

HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES

CEO & BOARD PRACTICE

In association with



Beyond the numbers: A guide to better corporate reports

When it comes to corporate reporting, many companies satisfy their fiduciary duty yet fail to convey a clear representation of the company's performance, governance, composition, or prospects. They can do better.



Subject to legal disclaimer at the back

Foreword

The goal of any company is to create value for its stakeholders — be they customers, employees, shareholders, or society as a whole. Unsurprisingly, companies spend considerable effort communicating to the world how they have done this and how they plan to do so in the future. When it comes to corporate reporting, however, many companies fall short: they may satisfy their fiduciary duty yet fail to convey a clear and honest representation of the company, its performance, its governance, its composition, and its prospects.

This state of affairs benefits no one.

In our respective work with clients, we routinely work with and advise companies at both the board and senior management levels. We spend a great deal of time reviewing annual reports — many of them outstanding, others less so. Our experience leads us to believe that we might offer useful suggestions and advice to help companies improve the overall practice of their corporate reporting.

In the guide that follows, we offer suggestions, examples, and what we hope are actionable ideas on some of the best practices that we believe companies should consider to improve the clarity of their corporate reports. It represents the work of the combined teams of Heidrick & Struggles and Legal & General Investment Management and is intended

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to offer recommendations rather than prescribe, to suggest exemplars rather than pick favourites, and to do so in an accessible and informative manner.

In addition to addressing legal and regulatory requirements, we believe a good corporate report clearly addresses three concerns that investors, management, and boards have in common:

- How does the company grow?
- How does it address and manage risk?
- How does it build the capability to compete?

The best disclosure in an annual report connects effective governance, company strategy, and leadership talent and looks toward the future rather than looking back at historical events with rose-tinted glasses. It illuminates rather than obfuscates. Such disclosure helps a company shape its reputation, differentiate itself, and build confidence with investors — and ultimately provides a window into the company and its culture.

Whether it be through broadening and deepening the talent base or enhancing governance, the common goal is to improve business performance. Helping companies create better, more honest, and more transparent corporate reports ultimately helps achieve this aim.

We hope that you find this guide useful, and we welcome your comments and feedback.

Sacha Sadan

Director of
Corporate Governance,
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Introduction

Despite efforts from stakeholders to persuade companies to make annual reports clearer and more concise, they seem to be getting longer and less clear. This stems largely from the pressure for enhanced disclosure driven by narrative reporting and the linkage to financials. Further, the related encouragement that reports be fair, balanced, and understandable has increased the use of infographics. Yet neither of these trends guarantees board reporting that provides investors with genuine insights into the current workings (let alone future prospects) of companies.

In this guide, Heidrick & Struggles, a global leadership advisory firm, and Legal & General Investment Management (LGIM), one of the United Kingdom's largest investment managers, offer views on best practices for board reporting, with supporting examples. Our view is straightforward: we prefer plain English over management jargon; we endorse infographics when they present information more clearly than do tables or prose; and we strongly

encourage both brevity and honesty. In this vein, we follow examples such as the Financial Reporting Council's 2011 *Cutting Clutter* report¹ and Deloitte's *Annual Report Insights 2014—Providing a Clear Steer*.²

At Heidrick & Struggles, we have a long history of advising many of the largest companies in the world on succession planning, leadership talent, and culture shaping. At LGIM, we have a wealth of experience engaging with companies on governance and investment strategies. We use our scale to effect change. We both see companies that do corporate reporting well and some that do not. We know that, for investors, good and reliable corporate reporting fosters a healthy economy; it is simply good business. We aspire to raise the bar for the whole market.

In our judgement, the examples we chose (from among 2014 annual reports in the FTSE 100 and FTSE 250) show companies who have balanced disclosure and clarity while telling their value-creation story. Please note that, although we find these examples compelling, our analysis is not comprehensive.

¹ Financial Reporting Council (FRC), *Cutting Clutter: Combating Clutter in Annual Reports*, 2011, available on www.frc.org.uk.

² Deloitte, *Annual Report Insights 2014—Providing a Clear Steer*, available on www.deloitte.com/uk.

We have focused on four broad areas of corporate reporting:



○ Chairman's statement

Overview



- Strategy, business models, and key performance indicators (KPIs)
- Risk reporting
- Cybersecurity
- Sustainability

Strategic report



- Performance effectiveness reviews
- Diversity policy
- Remuneration policy and report
- Succession planning
- Disclosure on audit process, audit tender, and audit committee
- Director's report — board activities and shareholder engagement

Governance



○ Tax disclosure

Financial review

1 Overview

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

It should go without saying, but this standard reporting feature is best when actually written by the chairman. It should be an honest, personal appraisal of performance — discussing what went well and what did not. It should also look ahead to future prospects, with emphasis on elements within the firm's control (for instance, choosing how and where to compete) rather than on those outside its control (the global economy). It should also summarise the firm's efforts to sustain and build its board and executive talent pipeline.

It should reflect the voice of the chairman, uniquely sharing the chairman's perspective and mission of the company rather than being a duplication of the CEO or CFO's annual review.

A good example of such a statement is provided by Rijnhard van Tets, chairman of Petrofac:

"Against a difficult background and a disappointing financial performance, the Board has been systematically scrutinising [its] strategic direction. . . . For a Company that puts so much store by its track record, our pride has been hurt. . . . What struck me when I attended a portion of [the 2014 leadership conference] was the clear, across-the-board determination to learn from any shortcomings and re-commit to Petrofac's distinctive, delivery-focused culture. . . . Whilst nobody is complacent about the events of the last year, our ability to execute challenging contracts in difficult conditions remains a core competence."³

Another example of a good chairman's statement is provided by Sir Philip Hampton, chairman of The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). Hampton keeps his message short and personal, looking back over his time as chairman and acknowledging both the initial difficulties in identifying the problems facing the bank and the progress made. The chairman's message has multiple references to the importance of focussing on the customer, a key part of the RBS strategy and cultural change program.

³ Petrofac, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 7, available on www.petrofac.com.



Source: RBS, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, pp. 6–7, available on www.investors.rbs.com

What we like:

- Short and concise
- Implicitly embeds strategic focus in key messages
- Acknowledges challenges
- Celebrates success
- Does not duplicate CEO statement and strategic review



Strategic report

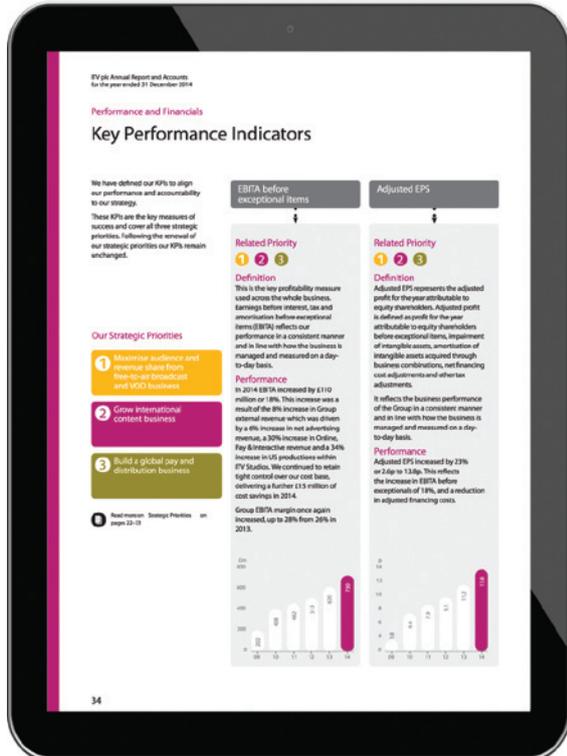
Investors rely on corporate reporting to gain knowledge. A report on a company's strategy and business model should therefore enlighten, not confuse. It should make clear how and where the business chooses to compete, how it is organised for success, and how it makes money and adds shareholder value.

STRATEGY, BUSINESS MODELS, AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

In our view, the best reports tell the company's story. They establish clear links between the firm's vision and mission and its strategy, while explaining the organisation's values and how they connect to its success. The company's narrative is clearly linked to the report's financial details, and the primary strategic messages echo throughout the document. Finally, the best reports offer context about the future, explaining how the company is positioning itself for the year to come.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) help flesh out the story. KPIs are most credible when they are on point, reflect the already-enumerated strategy, and relate directly to long-term success and value creation. They should be reliable, be consistently calculated year on year, offer historical context (at least five years), be clearly defined and linked to incentive arrangements, and provide a fair and balanced view of all aspects that drive company performance. They should be capable of reflecting all significant developments, positive or negative.

