

2023

# International Standard on Auditing (Ireland) 700

Updated October 2023

Forming an Opinion and Reporting on  
Financial Statements

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## Vision

Public trust and confidence in quality auditing and accounting



## Mission

Upholding quality corporate reporting and an accountable profession

## Our Values



### Excellence

Striving to be the best we can be



### Independence

Regulating impartially and objectively



### Integrity

Being trustworthy and respectful

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING  
(IRELAND) 700**

(UPDATED OCTOBER 2023)

**FORMING AN OPINION AND REPORTING ON FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

(Effective for the audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 15 July 2021)

**CONTENTS**

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	Paragraph
<b>Introduction</b>	
Scope of this ISA (Ireland) .....	1–4
Effective Date .....	5
<b>Objectives</b> .....	6
<b>Definitions</b> .....	7–9
<b>Requirements</b>	
Forming an Opinion on the Financial Statements .....	10–15
Form of Opinion .....	16–19
Auditor’s Report .....	20–51
Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements .....	53–54
<b>Application and Other Explanatory Material</b>	
Qualitative Aspects of the Entity’s Accounting Practices .....	A1–A3
Accounting Policies Appropriately Disclosed in the Financial Statements .....	A4
Information Presented in the Financial Statements Is Relevant, Reliable, Comparable and Understandable .....	A5
Disclosure of the Effect of Material Transactions and Events on the Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements .....	A6
Evaluating Whether the Financial Statements Achieve Fair Presentation .....	A7–A9
Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework .....	A10–A15
Form of Opinion .....	A15-1–A17
Auditor’s Report .....	A18–A77-1
Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements .....	A78–A84

Appendix: Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on Financial Statements

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International Standard on Auditing (ISA) (Ireland) 700, *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements* should be read in conjunction with ISA (Ireland) 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland)*.

## Introduction

### Scope of this ISA (Ireland)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (Ireland) (ISA (Ireland)) deals with the auditor's responsibility to form an opinion on the financial statements. It also deals with the form and content of the auditor's report issued as a result of an audit of financial statements.
2. ISA (Ireland) 701<sup>1</sup> (Revised November 2020) deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report. ISA (Ireland) 705<sup>2</sup> and ISA (Ireland) 706<sup>3</sup> deal with how the form and content of the auditor's report are affected when the auditor expresses a modified opinion or includes an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report. Other ISAs (Ireland) also contain reporting requirements that are applicable when issuing an auditor's report.
3. This ISA (Ireland) applies to an audit of a complete set of general purpose financial statements and is written in that context. ISA (Ireland) 800<sup>4</sup> deals with special considerations when financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework. ISA (Ireland) 805<sup>5</sup> deals with special considerations relevant to an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement. This ISA (Ireland) also applies to audits for which ISA (Ireland) 800 or ISA (Ireland) 805 apply.
4. The requirements of this ISA (Ireland) are aimed at addressing an appropriate balance between the need for consistency and comparability in auditor reporting globally and the need to increase the value of auditor reporting by making the information provided in the auditor's report more relevant to users. This ISA (Ireland) promotes consistency in the auditor's report, but recognizes the need for flexibility to accommodate particular circumstances of individual jurisdictions. Consistency in the auditor's report, when the audit has been conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), promotes credibility in the global marketplace by making more readily identifiable those audits that have been conducted in accordance with globally recognized standards. It also helps to promote the user's understanding and to identify unusual circumstances when they occur.

### Effective Date

5. This ISA (Ireland) is effective for the audits of financial statements for periods commencing on or after 15 July 2021. Early adoption is permitted.

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<sup>1</sup> ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020), *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

<sup>2</sup> ISA (Ireland) 705, *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

<sup>3</sup> ISA (Ireland) 706, *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

<sup>4</sup> ISA (Ireland) 800, *Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks*.

<sup>5</sup> ISA (Ireland) 805, *Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement*.

## Objectives

6. The objectives of the auditor are:
- (a) To form an opinion on the financial statements based on an evaluation of the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained; and
  - (b) To express clearly that opinion through a written report.

## Definitions

7. For purposes of the ISAs (Ireland), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

- (a) General purpose financial statements – Financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework.
- (b) General purpose framework – A financial reporting framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.

The term “fair presentation framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

- (i) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework;<sup>5a</sup> or
- (ii) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.<sup>5b</sup> Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

The term “compliance framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework, but does not contain the acknowledgements in (i) or (ii) above.<sup>6</sup>

- (c) Unmodified opinion – The opinion expressed by the auditor when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5a</sup> In the IFRS Framework this is acknowledged in paragraph 17(c) of IAS 1. Under Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the Republic of Ireland this is acknowledged in Sections 291(4) and 294(4) of the Companies Act 2014.

<sup>5b</sup> This is sometimes referred to as the “true and fair override”. In the IFRS Framework this is acknowledged in paragraph 19 of IAS 1. Under Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the Republic of Ireland this is acknowledged in Sections 291(5) and 294(5) of the Companies Act, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018), *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland)*, paragraph 13(a).

<sup>7</sup> Paragraphs 25–26 deal with the phrases used to express this opinion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

8. Reference to “financial statements” in this ISA (Ireland) means “a complete set of general purpose financial statements.”<sup>8</sup> The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, and what constitutes a complete set of financial statements.
9. Reference to “International Financial Reporting Standards” in this ISA (Ireland) means the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, and reference to “International Public Sector Accounting Standards” means the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board.

## Requirements

### Forming an Opinion on the Financial Statements

10. The auditor shall form an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.<sup>9,10</sup>
11. In order to form that opinion, the auditor shall conclude as to whether the auditor has obtained reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. That conclusion shall take into account:
  - (a) The auditor’s conclusion, in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 330 (Revised August 2018) , whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained;<sup>11</sup>
  - (b) The auditor’s conclusion, in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 450 (Updated July 2017), whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate;<sup>12</sup> and
  - (c) The evaluations required by paragraphs 12–15.
12. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. This evaluation shall include consideration of the qualitative aspects of the entity’s accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management’s judgments. (Ref: Para. A1–A3)
13. In particular, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework:
  - (a) The financial statements appropriately disclose the significant accounting policies selected and applied. In making this evaluation, the auditor shall consider the relevance

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<sup>8</sup> ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018) , *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland)*, paragraph 13(f) sets out the content of financial statements.

<sup>9</sup> ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018), paragraph 11.

<sup>10</sup> Paragraphs 25–26 deal with the phrases used to express this opinion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

<sup>11</sup> ISA (Ireland) 330 (Revised August 2018), *The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks*, paragraph 26.

<sup>12</sup> ISA (Ireland) 450 (Updated July 2017), *Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit*, paragraph 11.



of the accounting policies to the entity, and whether they have been presented in an understandable manner; (Ref: Para. A4)

- (b) The accounting policies selected and applied are consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework and are appropriate;
  - (c) The accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management are reasonable;
  - (d) The information presented in the financial statements is relevant, reliable, comparable, and understandable. In making this evaluation, the auditor shall consider whether:
    - The information that should have been included has been included, and whether such information is appropriately classified, aggregated or disaggregated, and characterized.
    - The overall presentation of the financial statements has been undermined by including information that is not relevant or that obscures a proper understanding of the matters disclosed. (Ref: Para. A5)
  - (e) The financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statements; and (Ref: Para. A6)
  - (f) The terminology used in the financial statements, including the title of each financial statement, is appropriate.
14. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the evaluation required by paragraphs 12–13 shall also include whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. The auditor’s evaluation as to whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation shall include consideration of: (Ref: Para A7–A9)
- (a) The overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements; and
  - (b) Whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
15. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A10–A15)

### **Form of Opinion**

16. The auditor shall express an unmodified opinion when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework it is not sufficient for the auditor to conclude that the financial statements give a true and fair view solely on the basis that the financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting standards and any other applicable legal requirements. (Ref: Para. A15-1–A15-2)

17. If the auditor:
- (a) concludes that, based on the audit evidence obtained, the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or
  - (b) is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement,
- the auditor shall modify the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 705.
18. If financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework do not achieve fair presentation, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework and how the matter is resolved, shall determine whether it is necessary to modify the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 705. (Ref: Para. A16)
19. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor is not required to evaluate whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. However, if in extremely rare circumstances the auditor concludes that such financial statements are misleading, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on how it is resolved, shall determine whether, and how, to communicate it in the auditor's report. (Ref: Para. A17)

### **Auditor's Report**

20. The auditor's report shall be in writing. (Ref: Para. A18–A19)

20-1. The auditor's report shall be in clear and unambiguous language.

*Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland)*

#### **Title**

21. The auditor's report shall have a title that clearly indicates that it is the report of an independent auditor. (Ref: Para. A20)

#### **Addressee**

22. The auditor's report shall be addressed, as appropriate, based on the circumstances of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A21 – A21-1)

#### **Auditor's Opinion**

23. The first section of the auditor's report shall include the auditor's opinion, and shall have the heading "Opinion."

24. The Opinion section of the auditor's report shall also:

- (a) Identify the entity whose financial statements have been audited;
- (b) State that the financial statements have been audited;
- (c) Identify the title of each statement comprising the financial statements;
- (d) Refer to the notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies; and

- (e) Specify the date of, or period covered by, each financial statement comprising the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A22–A23)
25. When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor’s opinion shall, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, use one of the following phrases, which are regarded as being equivalent:
- (a) In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, [...] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]; or
- (b) In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of [...] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]. (Ref: Para. A24–A31)

When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework the opinion paragraph shall clearly state that the financial statements give a true and fair view. (Ref: Para. A24-1–A24-3)

26. When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor’s opinion shall be that the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]. (Ref: Para. A26–A31-1)
27. If the reference to the applicable financial reporting framework in the auditor’s opinion is not to IFRSs issued by the International Accounting Standards Board or IPSASs issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board, the auditor’s opinion shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the framework.

