

Established 1923

# Terms of Reference Nominations Committee

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## **Terms of Reference**

### 1 Membership

- 1.1 The committee shall comprise at least two members, all of whom shall be independent non-executive directors. The chair of the board may also serve on the committee as an additional member if he or she was considered independent on appointment as chair. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the board, on the recommendation of the nominations committee.
- 1.2 Only members of the committee have the right to attend committee meetings. However, other individuals such as the chief executive and external advisers may be invited to attend for all or part of any meeting, as and when appropriate and necessary.
- 1.3 Appointments to the committee are made by the board and shall be for a period of up to three years, which may be extended for further periods of up to three-years, provided the director still meets the criteria for membership of the committee.
- 1.4 The board shall appoint the committee chair who shall be an independent non-executive director. In the absence of the committee chair and/or an appointed deputy, the remaining members present shall elect one of themselves to chair the meeting who would qualify under these terms of reference to be appointed to that position by the board. The chair of the board shall not be chair of the committee.

### 2 Secretary

The chief executive or his or her nominee shall act as the secretary of the committee.

#### 3 Quorum

The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be two (both of whom must be independent Non-Executive Directors). A duly convened meeting of the committee at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers and discretions vested in or exercisable by the committee.

## 4 Frequency of Meetings

The committee shall meet sufficiently regularly to discharge its duties effectively. It is expected that the committee will meet at least once per year and otherwise as required.

## 5 Notice of Meetings

- 5.1 Meetings of the committee shall be called by the secretary of the committee at the request of the committee chair.
- 5.2 Unless otherwise agreed, notice of each meeting confirming the venue, time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed, shall be forwarded to each member of the committee, any other person required to attend and all other nonexecutive directors, no later than three working days before the date of the meeting. Supporting papers shall be sent to committee members and to other attendees, as appropriate, at the same time.

## 6 Minutes of Meetings

- 6.1 The chief executive or his or her nominee shall minute the proceedings and resolutions of all committee meetings, including the names of those present and in attendance.
- 6.2 Draft minutes of committee meetings shall be sent to the committee chair within reasonable time following the meeting and shall be circulated to all members of the committee and board following approval by the committee chair unless it would be inappropriate to do so.

### 7 Annual General Meeting

The committee chair should attend the annual general meeting to answer any shareholder questions on the committee's activities

#### 8 Duties

The committee should carry out the duties below for the Society as appropriate.

The committee shall:

- 8.1 Regularly review the structure, size and composition (including the skills, knowledge, experience and diversity) of the board and make recommendations to the board with regard to any changes.
- 8.2 Give full consideration to succession planning for directors and other senior executives in the course of its work, taking into account the challenges and opportunities facing the Society,

- and the skills and expertise needed on the board in the future.
- 8.3 Keep under review the leadership needs of the organisation, both executive and non-executive, with a view to ensuring the continued ability of the organisation to compete effectively in the marketplace.
- 8.4 Be responsible for identifying and nominating for the approval of the board, candidates to fill board vacancies as and when they arise.
- 8.5 Before any appointment is made by the board, evaluate the balance of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity on the board, and, in the light of this evaluation prepare a description of the role and capabilities required for a particular appointment. In identifying suitable candidates the committee shall:
  - Use open advertising or the services of external advisers to facilitate the search
  - ii) Consider candidates from a wide range of backgrounds
  - iii) Consider candidates on merit and against objective criteria and with due regard for the benefits of diversity on the board, including gender, ethnicity and socio-economic considerations, taking care that appointees have enough time available to devote to the position.
- 8.6 Keep up to date and fully informed about strategic issues and commercial changes affecting the Society and the market in which it operates.
- 8.7 For the appointment of a chair, the committee should prepare a job specification, including the time

- commitment expected. A proposed chair's other significant commitments should be disclosed to the board before appointment and any changes to the chair's commitments should be reported to the board as they arise.
- 8.8 Prior to the appointment of a director, the proposed appointee should be required to disclose any other business interests that may result in a conflict of interest and be required to report any future business interests that could result in a conflict of interest.
- 8.9 Ensure that on appointment to the board, non-executive directors receive a formal letter of appointment setting out clearly what is expected of them in terms of time commitment, committee service and involvement outside board meetings.
- 8.10 Formally & regularly review the effectiveness of both the board and its board committees to ensure the Society is led by an effective board.
- 8.11 Review annually the time required from non-executive directors.

  Performance evaluation should be used to assess whether the non-executive directors are spending enough time to fulfil their duties. The committee shall also make recommendations to the board.
- 8.12 Formulate plans for succession for both executive and non-executive directors and in particular for the key roles of chair and chief executive.
- 8.13 Select suitable candidates for the role of senior independent director, board whistleblowing champion, and consumer duty champion.

- 8.14 Review membership of the audit, risk and remuneration committees, and any other board committees as appropriate, in consultation with the chairs of those committees.
- 8.15 Approve the re-appointment of any non-executive director at the conclusion of their specified term of office having given due regard to their performance and ability to continue to contribute to the board in the light of the knowledge, skills and experience required.
- 8.16 Ensure the appropriate re-election by shareholders of directors under the annual re-election provision of the UK Corporate Governance Code 2018 or the retirement by rotation provision in the Societies rules, having due regard to their performance and ability to continue to contribute to the board in the light of the knowledge, skills and experience required and the need for progressive refreshing of the board (particularly in relation to directors being re-elected for a term beyond six years).
- 8.17 Review any matters relating to the continuation in office of any director at any time including the suspension or termination of service of an executive director as an employee of the Society subject to the provisions of the law and their service contract.
- 8.18 Approve the appointment of any director to executive or other office.
- 8.19 Review an assessment of the continued fitness and propriety of Senior Management Function (SMF) holders (including notified Non-Executive Directors) together with the Responsibilities Map at least

- annually (and when there are any material changes) and recommend any changes to the board.
- 8.20 Regularly review the adequacy of arrangements for development of and monitoring of procedures for the induction, training and professional development of all members of the board

## 9 Reporting Responsibilities

- 9.1 The committee chair shall report to the board on its proceedings after each meeting on all matters within its duties and responsibilities.
- 9.2 The committee shall make whatever recommendations to the board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit where action or improvement is needed.
- 9.3 The committee shall produce a report to be included in the Society's annual report about its activities, the process used to make appointments and explain if external advice or open advertising has not been used.

- 10.3 Give due consideration to laws and regulations the provisions of the Code and the requirements of the UK Listing Authority's Listing, Prospectus and Disclosure and Transparency Rules and any other applicable Rules, as appropriate.
- 10.4 Arrange for periodic reviews of its own performance and, at least annually, review its constitution and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and recommend any changes it considers necessary to the board for approval.

## 11 Authority

The committee is authorised by the board to obtain, at the Society's expense, outside legal or other professional advice on any matters within its terms of reference.

#### 10 Other matters

The committee shall:

- 10.1 Have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out is duties, including access to the Society secretary for assistance as required.
- 10.2 Be provided with appropriate and timely training, both in the form of an induction programme for new members and on an ongoing basis for all members.