In the following example, ITV clearly defines and presents its KPIs and explains how the company has performed on those indicators during the year:



Source: ITV, *ITV Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 34, available on www.itvplc.com/investors

BAE Systems and MoneySuperMarket also have done a good job in this respect:



Source: BAE Systems, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 12, available on <http://investors.baesystems.com>



Source: Moneysupermarket Group, *Moneysupermarket Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, pp. 2–3, available on <http://corporate.moneysupermarket.com/investor>



RISK REPORTING

All companies must manage a variety of risks, and their risk profiles and appetites will vary. Nonetheless, shareholders require a summary of the company's risk profile and a clear explanation of what has changed. Reviewing risks that are tangible, company-specific, and addressable is more useful than reviewing those that are not or focusing on risks that are beyond the company's control.

The report should discuss risks, actions taken, and mitigating factors in clear, concise, easy-to-understand language. The company's risk appetite should be discussed. Risks that are specific to the company, as opposed to those that apply to the industry as a whole, should be differentiated and new risks clearly identified. Investors understand that not everything can be guaranteed — risk reporting cannot be perfect — but they nonetheless want the company's best attempt.

Taylor Wimpey's approach to risk reporting makes clear who is accountable and includes easy-to-digest visuals:



Source: Taylor Wimpey, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 26, available on www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/corporate

CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity is a growing area of concern for boards (though one that perhaps should be getting even more attention than it does).⁴ Although there are no current reporting requirements in this area, investors increasingly want to know that boards are taking the issue seriously and that the right questions are being asked.

Boards must be stewards of the company's information infrastructure as well as any other corporate asset; the imperative for boards to be involved in this issue is discussed in the 2013 *FTSE 350 Cyber Governance Health Check*,⁵ for example. In particular, we believe that boards need to do three things: 1) take ownership of the issue and not leave it to the IT department, including seeking training as necessary and arranging timely updates from IT management; 2) obtain evidence that risks are well managed, including results of rigorous external cyber audits; and 3) embed cyber awareness into the company's culture by emphasising the issue's importance to all employees and integrating protocols into daily operations. All of these matters should be included in the company's annual reports, with enough detail to shore up investors' confidence.



⁴ For example, the ICSA's winter 2015 *FT-ICSA Boardroom Bellwether* report (p. 18) revealed that 82% of board members surveyed believe the risk of cyberattack to be increasing (the report is available on www.icsa.org.uk), but a recent EY review of annual reports showed only 17% of companies reporting on the issue (see *Annual Reporting in 2014: Reflections on the Past, Direction for the Future*, September 2015, p. 22, available on www.ey.com).

⁵ HM Government, *FTSE 350 Cyber Governance Health Check: Tracker Report*, November 2013, available on www.gov.uk.

In Rio Tinto's 2014 annual report, the board describes technology risks that could adversely affect costs or productivity. As with any other risk, the board should conduct strategic analysis and make that analysis transparent to investors.

Factor	Nature
Some of the Group's technologies are unproven and failures could adversely impact costs and/or productivity	The Group has invested in and implemented new technologies both in information systems and in operational activities, some of which are unproven and their eventual viability cannot be assessed with certainty. The actual benefits of these technologies may differ adversely from expectations.
The Group may be exposed to major failures in the supply chain for specialist services, equipment and materials	Rio Tinto operates within a complex supply chain depending on suppliers of materials, services, equipment, and infrastructure, and on providers of logistics. Supply chain failures, or significantly increased costs within the supply chain, for whatever reason, could have an adverse effect on the Group's business.
Joint ventures, strategic partnerships or non-managed operations may not be successful, and may not comply with the Group's standards	The Group participates in several joint ventures and partnership arrangements, and it may enter into others, all of which involve risk. Whether or not the Group holds majority interests or maintains operational control in its joint ventures, its partners may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have economic or business interests or goals that are inconsistent with, or opposed to, those of the Group; Exercise veto rights to block actions that the Group believes are in its or the joint venture's best interests; or Be unable or unwilling to fulfil their obligations under the joint ventures or other agreements, such as contributing capital to expansion or maintenance projects. When these joint ventures are controlled and managed by others, the Group may provide expertise and advice but has limited control over compliance with its standards and objectives. Contracting partners may take action contrary to the Group's interests or policies, resulting in adverse impact to the Group's operations, financial performance, legal liability or reputation.
The Group's operations are vulnerable to a range of interruptions, not all of which are covered fully by insurance	<p>1. Natural disasters and events Mining, smelting, refining and infrastructure installations are vulnerable to natural events including earthquakes, subsidence, drought, flood, fire, storms and climate change.</p> <p>2. Sustained operational difficulties Operating difficulties are many and varied, ranging from geological variations that could result in significant ground or containment failure to breakdown of key capital equipment. Historical risks, such as robotics, ports, power generation and transmission, and water supplies are required to access and conduct our operations and deliver product to market. Limitations, delayed development, bottlenecks or interruptions in infrastructure, including as a result of third parties gaining access to our integrated facilities, could impede our ability to deliver products.</p> <p>3. Information technology and cyber security The Group relies heavily on information technology and process control systems to support our business. In common with most large global companies, the Group has experienced cyber attacks and is faced with ongoing threats to the confidentiality, integrity and availability of such systems. An extended failure of critical systems components, caused by accidental or malicious attacks, including those resulting from a cyber security attack, could result in a significant environmental, health or safety incident, commercial loss or interruption to operations.</p> <p>4. Major operational failure The Group's operations involve chemicals and other substances stored under high temperatures and pressure, with the potential for fire, explosion or other loss of control of the process, leading to a release of hazardous materials. This could occur by accident, system failure or a breach of operating standards, and could result in significant environmental, health or safety incident.</p> <p>5. Sustained pandemic The Group has operations, development projects and operations in numerous countries and is reliant on effective global shipping/transportation movements to deliver product to markets. The sustained outbreak of a pandemic may result in health concerns for its workforce as well as the temporary closure of a site or access to shipping/transportation movements, adversely impacting financial performance.</p> <p>The Group's insurers does not cover every potential loss associated with its operations and adequate coverage at reasonable rates is not always obtainable. Insurers' provision may not fully cover its liability or the consequences of any business interruption. Any occurrence not fully covered by insurance could have an adverse effect on the Group's business.</p>
The Group depends on the continued services of key personnel	The Group's ability to maintain its competitive position is dependent on the services of a wide range of highly skilled and experienced personnel who are essential to the locations where they are needed. Failure to recruit and retain key staff, and the inability to deploy staff worldwide, where they are most needed, could affect the Group's business. Similar constraints may be felt by other contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, thereby impacting the Group's operations, expansion plans or business more generally.
The Group's costs of closure, reclamation and rehabilitation could be higher than expected	Closure-and reclamation works to return operating sites to the community can be extensive and costly. Estimated costs include, but are not limited to, the provision of land for the rehabilitation of sites to meet public needs, and the changes in legislation, standards and the emergence of new, or increases in the cost of, reclamation techniques. In addition, the expected timing of expenditure could change significantly due to changes in the business environment that might vary the life of an operating site.

Source: Rio Tinto, 2014 Annual Report, p. 17, available on www.riotinto.com

In Vodafone's annual report, the company highlights the importance of customer data to the integrity of the business and describes the risks the company has identified, along with mitigating factors.

Sustainable business

Contributing to social and economic improvement

Telecommunications technology has the power to transform people's lives. Ensuring that we continue to connect more people to essential services, while expanding the reach of our networks, is the best way we can support that improvement.

Telecommunications technology can be used to tackle some of the most pressing challenges faced by society today. Our products and services provide access to a range of solutions to these challenges in areas including financial services, healthcare and education. We remain determined to continue to contribute to the social and economic development of all our customers and particularly our 332 million customers who live in emerging markets, while ensuring we continue to fulfil our strategic business goals.

How we address our goals is integral to the way we manage our business. We remain fully committed to operating ethically and responsibly in every place we do. This includes ensuring we respect our customers' human rights, improving ethical and environmental standards in our supply chain and managing our energy use, while remaining committed to our response to emerging sustainability issues. This response highlights our progress in four critical areas.

Connecting people to vital services

Mobile money continues to be a driver of financial inclusion, offering people access to payments and financial services beyond the reach of traditional institutions. Our platform M-Pesa, reported its geographical reach in 2014, launching recently in Mozambique, Lesotho, Egypt, Romania and India.