#### Basis for Opinion

28. The auditor’s report shall include a section, directly following the Opinion section, with the heading “Basis for Opinion”, that: (Ref: Para. A32)
- (a) States that the audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) and applicable law; (Ref: Para. A33)
- (b) Refers to the section of the auditor’s report that describes the auditor’s responsibilities under the ISAs (Ireland);
- (c) Includes a statement that the auditor is independent of the entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit, and has fulfilled the auditor’s other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. The statement shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the relevant ethical requirements or refer to the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA Code); and (Ref: Para. A34–A39)

In Ireland, auditors are subject to ethical requirements from two sources: IAASA’s Ethical Standard concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor, and the ethical pronouncements established by the auditor’s relevant professional body. When identifying the relevant ethical requirements in the auditor’s report, the auditor indicates that these include IAASA’s Ethical Standard, applied as required for the types of entity determined to be appropriate in the circumstances.

- (d) States whether the auditor believes that the audit evidence the auditor has obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion.

#### Going Concern

29. Where applicable, the auditor shall report in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 570 (Revised October 2019).<sup>13</sup>

#### Irregularities including Fraud

- 29-1. The auditor's report for audits of public interest entities and listed entities shall explain to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud. (Ref: Para. A39-1–A39-5)

#### Key Audit Matters

30. For audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities, the auditor shall communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020).

- 30-1. For audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of public interest entities and other entities that are required, and those that choose voluntarily, to report on how they have applied the UK Corporate Governance Code and the Irish Corporate Governance Annex, the auditor shall communicate in the auditor's report in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020).

31. When the auditor is otherwise required by law or regulation or decides to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report, the auditor shall do so in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020). (Ref: Para. A40–A42)

#### Other Information

32. Where applicable, the auditor shall report in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 720 (Revised November 2020).

#### Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

33. The auditor's report shall include a section with a heading "Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements." The auditor's report shall use the term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction and need not refer specifically to "management". In some jurisdictions, the appropriate reference may be to those charged with governance.<sup>13a</sup> (Ref: Para. A44 – A44-1)
34. This section of the auditor's report shall describe management's responsibility for: (Ref: Para. A45–A48)
- (a) Preparing the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and

<sup>13</sup> ISA (Ireland) 570 (Revised October 2019), *Going Concern*, paragraphs 21–23.

<sup>13a</sup> In Ireland, those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

- (b) Assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern<sup>14</sup> and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate as well as disclosing, if applicable, matters relating to going concern. The explanation of management's responsibility for this assessment shall include a description of when the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. (Ref: Para. A48)
- 35. This section of the auditor's report shall also identify those responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process, when those responsible for such oversight are different from those who fulfil the responsibilities described in paragraph 33 above. In this case, the heading of this section shall also refer to "Those Charged with Governance" or such term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction. (Ref: Para. A49)
- 36. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the description of responsibilities for the financial statements in the auditor's report shall refer to "the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements" or "the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view" as appropriate in the circumstances.

The auditor's report shall include a statement that [those charged with governance] is responsible for the preparation of financial statements [that give a true and fair view].

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

- 37. The auditor's report shall include a section with the heading "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements."
- 38. This section of the auditor's report shall: (Ref: Para. A50)
  - (a) State that the objectives of the auditor are to:
    - (i) Obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
    - (ii) Issue an auditor's report that includes the auditor's opinion. (Ref: Para. A51)
  - (b) State that reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists; and
  - (c) State that misstatements can arise from fraud or error, and either:
    - (i) Describe that they are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements; or<sup>15</sup>
    - (ii) Provide a definition or description of materiality in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A52)
- 39. The Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the auditor's report shall further: (Ref: Para. A50)

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<sup>14</sup> ISA (Ireland) 570 (Revised October 2019), paragraph 2.

<sup>15</sup> ISA (Ireland) 320, *Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit*, paragraph 2.

- (a) State that, as part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), the auditor exercises professional judgment and maintains professional scepticism throughout the audit; and
- (b) Describe an audit by stating that the auditor's responsibilities are:
  - (i) To identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
  - (ii) To obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. In circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, the auditor shall omit the phrase that the auditor's consideration of internal control is not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
  - (iii) To evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
  - (iv) To conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If the auditor concludes that a material uncertainty exists, the auditor is required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. The auditor's conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para A50-1–A50-2)
  - (v) When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, to evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- (c) When ISA (Ireland) 600 (Revised November 2020) <sup>16</sup> applies, further describe the auditor's responsibilities in a group audit engagement by stating that:

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<sup>16</sup> ISA (Ireland) 600 (Revised November 2020), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*.

- (i) The auditor’s responsibilities are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the group financial statements;
  - (ii) The auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit; and
  - (iii) The auditor remains solely responsible for the auditor’s opinion.
40. The Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the auditor’s report also shall: (Ref: Para. A50)
- (a) State that the auditor communicates with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit;
  - (b) For audits of financial statements of listed entities, state that the auditor provides those charged with governance with a statement that the auditor has complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on the auditor’s independence, and where applicable, related safeguards; and
  - (c) For audits of financial statements of listed entities and any other entities for which key audit matters are communicated in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020), state that, from the matters communicated with those charged with governance, the auditor determines those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. The auditor describes these matters in the auditor’s report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, the auditor determines that a matter should not be communicated in the auditor’s report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication. (Ref: Para. A53)

Location of the description of the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

41. The description of the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements required by paragraphs 39–40 shall be included: (Ref: Para. A54)
- (a) Within the body of the auditor’s report;
  - (b) Within an appendix to the auditor’s report, in which case the auditor’s report shall include a reference to the location of the appendix; or (Ref: Para. A49–A50)
  - (c) By a specific reference within the auditor’s report to the location of such a description on a website of an appropriate authority, where law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit the auditor to do so. (Ref: Para. A54, A56–A57-1)

The auditor is permitted to cross-refer to the applicable version of a “Description of the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements” that is maintained on the website of an appropriate authority.

42. When the auditor refers to a description of the auditor’s responsibilities on a website of an appropriate authority, the auditor shall determine that such description addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the requirements in paragraphs 39–40 of this ISA (Ireland). (Ref: Para. A56)

#### Other Reporting Responsibilities

43. If the auditor addresses other reporting responsibilities in the auditor’s report on the financial statements that are in addition to the auditor’s responsibilities under the ISAs (Ireland), these other reporting responsibilities shall be addressed in a separate section in the auditor’s report with a heading titled “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” or otherwise as appropriate to the content of the section, unless these other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the ISAs (Ireland) in which case the other reporting responsibilities may be presented in the same section as the related report elements required by the ISAs (Ireland). (Ref: Para. A58–A60)

- 43-1. If the auditor is required to report on certain matters by exception the auditor shall describe in the auditor’s report the auditor’s responsibilities for such matters and incorporate a suitable conclusion in respect of such matters. (Ref: Para. A58-1–A58-3)

44. If other reporting responsibilities are presented in the same section as the related report elements required by the ISAs (Ireland), the auditor’s report shall clearly differentiate the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the ISAs (Ireland). (Ref: Para. A60)

45. If the auditor’s report contains a separate section that addresses other reporting responsibilities, the requirements of paragraphs 20–40 of this ISA (Ireland) shall be included under a section with a heading “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements.” The “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” shall follow the “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements.” (Ref: Para. A60)

- 45R-1. For audits of financial statements of public interest entities, the auditor’s report shall:

- (a) State by whom or which body the statutory auditor(s) or the audit firm was (were) appointed;
- (b) Indicate the date of the appointment<sup>17a</sup> and the period of total uninterrupted engagement including previous renewals and reappointments of the statutory auditors or the audit firm;
- (c) Confirm that the audit opinion is consistent with the additional report to the audit committee.<sup>17b</sup> Except as required by paragraph 45R-1(c), the auditor’s report shall not contain any cross-references to the additional report to the audit committee;

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<sup>17a</sup> The date of appointment is deemed to be the earlier of: (i) the formal appointment of the statutory auditor(s) or the audit firm at the annual general meeting of the audited entity; and (ii) the agreement of an engagement letter between the statutory auditor(s) or the audit firm and the audited entity.

<sup>17b</sup> ISA (Ireland) 260(Revised November 2020), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, paragraph 16R-2.



- (d) Declare that the non-audit services prohibited by IAASA's Ethical Standard were not provided and that the statutory auditor(s) or the audit firm remained independent of the entity in conducting the audit; and
- (e) Indicate any services, in addition to the statutory audit, which were provided by the statutory auditor or the audit firm to the audited entity and its controlled undertaking(s), and which have not been disclosed in the management report or financial statements.

#### Name of the Engagement Partner

46. The name of the engagement partner shall be included in the auditor's report on financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat. In the rare circumstances that the auditor intends not to include the name of the engagement partner in the auditor's report, the auditor shall discuss this intention with those charged with governance to inform the auditor's assessment of the likelihood and severity of a significant personal security threat. (Ref: Para. A61–A63)

#### Signature of the Auditor

47. The auditor's report shall be signed. (Ref: Para. A64–A65)

#### Auditor's Address

48. The auditor's report shall name the location in the jurisdiction where the auditor practices.

#### Date of the Auditor's Report

49. The auditor's report shall be dated no earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, including evidence that: (Ref: Para. A66–A69)
- (a) All the statements and disclosures that comprise the financial statements have been prepared; and
  - (b) Those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements.

