasts on the sector hub which can be recirculated to the wider membership.

## **RAISING THE PROFILE OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

### **A) Supporting Early Careers advocacy**

George Tsounais provided an overview of outreach activities and highlighted opportunities for panel members to get involved.

Unifrog Partnership – ACCA continues to work with Unifrog, a careers platform used in schools and has launched a finance-focused course that has engaged over 4,000 young

people. The course includes member spotlights and guidance on pathways into finance and accountancy.

Twilight webinar series – The third annual webinar series will target young people, parents, guardians and educators. ACCA is seeking panel members to share their career journeys and provide inspiration on the diverse routes into accountancy.

Panel members interested in supporting events, webinars, school visits, or other outreach activities are encouraged to contact George. Resources and guidance are also available for members who wish to organise and deliver visits to local schools.

## **B) Raising our profile campaign**

The Panel discussed the agreed priority area of raising the profile of internal audit, exploring the focus area and target audience.

Reshma shared Natalie's suggestion to take a similar approach to ACCA campaigns by looking at the journey to Head of Internal Audit. The Panel supported this approach but emphasised the importance of representing a diverse range of industries and sectors.

Laura suggested featuring graduates from larger firms who have worked across different departments to share their experiences and perspective on internal audit.

The Panel agreed that the initial focus should be on careers, promoting internal audit as an attractive career choice, whilst showcasing the breadth and variety of internal audit and assurance.

A focus group of volunteers will be established to help develop the action plan.

## **WHAT IS OUR EXPERIENCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

The Panel split into smaller breakout groups to discuss the use of AI within their organisations.

Many panel members shared they are relatively early in the journey and experimenting with how AI can enhance different areas of the audit lifecycle. The panel explored the benefits of AI tools as a resource that can help do things faster, enhance quality whilst recognising the importance of remaining curious, applying auditor judgement and sense checking output.

Panel members proposed structuring future discussions through polls, documenting best practices, forming focus groups, and conducting skills assessments to better understand and support AI adoption within the profession.

Reshma highlighted a number of AI-related short courses on the [ACCA Learning Hub](#) that members may find interesting.

## **ACCA STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

Gemma Gathercole summarised the findings from the ACCA Talent Trends survey. There were over 11,000 global responses, with a strong UK sample and increase in participation

from the younger generation. Unfortunately, there is a lack of internal audit specific data, but there are plans to include it in future surveys.

The survey found consistent hybrid working patterns in the UK, with younger respondents seeking more structure and office presence.

Respondents shared concerns about inflation, limited labour market movement, and AI's influence on job security and recruitment practices were prominent, with algorithmic bias and generational integration identified as emerging challenges.

## **ROUND ROBIN**

Fadeke expressed interest in authoring an article on AI's role in environmental and geospatial auditing.

| <b>Focus area</b>                                             | <b>Key outcome</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>Suggested next step</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Promoting internal audit via videos &amp; social media</b> | Develop actionable ideas for raising the profile of internal audit, including potential social media campaigns and early career initiatives. | - Focus group to formulate an action plan for the career-focused internal audit campaign, including identifying panel members for participation and potential external contributors. |
| <b>AI</b>                                                     | Create activities and resources to support the wider membership working in internal audit.                                                   | - Focus group to explore how we want to move forward with supporting the wider membership.                                                                                           |
| <b>Reissuing materials</b>                                    | Re-share articles, webinars and podcasts to the wider membership to increase engagement.                                                     | - Sophie and the panel to identify relevant content for re-circulation via emails and LinkedIn.                                                                                      |