M-Pesa now has 17 million active users who can access a wide range of services that enhance their ability to improve their livelihoods, including the ability to pay bills and receive their salary via M-Pesa. A new savings and loan product, loan direct, connects users with the Commercial Bank of Africa, enabling M-Pesa users to save and access loans, either for the first time.

The M-Pesa platform supports our efforts in many other areas including our aim to increase productivity and empower the lives of 300,000 smallholder farmers in Africa, through the Connected Farmer Alliance initiative. Our first joint partnership with Smartensia/Parsons Limited, in Tanzania, leverages how mobile technology could support the Company's partnership with smallholder farmers. We are also piloting our solution with a deep cooperation in Kenya to help them run more efficiently, increasing productivity and incomes for the members who sustain the cooperatives with us.

Protecting our customer information and respecting their privacy

The amount of data and personal information transmitted over our networks is increasing as our customers use their mobile and other connected devices more and more. Our commitment to protect that information and respect their right to privacy and freedom of expression remains critical in maintaining their trust.

We can only ensure our customers' privacy if we first ensure the security of their information and communications. Cyber security threats continue to proliferate, so Vodafone's Global Security Operations Centre monitors our 332 million active users worldwide 24/7 to anticipate or detect attacks and ensure their trust.

Want to find out more?
Visit www.vodafone.com/sustainablereport2014

Source: Vodafone Group, Annual Report 2014, pp. 34 and 47, available on www.vodafone.com

	Risk	Impact	Performance	Response	Strategic	Operational
Key risks	Network & IT systems failure Major failure or malicious attack on our network or IT systems may result in service interruption and consequential customer and operational issues.					
Failure to protect customer information	We face increasing quantities and types of customer data in both enterprise and consumer segments and any failure to protect data effectively could affect our reputation and technology brands.					
Competition	We face intensifying competition where all operators are looking to secure a share of the personal customer base, leading to lower future revenues and profitability.					
Regulation	We need to comply with an extensive range of regulatory requirements including the planning, construction and operation of our networks and services that can lead to adverse impacts on our business.					
Converged and over-the-top (OTT) services	Some competitors offer converged services which we cannot either replicate or provide at a similar price point. Furthermore, advances in smartphone technology place more focus on applications, operating systems and devices rather than the services provided by operators, which could erode revenues.					
Weak economic conditions	Economic conditions in many markets, especially in Europe, continue to stagnate as slow normal levels of growth and remain in place by austerity measures which could affect disposable incomes. This may result in customers moving to lower price points or going up their phones.					
Health risks	Concerns have been expressed that the electromagnetic signals emitted by mobile handsets and associated services may pose health risks. Authorities including the World Health Organization (WHO) agree there is insufficient evidence to confirm exposure to electromagnetic fields from mobile devices and base stations operated within guideline limits to any potential health risks.					
Integration of acquired businesses	The price paid for acquired businesses is based on current and future expected cash flows that are an expectation of a Group prospective and synergies that being part of the Vodafone Group will generate.					
Key suppliers	We depend on a limited number of suppliers for strategically important equipment and IT infrastructure and associated support services to operate and upgrade our networks and provide key services to our customers.					
Tax disputes	We operate in many jurisdictions around the world and from time to time have been drawn into an amount of tax disputes, including an ongoing case in India where the Indian Government has introduced retrospective legislation to increase the taxable India Supreme Court decision.					
Impairment assumptions	Revisions to the assumptions used in assessing the recoverability of goodwill, including discount rates, expected future cash flows or anticipated changes in operations, could lead to the impairment of certain Group assets.					
Mitigating factors	Specific backup and resilience requirements are built into our networks combined with regularly tested business continuity and disaster recovery plans.					
	Hardware and software applications include security features which are reviewed by our technology and corporate security functions to ensure compliance with our policies and security standards.					
	We will continue to provide our differentiated propositions by focusing on our points of strength such as network quality, products and customer service. See page 21 for more details on our strategy.					
	We monitor market developments closely, identifying risks in our current and proposed commercial propositions, which are factored into our business plans, operations, competitive commercial pricing and product strategies. We also make interventions at a national and international level in respect of legislative, fiscal and regulatory proposals which we feel are not in the interest of the Group.					
	In some markets we already provide fixed line services while others we actively look to provide such services through acquisition or partnerships. We have also accelerated the introduction of integrated systems to reduce customer out-of-bounds usage through substitution. See pages 22 to 25 for more details.					
	We monitor the economic situation and have developed plans with specific actions identified to mitigate the risk of a renewed entering period of severe financial crisis.					
	We have a global health and safety policy that includes standards for radio frequency fields that are mandated in all our operating countries. We monitor scientific developments and engage with relevant bodies to support the delivery and transparent communication of the scientific research and set by the WHO.					
	We have experience of acquiring and integrating businesses into the Group and for a significant transactions we develop and implement a structured integration plan to ensure that revenue benefits and cost synergies are delivered.					
	We proactively monitor the performance of key suppliers across individual and Group prospective and implement a structured integration plan to ensure that revenue benefits and cost synergies are delivered.					
	We maintain constructive engagement with the authorities, resolve government representatives in other business with similar issues. We also engage advisors and legal counsel to obtain opinions on tax legislation and progress.					
	We review for impairment at least annually and consider the appropriateness of assumptions used including discount rates and long term growth rates. Future technological developments and the timing and amount of future capital expenditure.					

SUSTAINABILITY

Increasingly, investors want to be assured that companies are capable of sustaining themselves, knowing that failure to sustain will result in significantly eroded long-term value. In particular, investors want companies to discuss the risks they face — ranging from day-to-day workforce issues of health and safety to long-term environmental issues such as climate change — and to make clear the concrete actions they are taking to address these risks. The best disclosures in annual reports are those in which companies set out their main issues and explain how they engage their stakeholders constructively and with integrity, without ceding their stakeholders’ rights and responsibilities.

Companies must communicate the ways in which their business strategy is linked to growth, long-term investment, and sustainability and how they view their broader role in society. Such integrated reporting drives integrated thinking and behaviours, all of which support sustainability throughout the enterprise and make possible a powerful value-creation story. Unilever is a company that does this well. The following examples from Unilever’s 2014 annual report show

how sustainability is embedded into the company’s strategy and how the resulting risks are addressed:



Source: Unilever, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 15, available on www.unilever.com

Sustainability is discussed in Unilever’s annual report as one of its principal risks. The report goes on to discuss how the board deals with this risk:

SUSTAINABILITY

The success of our business depends on finding sustainable solutions to support long-term growth.

Unilever’s Vision to double the size of our business while reducing our environmental footprint and increasing our positive social impact will require more sustainable ways of doing business. This means reducing our environmental footprint while increasing the positive social benefits of Unilever’s activities. We are dependent on the efforts of partners and various certification bodies to achieve our sustainability goals. There can be no assurance that sustainable business solutions will be developed and failure to do so could limit Unilever’s growth and profit potential and damage our corporate reputation.

The Unilever Sustainable Living Plan sets clear long-term commitments to improve health and well-being, reduce environmental impact and enhance livelihoods. Underpinning these are targets in areas such as hygiene, nutrition, sustainable sourcing, fairness in the workplace, opportunities for women and inclusive business as well as greenhouse gas emissions, water and waste. These targets and more sustainable ways of operating are being integrated into Unilever’s day-to-day business.

Progress towards the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan is monitored by the Unilever Leadership Executive and the Boards. The Unilever Sustainable Living Plan Council, comprising six external specialists in sustainability, guides and critiques the development of our strategy.

Source: Unilever, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 50, available on www.unilever.com



3 Governance

Good corporate governance aligns the actions of executive management and the board with the interests of stakeholders. It is paramount that disclosures in this area are effective in providing transparency on how the company is governed. This helps to reassure the market that it is protecting and maximising long-term shareholder value through its actions and decision-making process. What follows are a few areas of interest for stakeholders, which can give good insights on the workings of a board.

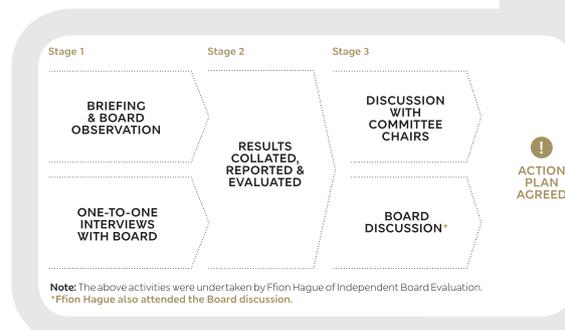
PERFORMANCE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEWS

The UK Corporate Governance Code states that companies should conduct a formal and rigorous annual evaluation of the board's performance, committees, and individual directors. For FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 companies, the code recommends that a board review conducted by an external party should be carried out at least once every three years.

