

# PRUDENTIAL PLC

## Charter: Group-wide Internal Audit

### 1. Introduction

The effective operation of internal audit is a key part of the control environment required for Prudential to fulfil its strategy, achieve its objectives and meet its obligations. This charter sets out the purpose, authority, scope and responsibility of the Group-wide Internal Audit (GwIA) function within the Prudential group and the arrangements for the management of the function, including ensuring its independence from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line management of the group. The charter should be read in conjunction with the Group Audit Committee (GAC) Terms of Reference, which set out the responsibilities of the GAC in providing general direction as to the scope of work and the activities to be audited and the GwIA business standards.

This charter is owned by the Group Chief Internal Auditor (GCIA) and is approved by the GAC. Adherence to the requirements within the charter is mandatory for all GwIA staff.

### 2. Mandate

*The primary objective of Group-wide Internal Audit ('GwIA') is 'to assist the Board, Group Executive Committee, Group Audit Committee (GAC) and Group Risk Committee (GRC) in protecting the assets, reputation and sustainability of the organisation by providing independent, risk-focussed and objective assurance, advice, insight and foresight on the risk management, control and governance processes across the Group; and by appropriately challenging and influencing Executive Management to improve the effectiveness of those processes.'*

### 3. Authority

GwIA activity is not restricted in scope in any way and it is empowered by the GAC to audit all parts of the Prudential Group and will have full, unrestricted access to any of the organisation's activities, records, physical properties and personnel. All employees are requested to assist GwIA in fulfilling its roles and responsibilities.

### 4. Leadership

#### 4.1 Reporting Line

The Group Chief Internal Auditor (GCIA) is accountable to the GAC through a functional reporting line to the Chair of the Committee. The GCIA will periodically assess, and report to the GAC, on the continued adequacy of the function's mandate, independence, objectivity, authority, responsibility, resources and technical experience in order to enable it to accomplish its objectives.

#### 4.2 GwIA Leadership Team

The GCIA should have the appropriate standing, access and authority to challenge the executive. It is the responsibility of the GCIA to deliver the GwIA Mandate. In this regard the GCIA is supported by an organisational structure that includes a Leadership Team which is made

up of senior members of GwIA. The members of the Leadership Team are appointed by the GCIA.

The GCIA together with the GwIA Leadership Team is responsible for all formal functional reporting requirements to the GAC and the Local Business Unit (LBU) Audit Committees. The primary role of the Quality Assurance function is to monitor and evaluate adherence with all relevant IA standards of audit practice and GwIA audit methodology with the results of these assessments presented directly to the GAC.

## **5. Scope and Responsibility**

The work of GwIA complements the wider Enterprise Risk Management framework of the Prudential Group in that it operates as a 'third-line of defence' in the provision of independent and objective internal control assurance. The assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Risk Management, Compliance and Finance functions is within the scope of GwIA and, as such, GwIA is independent of these functions and is neither responsible for, nor part of, them.

### **5.1 Scope**

The scope of GwIA activities encompass the examination and evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Prudential Group's systems of governance, risk management and internal control and the quality of performance in carrying out assigned responsibilities within the context of protecting the assets, reputation and future sustainability of the organisation. While GwIA will alert management to significant risks that might affect objectives, operations or resources, assurance procedures alone, even when performed with due professional care, do not guarantee that all significant risks will be identified. GwIA is not responsible for setting the Group's risk appetite or for the effectiveness of the framework of internal controls.

The scope of GwIA includes:

- a) An independent assessment of risk and the design and operational effectiveness of key policies, procedures and controls implemented to mitigate the risks identified. This includes those in place to ensure appropriate levels of adherence to applicable laws, regulations and requirements of regulators.
- b) An assessment of whether risk appetite has been established, embedded and adhered to within the activities, limits and reporting of the Group, and whether these have been reviewed through the active involvement of the Board, its Committees and Executive Management.
- c) Independent assessment and assurance regarding reliability, integrity and completeness of accounting, financial, management, information technology systems and risk reporting information.
- d) Independent assessment and assurance regarding capability and adaptability of information technology systems to provide information in an accurate and timely manner to the Group Board and senior management.
- e) An assessment of whether the information presented to the Board, its Committees and Executive Management for strategic and operational decision making fairly represents the

benefits, risks and assumptions associated with the strategy and corresponding business model.