49-1. The date of an auditor's report on an entity's financial statements shall be the date on which the auditor signed the report expressing an opinion on those financial statements. (Ref: Para. A66)

49-2. The auditor shall not sign, and hence date, the auditor's report earlier than the date on which all the other information contained in the annual report has been approved by those charged with governance and the auditor has considered all necessary available evidence. (Ref: Para. A67-1 – A67-4)

#### *Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation*

50. If the auditor is required by law or regulation of a specific jurisdiction to use a specific layout, or wording of the auditor's report, the auditor's report shall refer to International Standards on Auditing only if the auditor's report includes, at a minimum, each of the following elements: (Ref: Para. A70–A71)
- (a) A title.

- (b) An addressee, as required by the circumstances of the engagement.
- (c) An Opinion section containing an expression of opinion on the financial statements and a reference to the applicable financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements (including identifying the jurisdiction of origin of the financial reporting framework that is not International Financial Reporting Standards or International Public Sector Accounting Standards, see paragraph 26).
- (d) An identification of the entity's financial statements that have been audited.
- (e) A statement that the auditor is independent of the entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit, and has fulfilled the auditor's other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. The statement shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the relevant ethical requirements or refer to the IESBA Code.
- (f) Where applicable, a section that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in paragraph 22 of ISA 570 (Revised).
- (g) Where applicable, a Basis for Qualified (or Adverse) Opinion section that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in paragraph 23 of ISA 570 (Revised).
- (h) Where applicable, a section that includes the information required by ISA 701, or additional information about the audit that is prescribed by law or regulation and that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in that ISA.<sup>17</sup> (Ref: Para. A72–A75)
- (i) Where applicable, a section that addresses the reporting requirements in paragraph 24 of ISA 720.
- (j) A description of management's responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements and an identification of those responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the requirements in paragraphs 33–36.
- (k) A reference to International Standards on Auditing and the law or regulation, and a description of the auditor's responsibilities for an audit of the financial statements that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the requirements in paragraphs 37–40. (Ref: Para. A50–A53)
- (l) For audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities, the name of the engagement partner unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat.
- (m) The auditor's signature.
- (n) The auditor's address.
- (o) The date of the auditor's report.

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<sup>17</sup> ISA (Ireland) 701, paragraphs 11–16.

*Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Both Auditing Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and International Standards on Auditing*

51. An auditor may be required to conduct an audit in accordance with the auditing standards of a specific jurisdiction (the “national auditing standards”), and has additionally complied with the ISAs in the conduct of the audit. If this is the case, the auditor’s report may refer to International Standards on Auditing in addition to the national auditing standards, but the auditor shall do so only if: (Ref: Para. A76–A77-1)
- (a) There is no conflict between the requirements in the national auditing standards and those in ISAs that would lead the auditor (i) to form a different opinion, or (ii) not to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, is required by ISAs; and
  - (b) The auditor’s report includes, at a minimum, each of the elements set out in paragraphs 50(a)–(o) in ISA 700 (Revised) when the auditor uses the layout or wording specified by the national auditing standards. However, reference to “law or regulation” in paragraph 50(j) shall be read as reference to the national auditing standards. The auditor’s report shall thereby identify such national auditing standards.
52. When the auditor’s report refers to both the national auditing standards and International Standards on Auditing, the auditor’s report shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the national auditing standards.

**Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements** (Ref: Para. A78–A84)

53. If supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework is presented with the audited financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in the auditor’s professional judgment, supplementary information is nevertheless an integral part of the financial statements due to its nature or how it is presented. When it is an integral part of the financial statements, the supplementary information shall be covered by the auditor’s opinion.
54. If supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework is not considered an integral part of the audited financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate whether such supplementary information is presented in a way that sufficiently and clearly differentiates it from the audited financial statements. If this is not the case, then the auditor shall ask management to change how the unaudited supplementary information is presented. If management refuses to do so, the auditor shall identify the unaudited supplementary information and explain in the auditor’s report that such supplementary information has not been audited.

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## **Application and Other Explanatory Material**

### **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity’s Accounting Practices** (Ref: Para. 12)

- A1. Management makes a number of judgments about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

A2. ISA (Ireland) 260 (Revised November 2020) contains a discussion of the qualitative aspects of accounting practices.<sup>18</sup> In considering the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, the auditor may become aware of possible bias in management's judgments. The auditor may conclude that the cumulative effect of a lack of neutrality, together with the effect of uncorrected misstatements, causes the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated. Indicators of a lack of neutrality that may affect the auditor's evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are materially misstated include the following:

- The selective correction of misstatements brought to management's attention during the audit (e.g., correcting misstatements with the effect of increasing reported earnings, but not correcting misstatements that have the effect of decreasing reported earnings).
- Possible management bias in the making of accounting estimates.

A3. ISA (Ireland) 540 (Revised December 2018) addresses possible management bias in making accounting estimates.<sup>19</sup> Indicators of possible management bias do not constitute misstatements for purposes of drawing conclusions on the reasonableness of individual accounting estimates. They may, however, affect the auditor's evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

#### **Accounting Policies Appropriately Disclosed in the Financial Statements** (Ref: Para. 13(a))

A4. In evaluating whether the financial statements appropriately disclose the significant accounting policies selected and applied, the auditor's consideration includes matters such as:

- Whether all disclosures related to the significant accounting policies that are required to be included by the applicable financial reporting framework have been disclosed;
- Whether the information about the significant accounting policies that has been disclosed is relevant and therefore reflects how the recognition, measurement and presentation criteria in the applicable financial reporting framework have been applied to classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures in the financial statements in the particular circumstances of the entity's operations and its environment; and
- The clarity with which the significant accounting policies have been presented.

#### **Information Presented in the Financial Statements Is Relevant, Reliable, Comparable and Understandable** (Ref: Para. 13(d))

A5. Evaluating the understandability of the financial statements includes consideration of such matters as whether:

- The information in the financial statements is presented in a clear and concise manner.

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<sup>18</sup> ISA (Ireland) 260 (Revised November 2020), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, Appendix 2.

<sup>19</sup> ISA (Ireland) 540 (Revised December 2018), *Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures*, paragraph 21.

- The placement of significant disclosures gives appropriate prominence to them (e.g., when there is perceived value of entity-specific information to users), and whether the disclosures are appropriately cross-referenced in a manner that would not give rise to significant challenges for users in identifying necessary information.

### **Disclosure of the Effect of Material Transactions and Events on the Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 13(e))**

A6. It is common for financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework to present an entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows. Evaluating whether, in view of the applicable financial reporting framework, the financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows includes consideration of such matters as

- The extent to which the information in the financial statements is relevant and specific to the circumstances of the entity; and
- Whether the disclosures are adequate to assist the intended users to understand:
  - The nature and extent of the entity's potential assets and liabilities arising from transactions or events that do not meet the criteria for recognition (or the criteria for derecognition) established by the applicable financial reporting framework.
  - The nature and extent of risks of material misstatement arising from transactions and events.
  - The methods used and the assumptions and judgments made, and changes to them, that affect amounts presented or otherwise disclosed, including relevant sensitivity analyses.

### **Evaluating Whether the Financial Statements Achieve Fair Presentation (Ref: Para. 14)**

A7. Some financial reporting frameworks acknowledge explicitly or implicitly the concept of fair presentation.<sup>20</sup> As noted in paragraph 7(b) of this ISA (Ireland), a fair presentation<sup>21</sup> financial reporting framework not only requires compliance with the requirements of the framework, but also acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework.<sup>22</sup>

A8. The auditor's evaluation about whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation, both in respect of presentation and disclosure, is a matter of professional judgment. This evaluation takes into account such matters as the facts and circumstances of the entity,

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<sup>20</sup> For example, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) note that fair presentation requires the faithful representation of the effects of transactions, other events and conditions in accordance with the definitions and recognition criteria for assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

<sup>21</sup> See ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018), paragraph 13(a).

<sup>22</sup> For example, IFRSs require an entity to provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRSs is insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity's financial position and financial performance (International Accounting Standard 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*, paragraph 17(c)).

including changes thereto, based on the auditor's understanding of the entity and the audit evidence obtained during the audit. The evaluation also includes consideration, for example, of the disclosures needed to achieve a fair presentation arising from matters that could be material (i.e., in general, misstatements are considered to be material if they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of the users taken on the basis of the financial statements as a whole), such as the effect of evolving financial reporting requirements or the changing economic environment.

- A9. Evaluating whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation may include, for example, discussions with management and those charged with governance about their views on why a particular presentation was chosen, as well as alternatives that may have been considered. The discussions may include, for example:
- The degree to which the amounts in the financial statements are aggregated or disaggregated, and whether the presentation of amounts or disclosures obscures useful information, or results in misleading information.
  - Consistency with appropriate industry practice, or whether any departures are relevant to the entity's circumstances and therefore warranted.

#### **Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework** (Ref: Para. 15)

- A10. As explained in ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018), the preparation of the financial statements by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance requires the inclusion of an adequate description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the financial statements.<sup>23</sup> That description advises users of the financial statements of the framework on which the financial statements are based.
- A11. A description that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a particular applicable financial reporting framework is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with all the requirements of that framework that are effective during the period covered by the financial statements.
- A12. A description of the applicable financial reporting framework that contains imprecise qualifying or limiting language (e.g., "the financial statements are in substantial compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards") is not an adequate description of that framework as it may mislead users of the financial statements.