Certainly, most boards consider themselves effective yet understand there is always room for improvement — areas that, with additional focus, could create more value. The best board effectiveness reviews consider the fit between board composition and company strategy and operations. When reporting on these reviews, companies should make their methodology transparent and should detail an action plan as to how their board will address the issues the reviews identify. Such reviews can help a company's board evolve, while giving shareholders visibility into the board's efforts, and ultimately provide more confidence that the board is striving to be the best it can be.

For example, a performance review exercise may identify necessary skills, knowledge, or experience that are absent in the boardroom meetings. This uncovering may spur the board to review its composition and increase its effectiveness by appointing new board members who can provide truly fresh insights from diverse perspectives. This improves decision making and maximises the value of the board.

Marks & Spencer's 2015 annual report offers an example of an effective report on a board performance review (note that Marks & Spencer's year end is March; therefore, this 2015 report covers the year 2014):



Source: M&S, *Annual Report & Financial Statements 2015*, p. 41, available on <http://annualreport.marksandspencer.com>

“The ethos and culture of the Board is positive and remains in line with the last independent review in 2012. Overall, the Board rated its performance as acceptable in the areas of governance and compliance, shareholder accountability and relationships, induction, and succession planning. . . . The Board review was conducted in December 2014 and January 2015 when M&S’s performance was under particular scrutiny, with operational issues affecting the Castle Donington distribution centre and M&S.com. Given this context, members were particularly open, objective and critical with respect to Board performance and the potential changes that should be implemented to improve overall Board effectiveness. . . .”

“Board Committees were also reviewed and were all considered well run, challenging, structured, trusted and effective. Members noted that committees were improved in terms of quality of information and support from management. Feedback from each Committee meeting to the main Board was felt to be full and transparent, particularly in relation to Audit and Remuneration.”

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) provides a clear and simple graphic of its board performance evaluation and action plan in its 2014 annual report:

2014 Board effectiveness evaluation observations and action plan:

Observations	Action to be taken
Increase the Board’s focus on brands	Deep dives into each brand strategy to be provided to the Board.
Enhance the Board’s understanding of competitors’ strategy and performance	Presentations on competitors’ strategies and offerings. Competitive analysis to be included in both financial results and strategic reviews.
Increase the Board’s exposure to the Group’s US business	Ensure opportunities are secured for meeting with the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer for The Americas region. Increase the Board’s understanding of the Kimpton brand. Deep dives into the strategy for core brands in the US. Firmer understanding of the EVEN Hotels brand’s growth strategy.

Source: IHG, *Annual Report and Form 20-F 2014*, p. 64, available on www.ihgplc.com

IHG explains its evaluation process in the annual report:

“Our 2014 evaluation was conducted internally. Each member of the Board completed an effectiveness questionnaire, which centred around the progress against actions identified in our 2013 Board effectiveness evaluation. Key areas included the regularity of meetings, appropriateness of location (especially in enabling us to gain a better understanding of our business), the decision-making process, executive management succession planning, impact of internal and external technology developments, and risk management and assurance oversight. It also invited Directors to make other general or specific observations. The results were analysed and the report was presented for discussion at the Board’s February 2015 meeting.”⁶

⁶ IHG, *Annual Report and Form 20-F 2014*, p. 64, available on www.ihgplc.com.

DIVERSITY POLICY

FTSE 100 boards experienced a landmark year in 2014, as it marked an end to all-male boards. In 2015, UK boards hit the 25% voluntary business target for women on boards that had been set by the Davies Steering Committee four years earlier. As gender diversity at the top improves slowly, companies should explain clearly how they are improving levels of diversity in all forms throughout the executive talent pipeline — including seeking diverse points of view as a safeguard against the dangers of ‘groupthink.’

Lloyds Banking Group has set out its diversity and inclusion strategy in this way:

“We want our Group to be a genuinely inclusive place to work, with every colleague treated fairly, with dignity and respect. We’ve made public commitments and set bold targets on diversity and inclusion in our Helping Britain Prosper Plan. These include commitments to: increase the proportion of senior management roles held by women; retain our Gold Standard as a disability-confident organisation; and increase the engagement scores of ethnic minority colleagues, disabled colleagues and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender colleagues, measured via our Colleague Survey. We plan to make more diversity and inclusion pledges in the future, as we work to build a culture in which all colleagues can be themselves at work and progress solely on the basis of merit.”

“We always aim to appoint the best person available into any role, but also to attract talented people from diverse backgrounds and to be unbiased in the way we assess, select, appoint and promote them. We encourage job applications from those with a disability and run a work experience programme with Remploy to support people with disabilities wanting to enter the workplace. We offer a range of programmes to support disabled colleagues including the workplace adjustment programme, which provides physical and non-physical adjustments to support colleagues in their roles.”⁷

⁷ Lloyds Banking Group, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 28, available on www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/investors/financial-performance/lloyds-banking-group.

Annual reports should therefore provide greater transparency about diversity policies and executive and non-executive succession plans. Furthermore, the company’s human capital management should link to its strategy and be led by the CEO.

A transparent and goal-oriented statement, with numbers as they relate to composition of the company’s employees, should provide a benchmark for readers to track progress over the coming years. Knowing how the board assures itself of suitable focus and progress would be particularly valuable.

Lloyds goes on to show the composition of its workforce:

		2014 Number	2013 (Restated) Number
Board members	Male	10	8
	Female	3	3
Senior managers ¹	Male	5,644	6,138
	Female	2,204	2,353
Colleagues ¹	Male	35,255	39,955
	Female	47,728	56,167

¹Colleague scope of reporting: UK payroll headcount includes established and fixed term contract colleagues. Excludes parental leavers, Non-Executive Directors, contractors, temp, agency and internationals.

	2014 %	2013 (Restated) %
Gender:		
Percentage of colleagues who are female ²	58.6%	58.7%
Female managers ²	45.4%	45.1%
Female senior managers ²	29.3%	28.5%
Disability:		
Percentage of colleagues who disclose they have a disability	1.3%	1.4%
Ethnic background:		
Percentage of colleagues from an ethnic minority	6.8%	6.4%
Ethnic minority managers	6.2%	5.8%
Ethnic minority senior managers	3.5%	2.9%
Sexual orientation:		
Percentage of colleagues who disclose they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender	0.6%	0.8%

²Diversity scope of reporting: UK payroll headcount includes established and fixed term contract colleagues and parental leavers. Excludes Non-Executive Directors, contractors, temp, agency, internationals, TSB, SWIP and Sainsbury’s.
Seniors managers: Grades F+
Mangers: Grade D-E
Data source: HR system (HRIS). Apart from gender data, all diversity information is based on colleagues’ voluntary self-declaration. As a result this data is not 100 per cent representative; our systems do not record any diversity data for the proportion of colleagues who have not declared this information.

Source: Lloyds Banking Group, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 28, available on www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/investors/financial-performance/lloyds-banking-group

Another good diversity disclosure can be found in Marks & Spencer's *Plan A Report 2014*. The company outlines a specific goal and aim for employee diversity:

Employee diversity

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Employee diversity**

Aim: We will report on gender diversity in the UK, RoI and our wholly owned businesses worldwide by 2015, we will aim for 30% female board members and 35% women in senior roles.

Progress: On plan We've extended this commitment and set new targets. As of March 2014, 29% of our Board and 39% of employees in senior management roles were women.

In 2014, we were again listed in The Times top 50 Employers for Women.

UK and RoI diversity

At present we cannot report on employee diversity from other International locations. In order to track progress on youth employment at M&S, this year we've added data on employees under 25 years of age.

Gender

% of total UK workforce	Women employees	Women managers [^]	Women store managers	Women in senior management (top 120)
2014	73%	58%	48%	39%
2013	74%	64%	49%	35%

[^] Management is defined as people with first line supervisory responsibilities or professional and technical specialists.

Ethnicity

% of total UK workforce	Employees from ethnic minority backgrounds	Managers from ethnic minority backgrounds [^]
2014	11%	14%
2013	12%	13%

[^] Management is defined as people with first line supervisory responsibilities or professional and technical specialists.

