

# Audit and risk committee REPORT

The Clicks Group audit and risk committee is a formal statutory committee in terms of the Companies Act and sub-committee of the board. The committee functions within documented terms of reference and complies with relevant legislation, regulation and governance codes. This report of the audit and risk committee is presented to shareholders in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act and the revised King Code of Governance Principles (King IV).

## ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The audit and risk committee (the committee) has an independent role with accountability to both the board and to shareholders. The committee's responsibilities include the statutory duties prescribed by the Companies Act, activities recommended by King IV as well as additional responsibilities assigned by the board.

The responsibilities of the committee are as follows:

### Integrated reporting

- Review the annual financial statements, interim report, preliminary results announcement and summarised integrated information and ensure compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards;
- Consider the frequency of interim reports and whether interim results should be assured;
- Review and approve the appropriateness of accounting policies, disclosure policies and the effectiveness of internal financial controls;
- Perform an oversight role on the group's integrated reporting and consider factors and risks that could impact on the integrity of the integrated report;
- Review sustainability disclosure in the integrated report and ensure it does not conflict with financial information;
- Consider external assurance of material sustainability issues; and
- Recommend the integrated report for approval by the board.

### Combined assurance

- Ensure the combined assurance model addresses all significant risks facing the group; and
- Monitor the relationship between external and internal assurance providers and the group.

### Finance function

- Consider the expertise and experience of the chief financial officer; and
- Consider the expertise, experience and resources of the group's finance function.

### Internal audit

- Oversee the functioning of the internal audit department and approve the appointment and performance assessment of the group head of internal audit;
- Approve the annual internal audit plan; and
- Ensure the internal audit function is subject to independent quality review as appropriate.

### Risk management

- Ensure the group has an effective policy and plan for risk management;
- Oversee the development and annual review of the risk management policy and plan;
- Monitor implementation of the risk management policy and plan;
- Make recommendations to the board on levels of risk tolerance and risk appetite;
- Ensure risk management is integrated into business operations;
- Ensure risk management assessments are conducted on a continuous basis;
- Ensure frameworks and methodologies are implemented to increase the possibility of anticipating unpredictable risks;
- Ensure that management considers and implements appropriate risk responses;
- Express the committee's opinion in the effectiveness of the system and process of risk management; and
- Ensure risk management reporting in the integrated report is comprehensive and relevant.

### External audit

- Nominate the external auditor for appointment by shareholders;
- Approve the terms of engagement and remuneration of the auditor;
- Ensure the appointment of the auditor complies with relevant legislation;
- Monitor and report on the independence of the external auditor;
- Define a policy for non-audit services which the auditor may provide and approve non-audit service contracts;
- Review the quality and effectiveness of the external audit process; and
- Ensure a process is in place for the committee to be informed of any reportable irregularities identified by the external auditor.

## AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

### COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee comprised three independent non-executive directors during the period. These directors include suitably skilled directors having recent and relevant financial experience. The committee is elected by shareholders at the annual general meeting.

The following directors served on the committee during the period under review:

Independent non-executive director	Qualifications
John Bester (Chairman)	B Com (Hons), CA (SA), CMS (Oxon)
Fatima Daniels	B Sc, CA (SA)
Nonkululeko Gobodo (resigned 14/9/2020)	B Compt (Hons), CA (SA)
Mfundiso Njeke	B Com, B Compt (Hons), CA (SA), H Dip Tax

Nonkululeko Gobodo resigned as a member of the audit committee on 14 September 2020 and was replaced by Mfundiso Njeke on 21 September 2020.

Biographical details of the committee members appear on pages 30 to 32 of the integrated annual report, with supplementary information contained in annexure 2 to the notice of annual general meeting on page 8.

Fees paid to the committee members for 2021 and the proposed fees for 2022 are disclosed in rewarding value creation on pages 76 and 77 of the integrated annual report.

The executive directors, group head of internal audit and senior management attend meetings at the invitation of the committee, together with the external auditor.

The committee also meets separately with the external and internal auditors, without members of executive management being present.

The effectiveness of the committee is assessed as part of the annual board and committee self-evaluation process.

### INTERNAL AUDIT

The internal audit function provides information to assist in the establishment and maintenance of an effective system of internal control to manage the risks associated with the business. The role of internal audit is contained in the internal audit charter. The charter is reviewed annually and is aligned with the recommendations of King IV.

Internal audit facilitates the combined assurance process and is responsible for the following:

- evaluating governance processes, including ethics;
- assessing the effectiveness of the risk methodology and internal financial controls; and

- evaluating business processes and associated controls in accordance with the annual audit plan and combined assurance model.