#### *Reference to More than One Financial Reporting Framework*

- A13. In some cases, the financial statements may represent that they are prepared in accordance with two financial reporting frameworks (e.g., the national framework and IFRSs). This may be because management is required, or has chosen, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with both frameworks, in which case both are applicable financial reporting frameworks. Such description is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with each of the frameworks individually. To be regarded as being prepared in accordance with both frameworks, the financial statements need to comply with both frameworks simultaneously and without any need for reconciling statements. In practice, simultaneous compliance is unlikely unless the jurisdiction has

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<sup>23</sup> ISA (Ireland) 200, paragraphs A2–A3.

adopted the other framework (e.g., IFRSs) as its own national framework, or has eliminated all barriers to compliance with it.

- A14. Financial statements that are prepared in accordance with one financial reporting framework and that contain a note or supplementary statement reconciling the results to those that would be shown under another framework are not prepared in accordance with that other framework. This is because the financial statements do not include all the information in the manner required by that other framework.
- A15. The financial statements may, however, be prepared in accordance with one applicable financial reporting framework and, in addition, describe in the notes to the financial statements the extent to which the financial statements comply with another framework (e.g., financial statements prepared in accordance with the national framework that also describe the extent to which they comply with IFRSs). Such description may constitute supplementary financial information as discussed in paragraph 53 and is covered by the auditor's opinion if it cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements.

#### **Form of Opinion** (Ref: Para. 16, 18–19)

A15-1. The "true and fair" concept has been part of legislation and central to accounting and auditing practice in Ireland for many years. However, there is no statutory definition of "true and fair".<sup>24b</sup>

A15-2. In preparing the financial statements in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the directors are required to consider whether the individual accounting policies applied and the financial statements as a whole present a true and fair view. Similarly, auditors are required to exercise professional judgment in evaluating such matters before expressing an audit opinion.

- A16. There may be cases where the financial statements, although prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework, do not achieve fair presentation. Where this is the case, it may be possible for management to include additional disclosures in the financial statements beyond those specifically required by the framework or, in extremely rare circumstances, to depart from a requirement in the framework in order to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements (Ref: Para 18).
- A17. It will be extremely rare for the auditor to consider financial statements that are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework to be misleading if, in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020), the auditor determined that the framework is acceptable.<sup>24</sup>

#### **Auditor's Report** (Ref: Para. 20)

- A18. A written report encompasses reports issued in hard copy and those using an electronic medium.

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<sup>24b</sup> UK and Irish law differ but follow similar principles.

<sup>24</sup> ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020), *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraph 6(a).

A19. The Appendix to this ISA (Ireland)<sup>25a</sup> contains illustrations of auditor’s reports on financial statements, incorporating the elements set out in paragraphs 20–49. With the exception of the Opinion and Basis for Opinion sections, this ISA (Ireland) does not establish requirements for ordering the elements of the auditor’s report. However, this ISA (Ireland) requires the use of specific headings, which are intended to assist in making auditor’s reports that refer to audits that have been conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) more recognizable, particularly in situations where the elements of the auditor’s report are presented in an order that differs from the illustrative auditor’s reports in the Appendix to this ISA (Ireland).

*Auditor’s Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing*

Title (Ref: Para. 21)

A20. A title indicating the report is the report of an independent auditor, for example, “Independent Auditor’s Report,” distinguishes the independent auditor’s report from reports issued by others.

Addressee (Ref: Para. 22)

A21. Law, regulation or the terms of the engagement may specify to whom the auditor’s report is to be addressed in that particular jurisdiction. The auditor’s report is normally addressed to those for whom the report is prepared, often either to the shareholders or to those charged with governance of the entity whose financial statements are being audited.

A21-1. In Ireland, for entities incorporated under the Companies Act,<sup>25b</sup> the auditor is required to report to the company’s members because the audit is undertaken on their behalf. Such auditor’s reports are, therefore, typically addressed to either the members or the shareholders of the company. The auditor’s report on financial statements of other types of reporting entity is addressed to the appropriate person or persons, as defined by statute or by the terms of the individual engagement.

Auditor’s Opinion (Ref. Para. 24–26)

Reference to the financial statements that have been audited

A22. The auditor’s report states, for example, that the auditor has audited the financial statements of the entity, which comprise [state the title of each financial statement comprising the complete set of financial statements required by the applicable financial reporting framework, specifying the date or period covered by each financial statement] and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

A23. When the auditor is aware that the audited financial statements will be included in a document that contains other information, such as an annual report, the auditor may consider, if the form of presentation allows, identifying the page numbers on which the audited financial statements are presented. This helps users to identify the financial statements to which the auditor’s report relates.

<sup>25a</sup> The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for Ireland.

<sup>25b</sup> In the Republic of Ireland, the Companies Act 2014 establishes this requirement.



“Present fairly, in all material respects” or “give a true and fair view”

A24. The phrases “present fairly, in all material respects,” and “give a true and fair view” are regarded as being equivalent. Whether the phrase “present fairly, in all material respects,” or the phrase “give a true and fair view” is used in any particular jurisdiction is determined by the law or regulation governing the audit of financial statements in that jurisdiction, or by generally accepted practice in that jurisdiction. Where law or regulation requires the use of different wording, this does not affect the requirement in paragraph 14 of this ISA (Ireland) for the auditor to evaluate the fair presentation of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework.

A24-1. For statutory audits of financial statements, the auditor’s report is required by Irish legislation<sup>25d</sup> to state clearly the auditor’s opinion as to whether, the statutory financial statements:

- (a) Give a true and fair view:
  - (i) In the case of an entity balance sheet, of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the end of the financial year;
  - (ii) In the case of an entity profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year;
  - (iii) In the case of group financial statements, of the assets, liabilities and financial position as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss for the financial year of the undertakings included in the consolidation as a whole, so far as concerns the members of the company;
- (b) have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Irish Companies Act 2014 (and, where applicable, Article 4 of the IAS Regulation).

A24-2. Irish auditor’s reports prepared in accordance with Section 336(3) of the Companies Act 2014 and, therefore, expressing an opinion in terms of “true and fair view, in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework” will meet the requirement in paragraph 25. This is supported by recital 10 of EU Directive 2003/51/EC which states “The fundamental requirement that an audit opinion states whether the annual or consolidated accounts give a true and fair view in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework does not represent a restriction of the scope of that opinion but clarifies the context in which it is expressed”.

A24-3. In Ireland, “relevant financial reporting framework” is used in legislation to refer to the applicable financial reporting framework. Under Irish companies legislation, “financial reporting framework” means “the collective provisions and requirements (and, in particular, the applicable accounting standards) applied in the preparation of the financial statements.”<sup>25e</sup>

<sup>25d</sup> Section 336(3) of the Companies Act 2014.

<sup>25e</sup> Section 274 of the Companies Act 2014.

- A25. When the auditor expresses an unmodified opinion, it is not appropriate to use phrases such as “with the foregoing explanation” or “subject to” in relation to the opinion, as these suggest a conditional opinion or a weakening or modification of opinion.

#### Description of the financial statements and the matters they present

- A26. The auditor’s opinion covers the complete set of financial statements as defined by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, in the case of many general purpose frameworks, the financial statements may include: a statement of financial position, a statement of comprehensive income, a statement of changes in equity, a statement of cash flows, and related notes, which ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. In some jurisdictions, additional information may also be considered to be an integral part of the financial statements.
- A27. In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor’s opinion states that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view of, the matters that the financial statements are designed to present. For example, in the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRSs, these matters are *the financial position of the entity as at the end of the period and the entity’s financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended*. Consequently, the [...] in paragraph 25 and elsewhere in this ISA (Ireland) is intended to be replaced by the words in italics in the preceding sentence when the applicable financial reporting framework is IFRSs or, in the case of other applicable financial reporting frameworks, be replaced with words that describe the matters that the financial statements are designed to present.

#### Description of the applicable financial reporting framework and how it may affect the auditor’s opinion

- A28. The identification of the applicable financial reporting framework in the auditor’s opinion is intended to advise users of the auditor’s report of the context in which the auditor’s opinion is expressed; it is not intended to limit the evaluation required in paragraph 14. The applicable financial reporting framework is identified in such terms as:
- “... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards” or
- “... in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Jurisdiction X ...”

A28-1. In Ireland, the financial reporting framework is normally one of:

- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and the national law that is applicable when using IFRSs and, in the case of consolidated financial statements of publicly traded companies,<sup>25f</sup> Article 4 of the IAS Regulation (1606/2002/EC).
- Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the Republic of Ireland, which comprises applicable Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

<sup>25f</sup> A publicly traded company is one whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market in any Member State in the European Union.

A29. When the applicable financial reporting framework encompasses financial reporting standards and legal or regulatory requirements, the framework is identified in such terms as “... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of Jurisdiction X Corporations Act.” ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020) deals with circumstances where there are conflicts between the financial reporting standards and the legislative or regulatory requirements.<sup>25</sup>

A29-1. In Ireland, certain small companies are permitted by law to prepare their financial statements in accordance with the micro-entities regime which is considered to be a compliance framework. Paragraph 26 sets out the form of opinion for a compliance framework, however, the auditor is required by law to state whether the financial statements give a true and fair view. ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020) provides guidance to support the auditor's response in these circumstances.