Age and experience

% of total UK workforce	Employees under 25 years of age	Employees over 50 years of age	Employees over 61 years of age	Employees over 65 years of age	Employees with over 11 years service
2014	20%	32%	7%	3%	25%
2013	N/A	33%	10%	3%	28%

All data as of March.

Source: M&S, *Your M&S Plan A Report 2014*, p. 16, available on <http://planareport2014.marksandspencer.com>

In the final Women on Boards report published by Lord Davies in October 2015, the recommendation is for 33% of all board seats in FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 companies to be held by women by 2020⁸. The new recommendations have spurred others to review and disclose other areas of diversity consideration: ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, and generational diversity. Business Secretary Sajid Javid has asked Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith, in 2016, to lead a review that will look at the issues faced by businesses in developing the talents of black and minority ethnic (BME) people.

Reviews such as this and reporting on the gender pay gap require annual reports to disclose a different set of data points. In so doing, this will help companies prepare for the government's new rules on gender pay gap reporting that will come into effect in 2018.

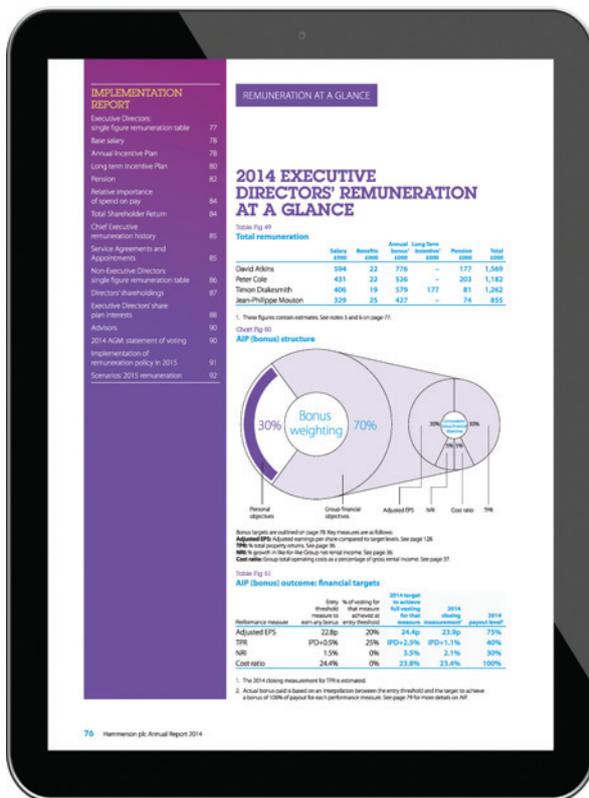
⁸ Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, *Women on Boards: Five Year Summary (Davies Review)*, October 2015, available on www.gov.uk.

REMUNERATION POLICY AND REPORT

Following recent legislative changes and the compulsory requirement for companies to put remuneration policy to a shareholder vote at least once every three years, the directors' remuneration report has lengthened considerably — in some cases, with a corresponding decline in clarity. The best reports employ graphics to aid understanding, avoid extensive footnotes or cross-referencing, and use plain English.

The whole purpose of incentive arrangements is to motivate management to develop and execute company strategy and create value for its stakeholders.

Hammerson, for example, was recognised for Best Executive Remuneration Reporting in the FTSE 100 in PwC's 2014 Building Public Trust Awards for its excellence in presenting its remuneration for directors in its annual report:

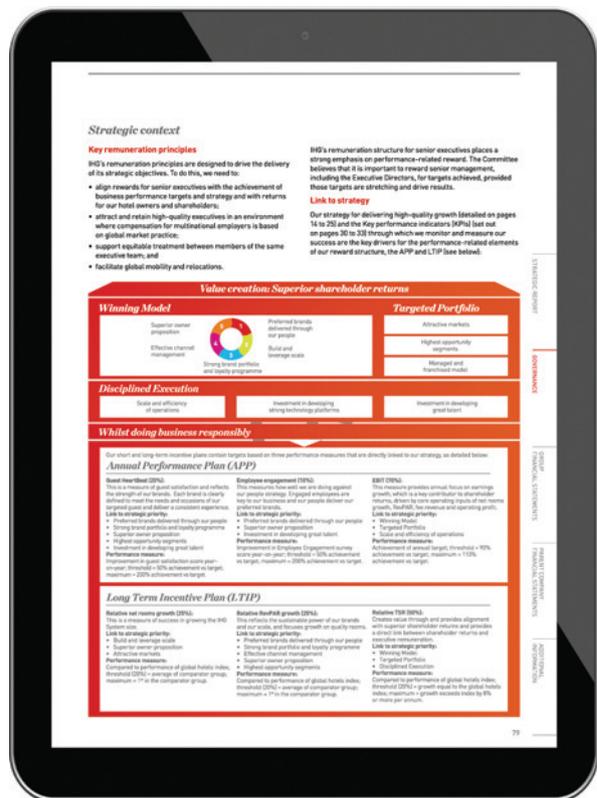


Source: Hammerson, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 76, available on www.hammerson.com

Whilst it is now accepted practice that base pay should be proportionate to the role and increases should reflect pay increases in the company generally, it is critical that business strategy and variable award-for-performance measures be linked and that the remuneration report makes that linkage clear. This enables stakeholders to hold management to account for their performance.

Performance measures should mirror the actual/adjusted numbers reported to the market, without modification; they should not attempt to ameliorate market troughs or peaks. Simplicity, honesty, and transparency are keys to a well-written remuneration report that will educate readers on a company's strategy and how pay is aligned to its delivery.

Another good example of the link between strategy and targets comes from IHG:



Source: IHG, *Annual Report and Form 20-F 2014*, p. 79, available on www.ihgplc.com

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Chairmen's letters written by actual chairmen, rather than by consultants or company insiders, show investors that the chairman takes responsibility for the stewardship of the committee. In particular, investors want to know the issues addressed, challenges faced, and discretion exercised by the remuneration committee during the year.

In the annual statement on remuneration, Jeremy Wilson, remuneration committee chairman at Tullow Oil, summarises major decisions made in 2014, performance and reward for 2014, the executive director remuneration policy for 2015, and shareholder dialogue:

ANNUAL STATEMENT ON REMUNERATION

The Remuneration Committee is focused on ensuring Executive Directors are rewarded for long-term performance, rather than short-term returns.

JEREMY WILSON
CHAIRMAN OF THE REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

DEAR SHAREHOLDER

On behalf of the Board, I am presenting the Remuneration Committee's report for 2014 on Directors' remuneration – my first report after taking over from David Barendse as Committee Chairman after the 2014 AGM. The report is split into three main sections:

- This Annual Statement, which provides a summary of the year under review and the Committee's intentions going forward;
- The Directors' Remuneration Policy Report, which sets out the three-year Directors' remuneration policy for the Company which commenced 1 January 2014 and became formally effective from the 2014 AGM. While disclosure of this part of the report is not required this year, this section has been included again in line with best practice; and
- The Annual Report on Remuneration, which provides details of the remuneration earned by Directors in the year ended 31 December 2014 and how the policy will be operated in 2015.

Summary of major decisions made in 2014

There was a radical overhaul of pay for Executive Directors and Senior Managers at the start of 2013, which resulted in the introduction of the Tullow Incentive Plan (TIP). This plan combines an annual bonus and long-term incentive linked to a set of stretching financial, operational and total shareholder return (TSR)-related objectives, explicitly linked to the achievement of Tullow's long-term strategy. The Committee has continued to operate this remuneration policy during 2014 and will continue to do so during 2015. As such, the major work of the Committee involved the monitoring of this plan under the 2014 targets (P/Phi), the application of appropriate discretion where applicable, and the setting of targets for 2015.

Performance and reward for 2014

At the start of 2014, Executive Director base salaries were frozen to reflect the challenging market background. The performance targets set for 2014 in respect of the TIP awards to be granted in 2015 were challenging in the context of the time and proved even more so as the year progressed.

Shareholder dialogue

The Committee encourages dialogue with the Company's shareholders. It will consult major shareholders ahead of any significant future changes to remuneration policy although it is intended that the policy for which shareholder approval was obtained at the 2014 AGM will remain in operation until the end of the three-year period originally intended. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank shareholders for their continued support. Should any shareholder wish to contact me in connection with the Group's Senior Executive remuneration policy, they may email me at remuneration@tullow.com.