- f) An evaluation as to whether the Group's internal governance, policies and supporting processes deliver appropriate outcomes, and that they are in line with the objectives, risk appetite and values of the Group. This includes an evaluation as to whether the design and control of products, services and supporting processes deliver appropriate customer outcomes.
- g) An assessment of the organisational culture, incorporating but not limited to risk and control culture assessments of the Group.
- h) An assessment of the modelling and management of the Group's capital and liquidity risks, as well as evaluating the means of verifying the liabilities of the organisation
- i) Monitoring and evaluation of the adequacy and appropriateness of the Group Internal Economic Capital Assessment's governance and control procedures.
- j) An assessment of the means of safeguarding and verifying policyholder assets as well as those of the Group; and that the assets of the two remain appropriately segregated.
- k) Key corporate events such as significant business process changes, the introduction of new products and services, outsourcing decisions and acquisitions/divestments to determine whether key risks are being adequately addressed and reported. GwIA will determine which events are sufficiently high risk to warrant involvement on a real time basis.
- l) Making objective and appropriate recommendations to improve the Group's control environment and assist the business achieve their strategies.
- m) Reporting significant matters arising to GAC, GRC and local audit and risk committees.
- n) Providing assurance that issues raised are addressed and resolved to mitigate the risks reported on a timely basis; or on a risk-basis evaluating management's attestation, as agreed during the audit report finalisation process, that they have taken the necessary steps to remediate lower-rated observations and their associated risks.
- o) The scope of GwIA's activities extends to all legal entities in the Prudential Group and other business partnerships, outsourcing and reinsurance arrangements, where appropriate.
- p) Assessment of processes and controls supporting strategic and operational decision-making and the delivery of strategic priorities.
- q) Assessment and assurance regarding environmental sustainability, climate changes risks and social issues
- r) Assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of controls implemented to mitigate risks relating to financial crime, economic crime and fraud.

- s) Assessment of the governance, risk management and control framework for managing IT general controls, cyber, cloud, digital and data risks including the use of emerging technology such as artificial intelligence.
- t) Assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Risk Management, Compliance, Finance and other control functions.

All GwIA engagements will be conducted with proficiency and due professional care and, in doing so, will consider the use of technology-based audit and other data analysis techniques. The GCIA will also ensure emerging trends and successful practices in internal auditing are considered.

## **5.2 Internal Audit Plan of Coverage**

The GCIA will submit at least annually an audit plan of coverage, related budget and resource plan to the GAC for review and approval. Individual LBU audit plans will also be agreed with the relevant LBU Audit Committee. The audit plan, including the frequency and method of audit cycle coverage, will be based on prioritisation of the identified 'audit universe' using an 'Audit Needs' risk-based methodology, incorporating input from Head Office and LBU stakeholders and will be subject to ongoing review to take account of emerging risks, specific events or changes in the structure or risk profile of the Group. GwIA is also to consider the probability of significant errors, fraud, non-compliance and other exposures when developing audit objectives.

GwIA will work with Group and LBU management to plan the rotation of suitable staff through GwIA in order to promote the development of high performing staff.

## **6. Independence and Objectivity**

GwIA is committed to maintaining its independence and objectivity in the discharge of its responsibilities, and appropriate reporting lines are in place to support this goal:

- a) The GCIA reports all audit related matters to the GAC and communicates directly with the GAC through attendance at its meetings. The GCIA will also have direct access to the Chair of the Board, Chair of the GAC, Group Chief Executive Officer and will periodically meet with the GAC without the presence of management. In addition, the GCIA will have the right to attend all BU Audit Committee meetings. For administrative purposes (excluding strictly all audit related matters) the GCIA has a reporting line to the Group Chief Risk and Compliance Officer (CRCO). On behalf of the GAC, the Chair of the GAC is responsible for considering the appointment, termination, performance, independence and overall remuneration of the GCIA, in addition where the tenure of the GCIA exceeds seven years, the whole GAC will review independence and objectivity annually.

Audit-related matters are not subject to approval by the Group Executive Committee or any other executive governance body. Executive management do not determine the Group's coverage requirements, or place restrictions on the scope of audits within the audit plan, or place restrictions on the reporting by GwIA of its findings and assessments.