A30. As indicated in paragraph A13, the financial statements may be prepared in accordance with two financial reporting frameworks, which are therefore both applicable financial reporting frameworks. Accordingly, each framework is considered separately when forming the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, and the auditor's opinion in accordance with paragraphs 25–27 refers to both frameworks as follows:

- (a) If the financial statements comply with each of the frameworks individually, two opinions are expressed: that is, that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with one of the applicable financial reporting frameworks (e.g., the national framework) and an opinion that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the other applicable financial reporting framework (e.g., IFRSs). These opinions may be expressed separately or in a single sentence (e.g., the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects [...], in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Jurisdiction X and with IFRSs).
- (b) If the financial statements comply with one of the frameworks but fail to comply with the other framework, an unmodified opinion can be given that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the one framework (e.g., the national framework) but a modified opinion given with regard to the other framework (e.g., IFRSs) in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 705 (Revised November 2020).

A31. As indicated in paragraph A13, the financial statements may represent compliance with the applicable financial reporting framework and, in addition, disclose the extent of compliance with another financial reporting framework. Such supplementary information is covered by the auditor's opinion if it cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements (see paragraphs 52–53 and related application material in paragraphs A73–A79). Accordingly,

- (a) If the disclosure as to the compliance with the other framework is misleading, a modified opinion is expressed in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 705 (Revised November 2020).

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<sup>25</sup> ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020), paragraph 18.

- (b) If the disclosure is not misleading, but the auditor judges it to be of such importance that it is fundamental to the users' understanding of the financial statements, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph is added in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 706, drawing attention to the disclosure.

#### Basis for Opinion (Ref: Para. 28)

- A32. The Basis for Opinion section provides important context about the auditor's opinion. Accordingly, this ISA (Ireland) requires the Basis for Opinion section to directly follow the Opinion section in the auditor's report.
- A33. The reference to the standards used conveys to the users of the auditor's report that the audit has been conducted in accordance with established standards.

#### Relevant ethical requirements

- A34. The identification of the jurisdiction of origin of relevant ethical requirements increases transparency about those requirements relating to the particular audit engagement. ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018) explains that relevant ethical requirements ordinarily comprise Parts A and B of the IESBA Code related to an audit of financial statements together with national requirements that are more restrictive.<sup>26</sup> When the relevant ethical requirements include those of the IESBA Code, the statement may also make reference to the IESBA Code. If the IESBA Code constitutes all of the ethical requirements relevant to the audit, the statement need not identify a jurisdiction of origin.
- A35. In some jurisdictions, relevant ethical requirements may exist in several different sources, such as the ethical code(s) and additional rules and requirements within law and regulation. When the independence and other relevant ethical requirements are contained in a limited number of sources, the auditor may choose to name the relevant source(s) (e.g., the name of the code, rule or regulation applicable in the jurisdiction), or may refer to a term that is commonly understood and that appropriately summarizes those sources (e.g., independence requirements for audits of private entities in Jurisdiction X).

A35-1. IAASA's Ethical Standard applies to all audit engagements performed in compliance with ISAs (Ireland). For audit engagements of certain types of entities (Listed; SME Listed; Public Interest), it includes either additional, or less stringent, requirements that apply in certain circumstances.<sup>27a</sup>

A35-2. The firm is required to establish policies and procedures in accordance with IAASA's Ethical Standard<sup>27b</sup> that set out the circumstances in which the additional requirements, applicable to audit engagements for certain types of entities (Listed; SME Listed; Public Interest), apply to other audit engagements.

A35-3. When identifying the relevant ethical requirements in the auditor's report and indicating that these include IAASA's Ethical Standard, the auditor indicates that they were applied as required for each type of entity (Listed; SME Listed; Public Interest) for which IAASA's Ethical Standard includes additional requirements:

<sup>26</sup> ISA (Ireland) 200, paragraph A14.

<sup>27a</sup> IAASA's Ethical Standard, *Part B, Section 1 – General Requirements and Guidance*, paragraph 1.42.

<sup>27b</sup> IAASA's Ethical Standard, *Part B, Section 1 – General Requirements and Guidance*, paragraph 1.43.

- (a) That is relevant in the case of the audited entity; and
- (b) Where (having regard to the policies and procedures referred to in paragraph A35-2) the auditor determined it to be appropriate to apply to the audit engagement the additional requirements included in IAASA's Ethical Standard applicable for that type of entity.

A35-4. Where the firm has taken advantage of an exemption provided in IAASA's Ethical Standard in relation to audits of small entities, the auditor's report discloses this fact.<sup>27c</sup>

- A36. Law or regulation, national auditing standards or the terms of an audit engagement may require the auditor to provide in the auditor's report more specific information about the sources of the relevant ethical requirements, including those related to independence, that applied to the audit of the financial statements.
- A37. In determining the appropriate amount of information to include in the auditor's report when there are multiple sources of relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit of the financial statements, an important consideration is balancing transparency against the risk of obscuring other useful information in the auditor's report.

#### Considerations specific to group audits

- A38. In group audits when there are multiple sources of relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, the reference in the auditor's report to the jurisdiction ordinarily relates to the relevant ethical requirements that are applicable to the group engagement team. This is because, in a group audit, component auditors are also subject to ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit.<sup>27</sup>
- A39. The ISAs (Ireland) do not establish specific independence or ethical requirements for auditors, including component auditors, and thus do not extend, or otherwise override, the independence requirements of the IESBA Code or other ethical requirements to which the group engagement team is subject, nor do the ISAs (Ireland) require that the component auditor in all cases to be subject to the same specific independence requirements that are applicable to the group engagement team. As a result, relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, in a group audit situation may be complex. ISA (Ireland) 600 (Revised November 2020)<sup>28</sup> provides guidance for auditors in performing work on the financial information of a component for a group audit, including those situations where the component auditor does not meet the independence requirements that are relevant to the group audit.

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<sup>27c</sup> IAASA's Ethical Standard, *Part B, Section 6 – Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities*, paragraph 6.15.

<sup>27</sup> ISA (Ireland) 600 (Revised November 2020), paragraph A37.

<sup>28</sup> ISA (Ireland) 600 (Revised November 2020), paragraphs 19–20.

Irregularities including Fraud (Ref: Para. 29-1)

A39-1. 'Irregularity' is not defined in Irish legislation, but is deemed to correspond to the definition in ISA (Ireland) 250 (Revised November 2020) of non-compliance and therefore broadly based.<sup>29a</sup>

A39-2. The matters required to be set out in the auditor's report in accordance with paragraph 29-1 may be useful to users of the financial statements if they are explained in a manner that, for example:

- Enables a user to understand their significance in the context of the statutory audit of financial statements as a whole. In determining those matters that are of significance,<sup>29b</sup> both quantitative and qualitative factors are relevant to such consideration.
- Relates the matters directly to the specific circumstances of the entity and are not therefore, generic or abstract matters expressed in standardized or boilerplate language.

A39-3. The auditor may explain the extent to which aspects of the auditor's work addressed the detection of irregularities, for example:

- How the auditor obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the entity and how the entity is complying with that framework.
- Which laws and regulations the auditor identified as being of significance in the context of the entity.
- The auditor's assessment of the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement,<sup>29c</sup> including how fraud might occur.<sup>29d</sup>
- The engagement partner's assessment of whether the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognize non-compliance with laws and regulations.<sup>29e</sup>
- Matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud that were communicated with the engagement team.

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<sup>29a</sup> ISA (Ireland) 250 (Revised November 2020) *Section A—Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements*, paragraph 12.

<sup>29b</sup> Significance is defined in IAASA's Glossary of Terms.

<sup>29c</sup> ISA (Ireland) 315 (Revised October 2020), *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment*, paragraph 10.

<sup>29d</sup> ISA (Ireland) 240 (Updated December 2018), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements*, paragraph 15.

<sup>29e</sup> ISA (Ireland) 220 (Revised December 2021), *Quality Management for an Audit of Financial Statements*, paragraph 26 and ISA (Ireland) 250 (Revised November 2020) *Section B—The Auditor's Statutory Right and Duty to Report to Regulators of Public Interest Entities and Regulators of Other Entities in the Financial Sector*, paragraph 11.

- The auditor’s understanding of the entity’s current activities, the scope of its authorization and the effectiveness of its control environment where the entity is a regulated entity.<sup>29f</sup>
- In the case of a group, how the auditor addressed these matters at both at the group and component levels.
- Communications with component auditors to request identification of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement of the group financial statements.<sup>29g</sup>

A39-4. In explaining the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, the auditor also considers the likelihood of detection based on the auditor’s planned approach. This will be affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity’s controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. The auditor’s responsibilities for the engagement will mean that detection of those types of irregularity which give rise to a risk of material misstatement are those on which the auditor is able to provide the most comprehensive explanation. For example:

- Where the auditor identified legislation of particular relevance to the entity, what procedures the auditor designed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with that legislation.
- Whether the audit team identified particular areas that were susceptible to misstatement as part of their fraud discussion.

A39-5. The auditor may also have determined that certain matters relating to non-compliance with laws and regulations are key audit matters in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020).<sup>29h</sup> This does not exempt the auditor from also including the required explanation, in their report, as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

#### Key Audit Matters (Ref: Para. 31)

- A40. Law or regulation may require communication of key audit matters for audits of entities other than listed entities, for example, entities characterized in such law or regulation as public interest entities.
- A41. The auditor may also decide to communicate key audit matters for other entities, including those that may be of significant public interest, for example because they have a large number and wide range of stakeholders and considering the nature and size of the business. Examples of such entities may include financial institutions (such as banks, insurance companies, and pension funds), and other entities such as charities.
- A42. ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020) requires the auditor to agree the terms of the audit engagement with management and those charged with governance, as appropriate,

<sup>29f</sup> ISA (Ireland) 250 (Revised November 2020) *Section B*, paragraph 10.