Jeremy Wilson
Chairman of the Remuneration Committee
10 February 2015

COMPONENTS OF REMUNERATION

FIXED PAY

- BASE SALARY
- PENSION & BENEFITS
 - Reserve
 - Benefits
 - Medical insurance
 - Permanent Health Insurance
 - Life Assurance

PERFORMANCE RELATED

- TULLOW IN THE PLAN
 - Annual award of cash (up to 100% of salary)
 - Bonus awarded in shares (up to 100% of salary)

TOTAL REMUNERATION

Glossary

- AGM Annual General Meeting
- Capex Capital expenditure
- DBSP Deferred Share Bonus Plan
- EHS Environment, Health & Safety
- ESOS 2005 Executive Share Option Scheme
- HMRC Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- Opex Operating expenses
- PSP Performance Share Plan
- SIP UK Share Incentive Plan
- TIP Tullow Incentive Plan
- TSR Total Shareholder Return

Source: Tullow Oil, 2014 Annual Report & Accounts, pp. 88–89, available on www.tullowoil.com

SUCCESSION PLANNING

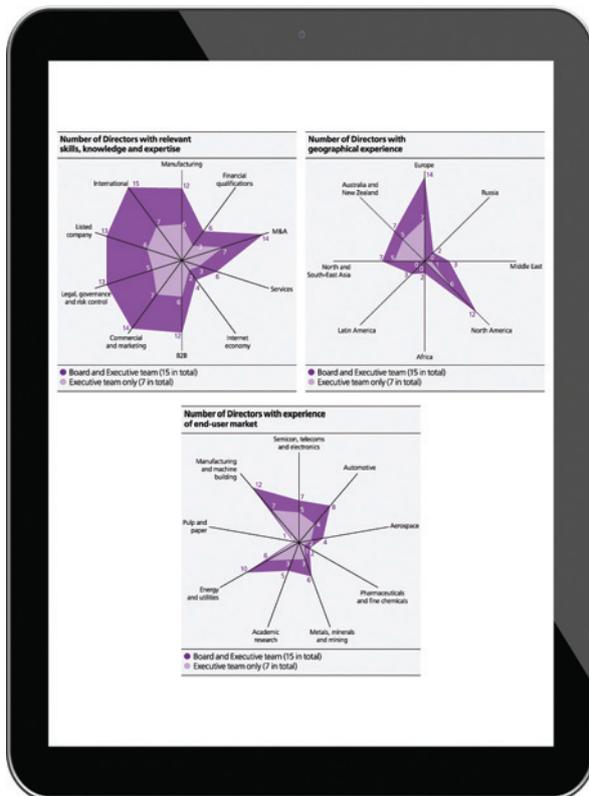
Reports must address the critical issue of succession planning. Investors want to know how the board is ensuring that employees with the highest potential are spotted, developed, and retained and how the company ensures that its people at the top are first class, fit for purpose, and possess skills well suited to the company's strategic direction.

In order to ensure succession planning is effective, it is important that the company discloses the current makeup of the board and what value the directors bring to the company.

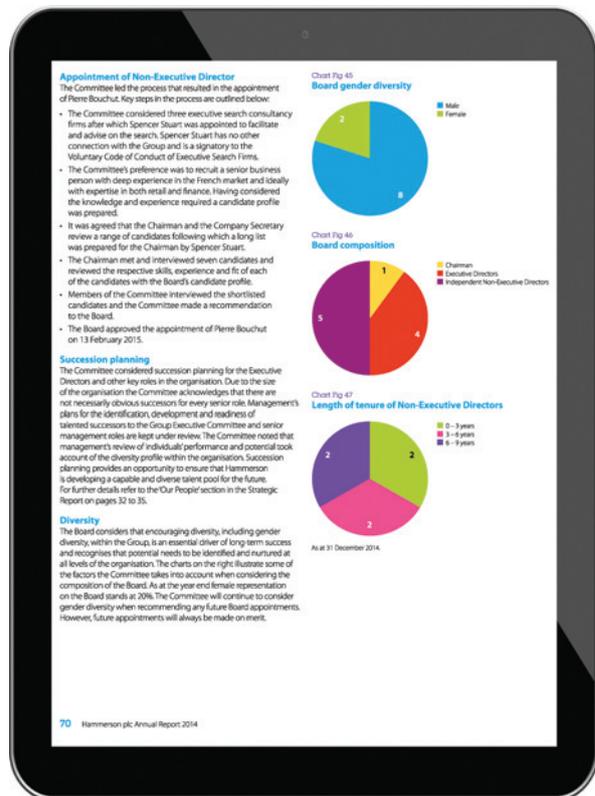
See also this example from Hammerson, which shows its mix of skills and diversity in the boardroom:



Here's an effective graphic example of this from Spectris:



Source: Spectris, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 46, available on www.spectris.com



Source: Hammerson, *Annual Report 2014*, pp. 69–70, available on www.hammerson.com



KING
LEADERSHIP



QUEEN
GLOBAL



KNIGHT
FUTURE



PAWN
REPORTING



ROOK
FINANCIALS



BISHOP
SUCCESSION PLANNING

DISCLOSURE ON AUDIT PROCESS, AUDIT TENDER, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

In its *Annual Report Insights 2014—Providing a Clear Steer*, Deloitte reported that about two-thirds of companies include their audit committee reports in a separate section of their annual reports,⁹ reflecting the committee's rising profile. Committee chairs are also producing introductions to this section; as with the company chairman's letter, these introductions should be clear, honest, and personal.

⁹ Deloitte, 'Annual reports keep growing, but how useful is the information?' press release, October 8, 2014, available on www.deloitte.com/uk.

Audit and Risk Committee

"Our work continued to focus on the appropriateness of the Group's financial reporting, the rigour of the external and internal audit processes, the Group's management of risk and its system of internal controls. We also conducted a tender for the Group's statutory audit which resulted in the proposal to shareholders to confirm the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as Group auditors for the 2015 financial year."



Membership:

Chairman and financial expert
Nick Land
(Independent non-executive director)

Anthony Watson
(Independent non-executive director)



Alan Jebson
(Independent non-executive director)

Anne Lauvergeon
(Independent non-executive director)

Key objective:

the provision of effective governance over the appropriateness of the Group's financial reporting including the adequacy of related disclosures, the performance of both the internal audit function and the external auditor and oversight over the Group's systems of internal control, business risks and related compliance activities.

Responsibilities:

- reviewing our financial results announcements and financial statements and monitoring compliance with relevant statutory and listing requirements;
- reporting to the Board on the appropriateness of our accounting policies and practices including those identified as critical and requiring further disclosure;
- advising the Board on whether the annual report, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy;
- overseeing the relationship with the external auditor;
- reviewing the scope, resources, results and effectiveness of the activity of the Group internal audit department;
- monitoring our compliance efforts in respect of section 404 and section 302 of the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act;
- considering and making recommendations to the Board on the nature and extent of the significant risks the Group is willing to take in achieving its strategic objectives;
- overseeing the Group's compliance processes; and
- performing in-depth reviews of specific areas of financial reporting, risk and internal controls.

Above all, investors want the committee to make clear that external auditors are independent of company management, constructive critics of the firm, and thorough in their review. They also want audit committee reporting to focus on actions taken during the year and to address any relevant commentary from the auditor's report to shareholders.

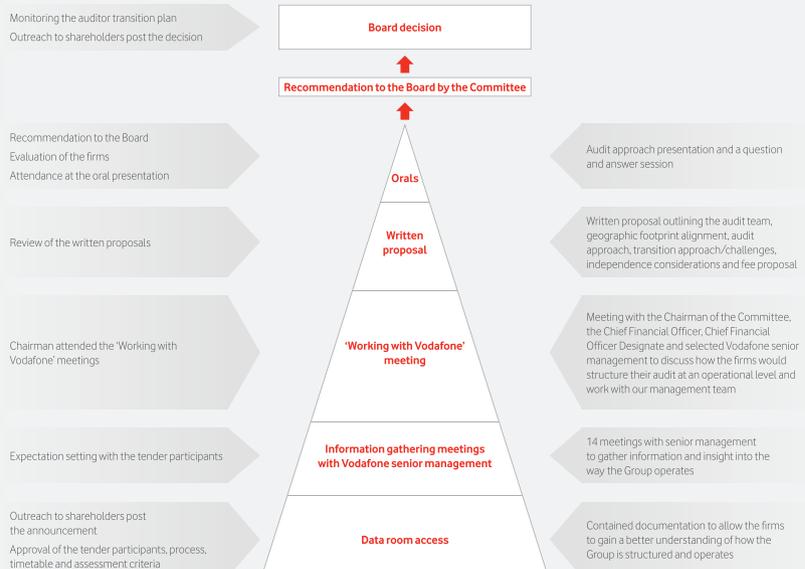
Following the 2014 EU Audit Directive, firms must conduct competitive tendering for an external audit at least once every 10 years and must rotate auditors at least once every 20 years. While rotation is good policy, firms must manage it well, be clear about their process and timetable, explain how auditors are chosen, and identify and mitigate conflicts.

