

**Audit & risk assurance committee
Summary Report of 3rd March 2020 meeting**

The Committee considered the following:

Interim Financial Audit Update

Work performed and progress made in the interim audit was outlined. No major issues or concerns reported at this early stage. The FSA expects to meet its spending limits.

The Mazars external audit manager confirmed the audit was progressing as planned and that there were no issues to be brought to ARAC's attention. One potential issue that may arise is the timing of the pension valuation for the accounts as this is performed for several organisations and is outside the control of the FSA.

Draft Governance Statement

The Committee reviewed the Governance Statement and were happy with the content of the draft. Further feedback will be collated from members for the next draft presented to the auditors. The final version will be brought to Committee for approval with the Annual Report and Accounts.

Counter Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Review

The paper outlined the steps the FSA should take to strengthen its arrangements in the areas of counter fraud, corruption and bribery (FCB). This is an opportunity to develop arrangements against a recognised, and increasingly adopted, Government standard to establish a fuller picture of what FCB risks the FSA faces. Committee agreed the next steps and that the work will require some external support to deliver.

Audit Assurance Progress Report

The number of outstanding management actions remains low - one report was finalised in the period and four are in draft. Delivery of Official Control and Local Authority audits is good; business audit delivery is slightly behind schedule. One member of staff has started maternity leave and recruitment has been completed to provide cover during this time.

Audit Assurance Plans 2020/21

The plans, including the other sources of assurance that are provided to the FSA, were outlined and discussed. Following discussion, it was agreed to review two specific audit areas with the aim to include in the plan for 2020/21.

Information Security Update

The Committee was updated on the FSA's security risk assessments and actions taken to mitigate the risks. The assessments are derived using the Departmental Security Check report, the threat assessment from the National Cyber Security Centre and the security incidents log.

FSA approach to managing the interests of food advisory members

The Committee reviewed and decided to recommend to the FSA Board, the proposed approach that replicates that taken to managing external scientific advisers.

Date of next meetings:

18th May 2020 11am – 2pm Clive House, London

10th June 2020 – 11am – 1pm, Clive House, London / Remote