

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

Timing: Morning, Monday, 23rd March 2026

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER
BUSINESS
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Policy priorities for corporate governance and audit reform in the UK**
Andrew Death, Deputy Director, Corporate Reporting and Audit, Department for Business and Trade
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Governance and audit reform - business priorities and practical considerations for delivery**
Senior representative, business
- 9.40 **Assessing government proposals - director accountability, public interest entity status, and reducing administrative burden**
scope of the delayed Audit Reform and Corporate Governance Bill and implications of the revised timetable | maintaining stakeholder confidence and reform momentum | proposals to extend public interest entity status to large unlisted companies and implications for scope, thresholds and reporting obligations | director accountability arrangements and enforcement mechanisms | expectations for risk management and internal controls under the UK Corporate Governance Code, including Provision 29 | clarity of remit between government, the regulator and other bodies during the transition period | use of technology to support proportionate reporting and assurance, including for groups operating across jurisdictions
Senior representative, SME
Senior representative, audit
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, technology
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Key considerations for the Corporate Reporting Authority - scope, governance, and regulatory powers**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.25 **Boardroom culture and director accountability - latest thinking and best practice**
Senior representative, workforce
- 11.35 **Implementation of stewardship reform - transparency, proportionate reporting, and supporting long-term value creation**
Senior representative, investment
- 11.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 **The audit market in context - challenges, capacity, and reform timing**
Senior representative, audit
- 12.15 **Next steps for the audit market - access, competition, and confidence**
improving the functioning of the audit market for listed companies, large private companies and SMEs | fostering confidence and competition, including addressing market concentration | supporting SME access to audit services while reducing unnecessary reporting burdens | proportionate application of audit standards and the role of guidance for smaller practitioners | use of technology to support audit quality, resilience and capacity | safeguards against conflicts of interest and improving transparency around audit quality indicators | early implications of internal controls reform, including Provision 29, for audit scope and costs | integrating ESG and sustainability considerations into audit and assurance | addressing stakeholder concerns around reform timeframes, implementation costs and regulatory certainty
Senior representative, business
Senior representative, professional body
Senior representative, competition
Senior representative, investors
- 12.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Business Forum