In this example, Vodafone graphically presents the work of its audit and risk committee and the committee's audit tender process:

Audit tender process

In November 2013, having considered the changes to the UK Corporate Governance Code and the notes on best practice issued by the Financial Reporting Council, the Audit and Risk Committee decided to put the audit for the 2015 financial year out to tender. The tender process and the Committee's involvement in the process are outlined below.

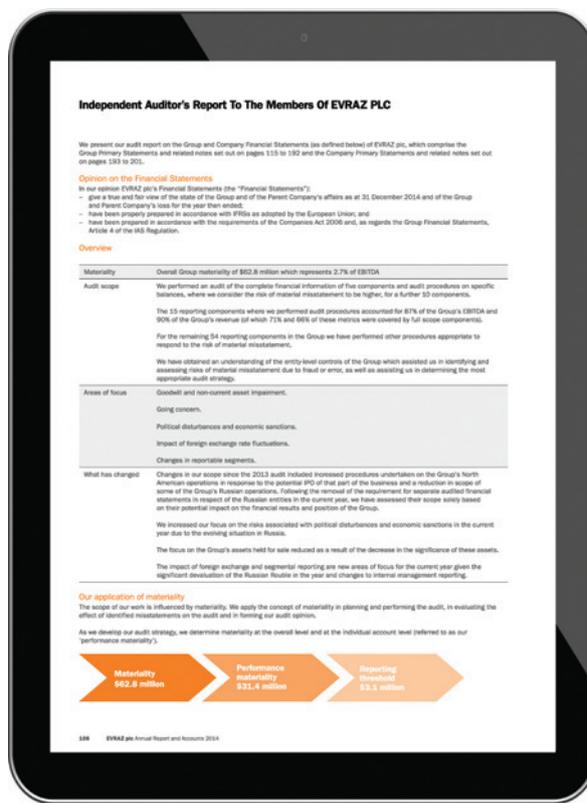
Audit and Risk Committee involvement:



Source: Vodafone Group, *Annual Report 2014*, pp. 60 and 63, available on www.vodafone.com



Source: Smith & Nephew, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 79, available on www.smith-nephew.com/news-and-media



Source: Evraz, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 108, available on www.evraz.com

DIRECTOR'S REPORT— BOARD ACTIVITIES AND SHAREHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Investors must invariably study the company from the outside. It's up to the board of directors, therefore, to build market confidence with clear, concise, engaging reporting that helps ensure transparency.

The best reports tell the company's story, bring to life any issues and concerns the board addresses, and explain which ones the board feels are worthy of engagement with shareholders during the year.

In the examples that follow, UBM and Provident Financial Group (PFG) show proper disclosure, contact with investors, and discussion of issues:

Summary of governance
What has the Board achieved during the year?

Strategy

- Strategy reviews throughout the year:
 - a strategy and scene-setting discussion in May 2014;
 - followed by a strategy review in October 2014; and
 - approved new 'Events First' strategy in November 2014.
- Approved proposal to acquire Advantstar for \$372m
 - Asked shareholders to approve a four for five rights issue to part fund the acquisition in November 2014
 - 197m new shares began trading on 12 December 2014
 - Completed acquisition of Advantstar on 15 December 2014

People

- Recruited and appointed new CEO
- Recruited and appointed two new independent Non-Executive Directors
- Approved new Diversity Policy which aims to increase the proportion of female Directors on the Board to 30% by the end of 2015
- Considered succession planning for Executive and Non-Executive roles

Values and governance

- Launched UBM Commitments, our values programme
- Launched 'Doing Business at UBM', The Code of Business Conduct
 - Launched a suite of e-learning modules, the first being anti-bribery
- Established Disclosure Committee
- Completed Board evaluation and introduced measures to enhance effectiveness

Financial

- Approved 2013 financial results and 2014 half year results
- Agreed to maintain our progressive dividend policy targeting 2% earnings cover through the economic and biennial cycle
- Approved dividend payments for full year 2013 and half year 2014
- Approved 2015 budget

Further reading
Governance Report pg 44

Source: UBM, *Annual Report and Accounts 2014*, p. 9, available on http://investors.ubm.com/company_reports

Key themes discussed with shareholders in 2014

Home credit

- Rationale for the repositioning of the home credit business.
- Drivers of the improvement in performance in home credit.

Moneybarn

- Background on the Moneybarn business and growth potential.
- Reasons for the Moneybarn acquisition being funded by an equity placing.
- Progress with the transition to the new FCA regulatory regime.

Satsuma

- Impact of payday regulation on the online instalment market.
- Progress in building capability of Satsuma and competition.

Vanquis Bank

- Potential for Vanquis Bank UK to exceed its medium-term growth targets.
- Potential impact of forthcoming FCA credit card review on Vanquis Bank.
- Update on the potential Polish pilot operation and timescales for any growth targets.

Source: PFG, *Annual Report and Financial Statements 2014*, p. 88, available on www.providentfinancial.com/investors/results-reports-and-presentations

“The board believes that open and regular dialogue with investors provides the foundation for a long and trusted relationship.”

—Manjit Wolstenholme, Chairman,
Provident Financial Group (PFG)

Another good example comes from The Vitec Group:

Corporate Governance

Board activities during 2014

The Board dealt with a diverse range of matters during 2014 which are summarised here. At each scheduled meeting the following items are considered:

- Confirm compliance with Directors' duties and conduct any new conflicts of interest
- Review minutes of previous meetings
- Review progress against agreed Board objectives
- Review reports from the Group Chief Executive, Group Finance Director, Group Company Director and Group Development and HR Director on key aspects of the business including people and safety, current trading, strategy, acquisitions and divestitures, financial results, governance and HR
- Review performance against KPIs

There were six scheduled Board meetings and one short notice Board meeting in 2014. Apart from the starting terms identified below, the following is a summary of the principal items considered at each meeting in 2014:

February (held in Richmond, UK)

- Annual Results, including review and approval, where appropriate, of:
 - Report from the Audit Committee Chairman
 - Report from the Remuneration Committee Chairman
 - Principal risks and mitigation
 - Report on going concerns
 - Chief executive recommendation
 - Full year results announcement for the year ended 31 December 2013
 - 2013 Annual Report including an assessment that the Report is fair, balanced and understandable
 - Resolutions to be submitted to the AGM and content of Notice of AGM
 - Management Representation letter
 - Appointment of PwC LLP as auditor
 - Group strategy update
 - Resolutions update on board succession (covering below Board level and diversity)
 - Completed discretionary increase for the Vitec Group Pension Scheme
 - Approved capital expenditure project for High-Far
 - Approved changes to Shareholder due date following changes implemented in the 2013 Financial Act

May (held in central London, UK)

- Received a briefing on the business to be conducted at the AGM
- Considered the content of the Interim Management Statement (including the increased 2014 budget) following re-approval of ongoing Litvack to complete the formal Board evaluation process for 2014
- Group strategy update
- Approved capital expenditure project for Broad-Far
- Approved new rules for the Deferred Bonus Plan
- Considered a proposal to increase the total monthly Sharebase savings limit per employee
- Reviewed an update on the status of the auto-enrolment process for pensions
- Board voting on investor relations
- Approved property lease for High-Far

June (held in Richmond, UK)

- Reviewed an update on Group strategy and the MFL business
- Received strategic updates from the Photographic and Broadcast Division Chief Executives
- Reviewed the Group's 2014/15 Insurance Renewal
- Reviewed and approved report on the Group's 100th anniversary as well as 2014 AGM
- Agreed to extend the term of appointment of the Chairman of the Remuneration Committee until 2016
- Considered a paper on investors' views to be sent via correspondence for the 2014 Annual Report and 2015 AGM
- Report from the Audit Committee Chairman
- Report from the Remuneration Committee Chairman

August (held in Richmond, UK)

- Half year results, including review and approval, where appropriate, of:
 - Report from the Audit Committee Chairman
 - Principal risks and mitigation
 - Report on going concerns
 - Report on diversity
 - Half year results announcement for the period ended 30 June 2014
 - Management Representation letter
 - Report from the Remuneration Committee Chairman
 - Completed an update on Board composition
 - Reviewed a paper on technology updates that would be provided to Board meetings
 - Reviewed the re-forecast 2014 budget
 - Final acquisition review of Teradek
 - Group strategy update including the proposed exit of the MFL business
 - Agreed the final terms of the 2014 Board evaluation to be conducted by Litvack
 - Agreed a proposal to increase the total monthly Sharebase savings limit per employee