<sup>29g</sup> ISA (Ireland) 600 (Revised November 2020), paragraph 41(d).

<sup>29h</sup> ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020), paragraphs 9–11.

and explains that the roles of management and those charged with governance in agreeing the terms of the audit engagement for the entity depend on the governance arrangements of the entity and relevant law or regulation.<sup>29</sup> ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020) also requires the audit engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement to include reference to the expected form and content of any reports to be issued by the auditor.<sup>30</sup> When the auditor is not otherwise required to communicate key audit matters, ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020)<sup>31</sup> explains that it may be helpful for the auditor to make reference in the terms of the audit engagement to the possibility of communicating key audit matters in the auditor's report and, in certain jurisdictions, it may be necessary for the auditor to include a reference to such possibility in order to retain the ability to do so.

#### Considerations specific to public sector entities

A43. Listed entities are not common in the public sector. However, public sector entities may be significant due to size, complexity or public interest aspects. In such cases, an auditor of a public sector entity may be required by law or regulation or may otherwise decide to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report.

#### Responsibilities for the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 33–34)

A44. ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018) explains the premise, relating to the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, on which an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) is conducted.<sup>32</sup> Management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance accept responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including, where relevant, their fair presentation. Management also accepts responsibility for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The description of management's responsibilities in the auditor's report includes reference to both responsibilities as it helps to explain to users the premise on which an audit is conducted. ISA (Ireland) 260 (Revised November 2020) uses the term those charged with governance to describe the person(s) or organization(s) with responsibility for overseeing the entity, and provides a discussion about the diversity of governance structures across jurisdictions and by entity.

A44-1. In Ireland, the preparation of financial statements requires those charged with governance to make significant accounting estimates and judgments, as well as to determine the appropriate accounting principles and methods used in preparation of the financial statements. This determination will be made in the context of the financial reporting framework that those charged with governance choose, or are required, to use. In contrast, the auditor's responsibility is to audit the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them.

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<sup>29</sup> ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020), paragraphs 9 and A21.

<sup>30</sup> ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020), paragraph 10.

<sup>31</sup> ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020), paragraph A23a.

<sup>32</sup> ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018), paragraph 13(j).



- A45. There may be circumstances when it is appropriate for the auditor to add to the descriptions of the responsibilities of management and those charged with governance in paragraphs 34–35 to reflect additional responsibilities that are relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in the context of the particular jurisdiction or the nature of the entity.
- A46. ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020) requires the auditor to agree management’s responsibilities in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement.<sup>33</sup> ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020) provides some flexibility in doing so, by explaining that, if law or regulation prescribes the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in relation to financial reporting, the auditor may determine that the law or regulation includes responsibilities that, in the auditor’s judgment, are equivalent in effect to those set out in ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020). For such responsibilities that are equivalent, the auditor may use the wording of the law or regulation to describe them in the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement. In such cases, this wording may also be used in the auditor’s report to describe the responsibilities as required by paragraph 34(a) of this ISA (Ireland). In other circumstances, including where the auditor decides not to use the wording of law or regulation as incorporated in the engagement letter; the wording in paragraph 34(a) of this ISA (Ireland) is used. In addition to including the description of management’s responsibilities in the auditor’s report as required by paragraph 34, the auditor may refer to a more detailed description of these responsibilities by including a reference to where such information may be obtained (e.g., in the annual report of the entity or a website of an appropriate authority).
- A47. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation prescribing management’s responsibilities may specifically refer to a responsibility for the adequacy of accounting books and records, or accounting system. As books, records and systems are an integral part of internal control (as defined in ISA (Ireland) 315 (Revised October 2020)<sup>34</sup>), the descriptions in ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020) and in paragraph 34 do not make specific reference to them.
- A48. The Appendix<sup>35a</sup> to this ISA (Ireland) provides illustrations of how the requirement in paragraph 34(b) would be applied when IFRSs is the applicable financial reporting framework. If an applicable financial reporting framework other than IFRSs is used, the illustrative statements featured in the Appendix to this ISA (Ireland) may need to be adapted to reflect the application of the other financial reporting framework in the circumstances.

#### Oversight of the financial reporting process (Ref: Para. 35)

- A49. When some, but not all, of the individuals involved in the oversight of the financial reporting process are also involved in preparing the financial statements, the description as required by paragraph 35 of this ISA (Ireland) may need to be modified to appropriately reflect the

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<sup>33</sup> ISA (Ireland) 210 (Revised November 2020), paragraph 6(b)(i)–(ii).

<sup>34</sup> ISA (Ireland) 315 (Revised October 2020), *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment*, paragraph 4(c).

<sup>35a</sup> The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for Ireland.

particular circumstances of the entity. When individuals responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process are the same as those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, no reference to oversight responsibilities is required.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 37–40)

A50. The description of the auditor's responsibilities as required by paragraphs 37–40 of this ISA (Ireland) may be tailored to reflect the specific nature of the entity, for example, when the auditor's report addresses consolidated financial statements. Illustration 2 in the Appendix<sup>35a</sup> to this ISA (Ireland) includes an example of how this may be done.

A50-1. Where the auditor is required to report by exception on certain matters relating to going concern, the auditor is required to include a description of the auditor's responsibilities with respect to those matters in the auditor's report. When describing the auditor's responsibilities relating to management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and the disclosure of material uncertainties, the auditor may choose to include this description either:

- (a) in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the auditor's report; or
- (b) in the Conclusions Relating to Going Concern section of the auditor's report,<sup>35b</sup> and cross-refer from the respective section as appropriate.

A50-2. Auditor's reports which include a description of the auditor's responsibilities relating to management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and the disclosure of material uncertainties in the Conclusions Relating to Going Concern section of the auditor's report will include the minimum elements of an auditor's report required by paragraph 50(k) of ISA 700 (Revised) and therefore the auditor is not precluded from being able to assert compliance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the IAASB.

#### Objectives of the auditor (Ref: Para. 38(a))

A51. The auditor's report explains that the objectives of the auditor are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes the auditor's opinion. These are in contrast to management's responsibilities for the preparation for the financial statements.

#### Description of materiality (Ref: Para. 38(c))

A52. The Appendix to this ISA (Ireland) provides illustrations of how the requirement in paragraph 38(c), to provide a description of materiality, would be applied when IFRSs is the applicable financial reporting framework. If an applicable financial reporting framework other than IFRSs is used, the illustrative statements presented in the Appendix to this ISA (Ireland) may need to be adapted to reflect the application of the other financial reporting framework in the circumstances.

<sup>35b</sup> ISA (Ireland) 570 (Revised October 2019), *Going Concern*, paragraph 21-1 deals with the auditor's responsibilities to include such a section in the auditor's report.

Auditor's responsibilities relating to ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020) (Ref: Para. 40(c))

A53. The auditor may also consider it useful to provide additional information in the description of the auditor's responsibilities beyond what is required by paragraph 40(c). For example, the auditor may make reference to the requirement in paragraph 9 of ISA (Ireland) 701 (Revised November 2020) to determine the matters that required significant auditor attention in performing the audit, taking into account areas of higher assessed risk of material misstatement or significant risks identified in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 315 (Revised October 2020); significant auditor judgments relating to areas in the financial statements that involved significant management judgment, including accounting estimates that have been identified as having high estimation uncertainty; and the effects on the audit of significant events or transactions that occurred during the period.

Location of the description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Ref: Para. 41, 50(k))

A54. Including the information required by paragraphs 39–40 of this ISA (Ireland) in an appendix to the auditor's report or, when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, referring to a website of an appropriate authority containing such information may be a useful way of streamlining the content of the auditor's report. However, because the description of the auditor's responsibilities contains information that is necessary to inform users' expectations of an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), a reference is required to be included in the auditor's report indicating where such information can be accessed.

Location in an appendix (Ref: Para. 41(b), 50(k))

A55. Paragraph 40 permits the auditor to include the statements required by paragraphs 39–40 describing the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements in an appendix to the auditor's report, provided that appropriate reference is made within the body of the auditor's report to the location of the appendix. The following is an illustration of how such a reference to an appendix could be made in the auditor's report:

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in appendix X of this auditor's report. This description, which is located at [*indicate page number or other specific reference to the location of the description*], forms part of our auditor's report.

Reference to a website of an appropriate authority (Ref: Para. 41(c), 42)

- A56. Paragraph 41 explains that the auditor may refer to a description of the auditor's responsibilities located on a website of an appropriate authority, only if expressly permitted by law, regulation or national auditing standards. The information on the website that is incorporated in the auditor's report by way of a specific reference to the website location where such information can be found may describe the auditor's work, or the audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) more broadly, but it cannot be inconsistent with the description required in paragraphs 39–40 of this ISA (Ireland). This means that the wording of the description of the auditor's responsibilities on the website may be more detailed, or may address other matters relating to an audit of financial statements, provided that such wording reflects and does not contradict the matters addressed in paragraphs 39–40.
- A57. An appropriate authority could be a national auditing standard setter, regulator, or an audit oversight body. Such organizations are well-placed to ensure the accuracy, completeness and continued availability of the standardized information. It would not be appropriate for the auditor to maintain such a website. The following is an illustration of how such a reference to a website could be made in the auditor's report:

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at [*Organization's*] website at: [*website address*]. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A57-1. IAASA maintains on its web-site a generic "Description of the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" of private sector entities.<sup>35c</sup> These descriptions address the auditor's responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland).

