

**Westminster Business Forum policy conference:
Next steps for corporate reporting and the UK audit market**

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 **Priorities for corporate governance and audit policy 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, audit, and corporate reporting - business priorities and next steps**
Iain Wright, Chief Policy and Communications Officer, ICAEW
- 9.40 **Assessing priorities for modernising corporate reporting - costs, administrative burden, and corporate resilience**
stakeholder views on latest government priorities for modernising corporate reporting and the decision not to drop the proposed Audit and Corporate Governance Reform Bill | maintaining stakeholder confidence | 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 | priorities for putting the Financial Reporting Council on a statutory footing | use of technology to support proportionate reporting and assurance, including for groups operating across jurisdictions
Ed Anderson, Partner, Browne Jacobson
Cindy van Niekerk, CEO, Umazi
James Ashton, CEO, Quoted Companies Alliance
Sana Mirza-Awan, Senior Policy Adviser, Investment Association
Senior representative, audit
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Next steps for the regulatory environment - statutory powers, governance, and market oversight**
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 effective practice**
Peter Swabey, Director, Policy and Research, Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland
- 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 addressing current pressures**
Senior representative, audit
- 12.15 **Next steps for the audit market - access, competition, and confidence**
options for 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
Leon Kamhi, Head, Responsibility, Federated Hermes
Stephen Osborne, Partner, Public Interest Audit, Grant Thornton UK
Senior representative, business
Senior representative, professional body
- 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