October (held in Los Angeles, US)

- Site visit to Teradek and Broad facilities and studio TV production suite in Los Angeles
- Board and technology updates for the Broadcast market
- Review acquisition of Autostar
- Considered the re-forecast 2014 budget
- Group strategy update including the proposed exit of the MFL business
- Reviewed an update on the proposed Broad-Far acquisition from the Broadcast Division
- Reviewed an update on the process and terms of the Broad-Far acquisition
- Update on the Vitec Group Pension Scheme including need of amendment for administrative matters
- Report from the Remuneration Committee Chairman

December (short notice meeting held by conference call)

- Approved in principle the acquisition of the business of Small-ID

December (held in Richmond, UK)

- Reviewed an update on Board investor meetings
- Noted the completion of the dividend of the MFL business in November
- Received a presentation on Board technology matters
- Reviewed an update on outstanding litigation matters
- Considered and approved the 2015 budget
- Reviewed the outcome of the 2014 external Board evaluation and approved 2015 Board objectives
- Report from the Audit Committee Chairman
- Report from the Remuneration Committee Chairman
- Report from the Remuneration Committee Chairman
- Reviewed Board governance arrangements and policies including the Code of Business Conduct
- Completed capital expenditure project review
- Approved property sale for Photographic Division in Italy
- Reviewed Non-Executive Directors' fees
- Approved the renewal of the three year terms of appointment for the Chairman and Carsten Fahlman as Non-Executive Director

Source: The Vitec Group, *Annual Report & Accounts 2014*, 'Board activities during 2014,' p. 42, available on www.vitecgroup.com/investors.aspx

4 Financial review

TAX DISCLOSURE

Taxation is a critical and sensitive topic for managers, boards, and investors. We believe that one of the most important disclosures a UK company can make is how it is rated in risk terms by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and why that judgement has been made. Starting in 2016, note that the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) will be reviewing companies' tax reporting to encourage more transparent recording of the relationship between tax charges and accounting profit.

The aim of this monitoring activity is to drive continuous improvements in the quality of corporate reporting. Geoffrey Green, chairman of the FRC's Financial Reporting Review Panel and a member of the Conduct Committee, said:

"There is considerable public interest currently in international tax arrangements, prompted by developments both in the UK and on a global basis. Investors have a heightened interest in wanting to understand the policy decisions made by companies and the impact these have on their current and future accounts. Through the FRC's Clear & Concise initiative, the FRC aims to stimulate boards to review their tax disclosures to ensure their annual reports provide high quality information for investors. Companies which are clear about their tax risks will be looked to as examples of good practice while in other cases, there will be an identification of where improvements may be made."¹⁰

¹⁰ FRC, 'FRC calls for transparent disclosure of tax risks in corporate reports,' December 1, 2015, available on <https://frc.org.uk>.

SABMiller has attempted to provide investors additional information around its tax affairs to meet the needs of its stakeholders. This includes the company's own tax governance structure and further transparency around the contribution to economic development from tax revenues:

About SABMiller

We are in the beer and soft drinks business. We bring refreshment and sociability to millions of people all over the world who enjoy our drinks. We do business in a way that improves livelihoods and helps build communities.

We are passionate about brewing and have a long tradition of craftsmanship, making superb beer from high quality natural ingredients. We are local beer experts. We have more than 200 local beers, from which we have carefully selected and nurtured a range of special regional and global brands.

During the year we sold a total of 324 million hectolitres of beverages, including 246 million hectolitres of lager. Our revenue was US\$22,130 million with EBITA of US\$6,367 million.

Taxation highlights

US\$22,130m Revenue 2014: US\$22,311m	US\$5,642m Adjusted profit before tax 2014: US\$5,719m	26.0% Group effective tax rate 2014: 25.0%
US\$10,639m Total tax contribution* 2014: US\$10,750m	US\$5,596m Taxes on production 2014: US\$5,607m	US\$1,273m Taxes on profit 2014: US\$1,173m

* 2014 adjusted profit before tax figure has been restated for the implementation of IFRS 10.
† We do not include tax contribution information from our associates.

Further information
For more detailed information about SABMiller please refer to our website www.sabmiller.com

Key to further reading:
Read more online

SABMiller plc: Our Approach to Tax 2015 1

Source: SABMiller, SABMiller, *Our Approach to Tax 2015*, p. 1, available on www.sabmiller.com

About the authors

Will Moynahan

Managing Partner, Heidrick & Struggles London, and Head of CEO & Board Practice



Will Moynahan is the managing partner of Heidrick & Struggles' London office. He leads the CEO & Board Practice in the United Kingdom

and is a partner in the Private Equity Practice. He helps clients build and enhance boards and leadership teams for both significant public and private companies, as well as appointing operating and investing partners in Private Equity.

Prior to joining Heidrick & Struggles, Will was co-head of European Private Equity and a consultant within an international executive search boutique. Previously, he worked at a prestigious UK-based executive search firm as an associate, before joining a global executive search firm in London as senior associate in the Consumer, Retail and Entertainment practice.

Will began his career as a research assistant to a UK government minister.

Will graduated from the London School of Economics with a BSc in government.

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Sacha leads LGIM's Corporate Governance team. The team performs a highly active role in engaging with the companies in which LGIM invests,

seeking to deliver the best possible long-term value for shareholders. Prior to joining LGIM, Sacha worked for Gartmore, where he was a senior UK equity fund manager and co-managed a range of UK equity hedge, retail, and institutional funds. Sacha was the top-rated pan-European fund manager in the Thomson Reuters Extel Awards in 2010 and ranked third in 2009, as voted by UK companies and key sell-side participants. Prior to Gartmore, Sacha was the lead UK equity fund manager of a £4 billion pension fund for the Universities Superannuation Scheme PLC. Sacha is a member of the Investment Association, Governance and Engagement Committee. He has also helped in the formation of the new UK Investor Forum and is a founding member of its board.

Sacha is a member of the CFA Institute and holds a BA in accounting and finance from the University of Manchester.



CEO & Board Practice

The Heidrick & Struggles' CEO & Board Practice has been built on our ability to execute top-level assignments and counsel CEOs and board members on the complex issues directly affecting their businesses.

We pride ourselves on being our clients' most trusted advisor and offer an integrated suite of services to help manage these challenges and their leadership assets. This ranges from the acquisition of talent through executive search to providing counsel in areas that include succession planning, executive and board assessment, and board effectiveness reviews.

Our CEO & Board Practice leverages our most accomplished search and leadership consulting professionals globally who understand the ever-transforming nature of leadership. This expertise, combined with in-depth industry, sector, and regional knowledge; differentiated research capabilities; and intellectual capital enables us to provide sound global coverage for our clients.

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About Legal & General Investment Management Governance Team

The Corporate Governance and Responsible Investment team within LGIM performs a highly active role in engaging with the companies in which LGIM invests on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues, seeking to deliver the best possible long-term value for shareholders.

The team is headed by the Director of Corporate Governance, Sacha Sadan, who is responsible for monitoring and developing LGIM's corporate governance policy and activities. Sacha reports directly into LGIM's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mark Zinkula. This structure, as well as the ability to engage with two independent

non-executive directors on LGIM's board, ensures that conflicts of interest are appropriately managed.

LGIM believes that companies which demonstrate good ESG policies will have a sustainable business model and deliver enhanced shareholder value.

LGIM approaches ESG in an integral way through its engagement and voting policies, in order to exert influence over companies to drive best practice and reduce the risk of corporate failure. The ultimate goal in doing so is to protect, align and maximise shareholders' interests for the benefit of its clients.

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About Legal & General Investment Management

Legal & General Investment Management is one of Europe's largest asset managers and a major global investor, with total assets of GBP 728 / EUR 987 / CHF 1,077 billion*. We work with a wide range of global clients, including pension schemes, sovereign wealth funds, fund distributors and retail investors.

Throughout the past 40 years we have built our business through understanding what matters most to our clients and transforming this insight into valuable, accessible investment products and solutions. We provide investment expertise across the full spectrum of asset classes including fixed income, equities, commercial property and cash. Our capabilities range from index tracking and active strategies to liquidity management and liability based risk management solutions.

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*as at 30 September 2015, including derivative positions and advisory assets