Other Reporting Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 43–45)

- A58. In some jurisdictions, the auditor may have additional responsibilities to report on other matters that are supplementary to the auditor's responsibilities under the ISAs (Ireland). For example, the auditor may be asked to report certain matters if they come to the auditor's attention during the course of the audit of the financial statements. Alternatively, the auditor may be asked to perform and report on additional specified procedures, or to express an opinion on specific matters, such as the adequacy of accounting books and records, internal control over financial reporting or other information. Auditing standards in

<sup>35c</sup> The web-site reference relevant to Ireland is [www.IAASA.ie](http://www.IAASA.ie)

the specific jurisdiction often provide guidance on the auditor's responsibilities with respect to specific additional reporting responsibilities in that jurisdiction.

A58-1. In Ireland, other reporting responsibilities may be determined by specific statutory requirements applicable to the reporting entity, or, in some circumstances, by the terms of the auditor's engagement. Such matters may be required to be dealt with by either:

- (a) A positive statement in the auditor's report; or
- (b) By exception.

An example of (a) arises in the Republic of Ireland where company legislation requires the auditor to report whether the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.<sup>35d</sup>

An example of (b) arises:

- In the Republic of Ireland where company legislation requires the auditor to report when the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.<sup>35f</sup>

A58-2. Where the auditor is required to report by exception and has discharged the auditor's responsibilities and has nothing to report in respect of them, the conclusion could be expressed in the form of the following phrase: "We have nothing to report in respect of the following."

A58-3. Where the auditor expresses a modified conclusion in respect of other reporting responsibilities (including those on which they are required to report by exception), ISA (Ireland) 705 (Revised November 2020), adapted as necessary in the circumstances, may assist the auditor in considering the nature and form of the modification that is appropriate. Such a modification may also give rise to a modification of the auditor's opinion on the financial statements in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 705 (Revised November 2020). For example, if adequate accounting records have not been maintained and as a result it proves impracticable for the auditor to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence concerning material matters in the financial statements, the auditor's report on the financial statements includes a qualified opinion or disclaimer of opinion arising from that limitation in accordance with ISA (Ireland) 705 (Revised November 2020).

A59. In some cases, the relevant law or regulation may require or permit the auditor to report on these other responsibilities as part of their auditor's report on the financial statements. In other cases, the auditor may be required or permitted to report on them in a separate report.

A59-1. In Ireland, for the audit of certain public sector entities the audit mandate may require the auditor to express an opinion on regularity. Regularity is the requirement that financial transactions are in accordance with the legislation authorizing them.

A60. Paragraphs 43–45 of this ISA (Ireland) permit combined presentation of other reporting responsibilities and the auditor's responsibilities under the ISAs (Ireland) only when they address the same topics and the wording of the auditor's report clearly differentiates the

<sup>35d</sup> Section 336(4)(b) of the Companies Act 2014.

<sup>35f</sup> Section 336(8) of the Companies Act 2014.

other reporting responsibilities from those under the ISAs (Ireland). Such clear differentiation may make it necessary for the auditor's report to refer to the source of the other reporting responsibilities and to state that such responsibilities are beyond those required under the ISAs (Ireland). Otherwise, other reporting responsibilities are required to be addressed in a separate section in the auditor's report with a heading "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements," or otherwise as appropriate to the content of the section. In such cases, paragraph 45 requires the auditor to include reporting responsibilities under the ISAs (Ireland) under a heading titled "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements."

Name of the Engagement Partner (Ref: Para. 46)

- A61. The objective of the firm in ISQM (Ireland) 1<sup>35</sup> is to design, implement and operate a system of quality management that provides the firm with reasonable assurance that:
- The firm and its personnel fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements and conduct engagements in accordance with such standards and requirements; and
  - Engagement reports issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances.

Notwithstanding the objective of ISQM (Ireland) 1, naming the engagement partner in the auditor's report is intended to provide further transparency to the users of the auditor's report on financial statements of a listed entity.

- A62. Law, regulation or national auditing standards may require that the auditor's report include the name of the engagement partner responsible for audits other than those of financial statements of listed entities. The auditor may also be required by law, regulation or national auditing standards, or may decide to include additional information beyond the engagement partner's name in the auditor's report to further identify the engagement partner, for example, the engagement partner's professional license number that is relevant to the jurisdiction where the auditor practices.
- A63. In rare circumstances, the auditor may identify information or be subject to experiences that indicate the likelihood of a personal security threat that, if the identity of the engagement partner is made public, may result in physical harm to the engagement partner, other engagement team members or other closely related individuals. However, such a threat does not include, for example, threats of legal liability or legal, regulatory or professional sanctions. Discussions with those charged with governance about circumstances that may result in physical harm may provide additional information about the likelihood or severity of the significant personal security threat. Law, regulation or national auditing standards may establish further requirements that are relevant to determining whether the disclosure of the name of the engagement partner may be omitted.

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<sup>35</sup> ISQM (Ireland) 1, Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements, paragraph 14.

Signature of the Auditor (Ref: Para. 47)

A64. The auditor's signature is either in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction. In addition to the auditor's signature, in certain jurisdictions, the auditor may be required to declare in the auditor's report the auditor's professional accountancy designation or the fact that the auditor or firm, as appropriate, has been recognized by the appropriate licensing authority in that jurisdiction.

The Statutory Auditor under the Irish Companies Act 2014

A64-1. In the case of an Irish company and certain other entities Irish law requires:

- (a) Where the auditor is a statutory auditor (a natural person) that the report is signed by that person; or
- (b) Where the auditor is a statutory audit firm that the report is signed by:
  - The statutory auditor designated by the statutory audit firm as being primarily responsible for carrying out the statutory audit on behalf of the audit firm; or
  - In the case of a group audit at least the statutory auditor designated by the statutory audit firm as being primarily responsible for carrying out the statutory audit at the level of the group;

in his or her own name, for and on behalf of, the firm.<sup>36k</sup>

A65. In some cases, law or regulation may allow for the use of electronic signatures in the auditor's report.

Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 49)

A66. The date of the auditor's report informs the user of the auditor's report that the auditor has considered the effect of events and transactions of which the auditor became aware and that occurred up to that date. The auditor's responsibility for events and transactions after the date of the auditor's report is addressed in ISA (Ireland) 560.<sup>36</sup>

A67. Since the auditor's opinion is provided on the financial statements and the financial statements are the responsibility of management, the auditor is not in a position to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained until evidence is obtained that all the statements and disclosures that comprise the financial statements have been prepared and management has accepted responsibility for them.

A67-1. The auditor, therefore, plans the conduct of the audit to take account of the need to ensure, before expressing an opinion on financial statements, that those charged with governance have approved the financial statements and any accompanying other information and that the auditor has completed a sufficient review of post balance sheet events.

<sup>36k</sup> See Section 337(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

<sup>36</sup> ISA (Ireland) 560, *Subsequent Events*, paragraphs 10–17.

A67-2. The date of the auditor's report is, therefore, the date on which the auditor signs the auditor's report expressing an opinion on the financial statements for distribution with those financial statements, following:

- (a) Receipt of the financial statements and accompanying documents in the form approved by those charged with governance for release;
- (b) Review of all documents which the auditor is required to consider in addition to the financial statements (for example the directors' report, chairman's statement or other review of an entity's affairs which will form part of the annual report): and
- (c) Completion of all procedures necessary to form an opinion on the financial statements (and any other opinions required by law or regulation) including a review of post balance sheet events.

A67-3. The form of the financial statements and other information approved by those charged with governance, and considered by the auditor when signing a report expressing the auditor's opinion, may be in the form of final drafts from which printed documents will be prepared. Subsequent production of printed copies of the financial statements and the auditor's report does not constitute the creation of a new document. Copies of the report produced for circulation to shareholders or others may, therefore, reproduce a printed version of the auditor's signature showing the date of actual signature.

A67-4. If the date on which the auditor signs the report is later than that on which those charged with governance approved the financial statements, the auditor takes such steps as are appropriate:

- (a) To obtain assurance that those charged with governance would have approved the financial statements on that later date (for example, by obtaining confirmation from specified individual members of the Board to whom authority has been delegated for this purpose); and
- (b) To ensure that the auditor's procedures for reviewing subsequent events cover the period up to that date.

A68. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation identifies the individuals or bodies (e.g., the directors) that are responsible for concluding that all the statements and disclosures that comprise the financial statements have been prepared, and specifies the necessary approval process. In such cases, evidence is obtained of that approval before dating the report on the financial statements. In other jurisdictions, however, the approval process is not prescribed in law or regulation. In such cases, the procedures the entity follows in preparing and finalizing its financial statements in view of its management and governance structures are considered in order to identify the individuals or body with the authority to conclude that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared. In some cases, law or regulation identifies the point in the financial statement reporting process at which the audit is expected to be complete.

A69. In some jurisdictions, final approval of the financial statements by shareholders is required before the financial statements are issued publicly. In these jurisdictions, final approval by shareholders is not necessary for the auditor to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained. The date of approval of the financial statements for purposes of ISAs (Ireland) is the earlier date on which those with the recognized authority determine



that all the statements and disclosures that comprise the financial statements have been prepared and that those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for them.

*Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation* (Ref: Para. 50)

A70. ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018) explains that the auditor may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements in addition to ISAs.<sup>37</sup> When the differences between the legal or regulatory requirements and ISAs relate only to the layout and wording of the auditor's report, the requirements in paragraph 50(a)–(o) set out the minimum elements to be included in the auditor's report to enable a reference to the International Standards on Auditing. In those circumstances, the requirements in paragraphs 21–49 that are not included in paragraph 50(a)–(o) do not need to be applied including, for example, the required ordering of the Opinion and Basis for Opinion sections.

