

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

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



**WESTMINSTER  
BUSINESS  
FORUM**

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **The current landscape of corporate governance and audit reform**  
**Professor Luca Enriques**, Allen & Overy Professor of Corporate Law, University of Oxford  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Assessing government legislative proposals for corporate governance in the UK**  
*scope of the draft Audit Reform and Corporate Governance Bill | strategies for enhancing risk management and internal controls, including the use of technology to improve reporting mechanisms | protections against conflicts of interests | the potential effect of the Bill's proposed definition of public interest entities on smaller businesses | building resilience in the audit market | addressing unnecessary rules on smaller public interest entities | improving trust in the audit sector | priorities for director accountability | assessing the effect of the UK Corporate Governance Code 2024 on stakeholders*  
**Martin McTague**, National Chair, Federation of Small Businesses  
**Gareth Sykes**, Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills  
**Dr Roger Barker**, Director, Policy and Corporate Governance, Institute of Directors  
Senior representative, investment  
Senior representative, consultancy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **The effect of corporate governance codes on businesses**  
Senior representative, business  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Next steps for the financial sector's auditing strategies**  
Senior representative, audit  
Senior academic  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Key issues for audit reform and coordination with wider policy aims**  
*priorities for the Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority | the future for the audit market | ARGAs approach and intended role in reducing major company collapses, protecting jobs and supporting UK's reputation as an investment destination | integration of ESG and wider sustainability considerations | alignment of corporate governance with decarbonisation goals scrutiny and budget responsibility | balancing growth and competitiveness objectives with robust regulatory frameworks*  
**Professor Adam Leaver**, Professor, Accounting and Society, University of Sheffield; and Director, Audit Reform Lab  
**Jacky So**, ESG Director, OCS  
**Dr Luis Correia da Silva**, Partner, Oxera  
Senior representative, business  
Senior representative, investment  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Audit reform and the future of corporate governance in the UK - key policy priorities**  
**Matilda Curtis**, Deputy Director, Audit and Corporate Governance, Department for Business and Trade  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Business Forum