The internal audit function is established by the board and its responsibilities are determined by the committee. Administratively the group head of internal audit reports to the chief financial officer who, in turn, reports to the chief executive officer. The group head of internal audit has direct and unrestricted access to the chairman of the committee. The group head of internal audit is appointed and removed by the committee, which also determines and recommends remuneration for the position. The chairman of the committee meets with the group head of internal audit on a regular basis.

### INTERNAL CONTROL

Systems of internal control are designed to manage, rather than eliminate, the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against misstatement or loss.

While the board is responsible for the internal control systems and for reviewing their effectiveness, responsibility for their actual implementation and maintenance rests with executive management. The systems of internal control are based on established organisational structures, together with written policies and procedures, and provide for suitably qualified employees, segregation of duties, clearly defined lines of authority and accountability. They also include cost and budgeting controls, and comprehensive management reporting.

### INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS

The committee has considered the results of the formal documented review of the company's system of internal financial controls and risk management, including the design, implementation and effectiveness of the internal financial controls, conducted by the internal audit function during the 2021 year. The committee has also assessed information and explanations given by management and discussions with the external auditor on the results of the audit. Through this process no material matter has come to the attention of the audit and risk committee or the board that has caused the directors to believe that the company's system of internal controls and risk management is not effective and that the internal financial controls do not form a sound basis for the preparation of reliable financial statements.

### EXTERNAL AUDIT

The committee appraised the independence, expertise and objectivity of Ernst & Young Inc. (EY) as the external auditor, as well as approving the terms of engagement and the fees paid to EY.

The external auditor has unrestricted access to the group's records and management. The auditor furnishes a written report to the committee on significant findings arising from the

## AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

annual audit and is able to raise matters of concern directly with the chairman of the committee.

The audit partner in charge of the audit is rotated off the audit after five years. In terms of this policy, the current audit partner is in the fourth year of tenure. The group has received confirmation from the external auditor that the partners and staff responsible for the audit comply with all legal and professional requirements with regard to rotation and independence. The committee is satisfied that the external auditor is independent of the company and complies with the JSE Listings Requirements.

### POLICY ON NON-AUDIT SERVICES

Non-audit services provided by the external auditor may not exceed 25% of the total auditors' remuneration. These services should exclude any work which may be subject to external audit and which could compromise the auditor's independence. All non-audit services undertaken during the year were approved in accordance with this policy.

During the year EY received fees of R1 227 925 (2020: R573 240) for non-audit services, equating to 18.8% (2020: 7.9%) of the total audit remuneration. These services related mainly to agreed-upon procedures for third-party confirmation, advisory services and the assurance of the systems related to distribution services provided by UPD to third parties.

EY satisfied the committee that appropriate safeguards have been adopted to maintain the independence of the external auditor when providing non-audit services.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee met four times during the financial year and attendance at the meetings is detailed in creating value through good governance in the integrated annual report on page 67. Members of the committee, the external auditor and the group head of internal audit may request a non-scheduled meeting if they consider this necessary. The chairman of the committee will determine if such a meeting should be convened.

Minutes of the meetings of the committee, except those recording private meetings with the external and internal auditors, are circulated to all directors and supplemented by an update from the committee chairman at each board meeting. Matters requiring action or improvement are identified and appropriate recommendations made to the board.

The chairman of the committee attends all statutory shareholder meetings to answer any questions on the committee's activities.

The committee performed the following activities relating to the audit function during the year under review, with certain of these duties being required in terms of the Companies Act:

- recommended to the board and shareholders the appointment of the external auditors, approved their terms of engagement and remuneration, and monitored their independence, objectivity and effectiveness;
- determined the nature and extent of any non-audit services which the external auditor may provide to the group and preapproved any proposed contracts with the external auditors;
- reviewed the group's internal financial control and financial risk management systems;
- monitored and reviewed the effectiveness of the group's internal audit functions;
- reviewed and recommended to the board for approval the integrated annual report and annual financial statements; and
- evaluated the effectiveness of the committee.

Refer to the corporate governance report on the website for an overview of the risk management process and function.

### EVALUATION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND FINANCE FUNCTION

The committee is satisfied that the expertise and experience of the chief financial officer is appropriate to meet the responsibilities of the position. This is based on the qualifications, levels of experience, continuing professional education and the board's assessment of the financial knowledge of the chief financial officer.

The committee is also satisfied as to the appropriateness, expertise and adequacy of resources of the finance function and the experience of senior members of management responsible for the finance function.

### APPROVAL OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee confirms that it has functioned in accordance with its terms of reference for the 2021 financial year and that its report to shareholders has been approved by the board.



**John Bester**

Chairman: Audit and risk committee

11 November 2021