- b) The GCIA in consultation with the Group CEO is empowered to attend and observe all or part of Group Executive Committee (GEC) meetings and any other key management decision making meetings as appropriate.
- c) Audit Directors report to the GCIA, as their functional head, and to their respective LBU CEO and, where applicable, LBU Audit Committee Chair. Audit Directors, while recognising local legislation or regulation as appropriate, are responsible for setting budgets and remuneration, conducting appraisals and reviewing the audit plan. The GCIA will consider the independence, objectivity and tenure of the Audit Directors when performing their appraisals.
- d) GwIA staff are expected to exhibit the highest level of professional objectivity in carrying out their duties, must make a balanced assessment of all relevant circumstances, remain impartial and seek to avoid any professional or personal conflict of interest. GwIA staff will have no direct operational responsibility or authority over any business activity or personnel outside of the function.
- e) From time to time GwIA may be requested to provide consultancy services, which are advisory in nature, relating to the evaluation and improvement of the control environment. Where such services are performed, the GwIA staff involved will only provide assurance services to that area where there is no perceived or actual conflict of interest, in accordance with the GwIA Conflict of Interest procedure.

## **7. Relationships with Other Assurance Functions**

GwIA will consider, and where appropriate coordinate with, the work of other assurance functions within the Prudential Group (Risk, Compliance, Finance etc.) as well as requirements from external bodies such as the external auditors and the Group's regulators when determining the level of Internal Audit activity in any business area.

Through the exercise of informed judgement, the GCIA and Audit Directors are responsible for determining how much reliance can be placed on the work of other assurance functions following a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of that function in relation to the area under review.

GwIA will establish and maintain a close and continuous relationship with the Group's regulatory authorities. In addition, GwIA will work closely with the external auditors and other assurance providers and, where possible, align annual plans to eliminate duplication of audit effort. GwIA will also interact and collaborate effectively with the external auditors in order to coordinate audit engagements and subsequent recommendations to the improvement of the Group's risk management, internal controls and governance processes.

## **8. Reporting and Monitoring**

In most instances a written and graded report will be prepared and issued following the conclusion of each assurance engagement and will be distributed as appropriate. The GCIA may authorise the issue of a non-opinion bearing report. Details of key audit results and any exceptions identified are reported to the GAC, GRC, GEC and BU Audit Committees.

GwIA will provide GAC, at least annually, an assessment of the control environment, based on the audit work performed, of the overall effectiveness of the governance, and risk and control framework of the organisation, including a conclusion on whether the organisation's risk appetite framework is being adhered to, together with an analysis of themes, recurring issues and root causes of the issues identified and trends emerging from Internal Audit work and their impact on the organisation's risk profile.

Through a standardised issues assurance process (including management's attestation to remediating lower-rated observations), GwIA will be responsible for monitoring and reporting the status of open audit findings to GAC and verifying the risks originally identified in audits have been appropriately addressed by management.

## **9. Standards of Audit Practice**

The GwIA function will adhere to the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) requirements as set out in the IIA's International Professional Practices Framework, which are the Global Internal Audit Standards and the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors' (CIIA) revised guidance, 'Internal Audit Code of Practice' (CIIA Code). GwIA will conduct itself in accordance with standards, policies and practices as set out in the GwIA Procedures Manual, and will carry out its audit work in accordance with the GwIA Methodology. GwIA will also maintain appropriate confidentiality while discharging its duties, particularly given the access GwIA has to highly sensitive data and personal identifiable information.

The GwIA will ensure that the audit team has the skills and experience commensurate with the risks of the organisation. Where appropriate, independent internal or external technical specialists will be engaged to supplement the core team, and quality assurance and improvement practices. Where GwIA uses external resource, either to alleviate temporary resource constraints or to provide access to particular specialisms, such resource will be required to comply with the Charter and policy.

## **10. Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme**

The GAC will assess the effectiveness and performance of GwIA using several performance measures, including appraisal of the ongoing internal Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and internal effectiveness assessment performed by the Quality Assurance function and reported to the GAC at least annually on conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards, continued effectiveness of GwIA's activities, and adequacy of its independence, objectivity, authority, responsibility, resources and technical experience to enable it to accomplish its mandate and identify opportunities for improvement.

In addition, the GAC will obtain an external assessment of the effectiveness and performance of GwIA conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team from outside the Group.

These assessments ensure that the function maintains conformance with all relevant Internal Audit standards of audit practice, is adequately resourced, free from constraint or interference in determining the scope of internal audits, performing work and communicating results and has the appropriate standing within the Group.

*Reviewed and approved by the Group Audit Committee on 2 October 2024.*