A70-1. This ISA (Ireland) is consistent with ISA 700 (Revised) "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements," as issued by the IAASB. Auditor's reports prepared in compliance with the requirements of this ISA (Ireland) will include the minimum elements of an auditor's report required by paragraph 50(a)-(o) of ISA 700 (Revised) and does not therefore preclude the auditor from being able to assert compliance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the IAASB.

A71. Where specific requirements in a particular jurisdiction do not conflict with ISAs, the layout and wording required by paragraphs 21–48 of ISA (Ireland) 700 (Revised November 2020) assist users of the auditor's report in more readily recognizing the auditor's report as a report of an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs.

Information Required by ISA 701 (Ref: Para. 50(h))

A72. Law or regulation may require the auditor to provide additional information about the audit that was performed, which may include information that is consistent with the objectives of ISA 701, or may prescribe the nature and extent of communication about such matters.

A73. The ISAs do not override law or regulation that governs an audit of financial statements. When ISA 701 is applicable, reference can only be made to ISAs in the auditor's report if, in applying the law or regulation, the section required by paragraph 49(h) of this ISA is not inconsistent with the reporting requirements in ISA 701. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to tailor certain aspects of the communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report required by ISA 701, for example by:

- Modifying the heading "Key Audit Matters", if law or regulation prescribes a specific heading;
- Explaining why the information required by law or regulation is being provided in the auditor's report, for example by making a reference to the relevant law or regulation and describing how that information relates to the key audit matters;
- Where law or regulation prescribes the nature and extent of the description, supplementing the prescribed information to achieve an overall description of each key audit matter that is consistent with the requirement in paragraph 13 of ISA 701.

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<sup>37</sup> ISA (Ireland) 200 (Updated December 2018), paragraph A55.

A74. ISA 210 deals with circumstances where law or regulation of the relevant jurisdiction prescribes the layout or wording of the auditor's report in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of ISAs, which in particular includes the auditor's opinion. In these circumstances, ISA 210 requires the auditor to evaluate:

- (a) Whether users might misunderstand the assurance obtained from the audit of the financial statements and, if so,
- (b) Whether additional explanation in the auditor's report can mitigate possible misunderstanding.

If the auditor concludes that additional explanation in the auditor's report cannot mitigate possible misunderstanding, ISA 210 requires the auditor not to accept the audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so. In accordance with ISA 210, an audit conducted in accordance with such law or regulation does not comply with ISAs. Accordingly, the auditor does not include any reference in the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing.<sup>38</sup>

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A75. Auditors of public sector entities may also have the ability pursuant to law or regulation to report publicly on certain matters, either in the auditor's report or in a supplementary report, which may include information that is consistent with the objectives of ISA 701. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to tailor certain aspects of the communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report required by ISA 701 or include a reference in the auditor's report to a description of the matter in the supplementary report.

*Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Both Auditing Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and International Standards on Auditing* (Ref: Para. 51)

A76. The auditor may refer in the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with both International Standards on Auditing as well as the national auditing standards when, in addition to complying with the relevant national auditing standards, the auditor complies with each of the ISAs relevant to the audit.<sup>39</sup>

A77. A reference to both International Standards on Auditing and the national auditing standards is not appropriate if there is a conflict between the requirements in ISAs and those in the national auditing standards that would lead the auditor to form a different opinion or not to include an Emphasis of Matter or Other Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, is required by ISAs. In such a case, the auditor's report refers only to the auditing standards (either International Standards on Auditing or the national auditing standards) in accordance with which the auditor's report has been prepared.

A77-1. ISAs (Ireland) are consistent with International Standards on Auditing as issued by the IAASB and the requirements of ISAs (Ireland) do not conflict with the requirements in ISAs. An audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) does not therefore preclude the auditor from being able to assert compliance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the IAASB.

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<sup>38</sup> ISA 210, paragraph 21.

<sup>39</sup> ISA 200, paragraph A56.

## **Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 53–54)**

- A78. In some circumstances, the entity may be required by law, regulation or standards, or may voluntarily choose, to present together with the financial statements supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, supplementary information might be presented to enhance a user's understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework or to provide further explanation of specific financial statement items. Such information is normally presented in either supplementary schedules or as additional notes.
- A79. Paragraph 52 of this ISA (Ireland) explains that the auditor's opinion covers supplementary information that is an integral part of the financial statements because of its nature or how it is presented. This evaluation is a matter of professional judgment. To illustrate:
- When the notes to the financial statements include an explanation or the reconciliation of the extent to which the financial statements comply with another financial reporting framework, the auditor may consider this to be supplementary information that cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements. The auditor's opinion would also cover notes or supplementary schedules that are cross-referenced from the financial statements.
  - When an additional profit and loss account that discloses specific items of expenditure is disclosed as a separate schedule included as an Appendix to the financial statements, the auditor may consider this to be supplementary information that can be clearly differentiated from the financial statements.
- A80. Supplementary information that is covered by the auditor's opinion does not need to be specifically referred to in the auditor's report when the reference to the notes in the description of the statements that comprise the financial statements in the auditor's report is sufficient.
- A81. Law or regulation may not require that the supplementary information be audited, and management may decide to ask the auditor not to include the supplementary information within the scope of the audit of the financial statements.
- A82. The auditor's evaluation whether unaudited supplementary information is presented in a manner that could be construed as being covered by the auditor's opinion includes, for example, where that information is presented in relation to the financial statements and any audited supplementary information, and whether it is clearly labeled as "unaudited."
- A83. Management could change the presentation of unaudited supplementary information that could be construed as being covered by the auditor's opinion, for example, by:
- Removing any cross-references from the financial statements to unaudited supplementary schedules or unaudited notes so that the demarcation between the audited and unaudited information is sufficiently clear.
  - Placing the unaudited supplementary information outside of the financial statements or, if that is not possible in the circumstances, at a minimum placing the unaudited notes together at the end of the required notes to the financial statements and clearly labeling them as unaudited. Unaudited notes that are intermingled with the audited notes can be misinterpreted as being audited.

A84. The fact that supplementary information is unaudited does not relieve the auditor of the responsibilities described in ISA (Ireland) 720 (Revised November 2020).<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> ISA (Ireland) 720 (Revised November 2020), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*.

### **Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on Financial Statements**

The examples in the Appendix have not been tailored for Ireland.

- Illustration 1: An auditor's report on financial statements of a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework
- Illustration 2: An auditor's report on consolidated financial statements of a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report on financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework (where reference is made to material that is located on a website of an appropriate authority)
- Illustration 4: An auditor's report on financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a general purpose compliance framework

### **Illustration 1 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit comprise the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* together with the ethical requirements relating to the audit in the jurisdiction, and the auditor refers to both.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT**

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>41</sup>**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give*

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<sup>41</sup> The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

a true and fair view of) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code)* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]

### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>42</sup>**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,<sup>43</sup> and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

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<sup>42</sup> Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>43</sup> Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ..."

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Paragraph 41(b) of this ISA explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.<sup>44</sup>
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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<sup>44</sup> This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.



We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

## **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

*[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law, regulation, or national auditing standards. The matters addressed by other law, regulation or national auditing standards (referred to as "other reporting responsibilities") shall be addressed within this section unless the other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the ISAs as part of the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section. The reporting of other reporting responsibilities that address the same topics as those required by the ISAs may be combined (i.e., included in the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section under the appropriate subheadings) provided that the wording in the auditor's report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the ISAs where such a difference exists.]*

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

*[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]*

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

## **Illustration 2 – Auditor’s Report on Consolidated Financial Statements of a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., ISA 600 applies).
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* comprises all of the relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the consolidated financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT**

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

### **Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>45</sup>**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

<sup>45</sup> The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the consolidated financial position of the Group as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

*[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ISA 701.]*

### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]*

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>46</sup>**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,<sup>47</sup> and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group’s financial reporting process.

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<sup>46</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>47</sup> Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

Paragraph 41(b) of this ISA explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.<sup>48</sup>
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements

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<sup>48</sup> This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the consolidated financial statements.

represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

## **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

*[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law, regulation, or national auditing standards. The matters addressed by other law, regulation or national auditing standards (referred to as "other reporting responsibilities") shall be addressed within this section unless the other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the ISAs as part of the Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section. The reporting of other reporting responsibilities that address the same topics as those required by the ISAs may be combined (i.e., included in the Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section under the appropriate subheadings) provided that the wording in the auditor's report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the ISAs where such a difference exists.]*

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is *[name]*.

*[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]*

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

### **Illustration 3 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law.
- The auditor elects to refer to the description of the auditor’s responsibility included on a website of an appropriate authority.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT**

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

## **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]**

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]

## **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>49</sup>**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,<sup>50</sup> and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company’s financial reporting process.

## **Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial is located at [Organization’s] website at: [website link]. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

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<sup>49</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>50</sup> Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

[Auditor Address]

[Date]



**Illustration 4 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a General Purpose Compliance Framework**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity required by law or regulation. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., ISA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework (XYZ Law) of Jurisdiction X (that is, a financial reporting framework, encompassing law or regulation, designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users, but which is not a fair presentation framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the jurisdiction.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with ISA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT**

[Appropriate Addressee]

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Company are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the*

*Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in [jurisdiction], and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ISA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of ISA 720 (Revised).]*

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>51</sup>**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X,<sup>52</sup> and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company’s financial reporting process.

**Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Paragraph 41(b) of this ISA explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor’s report. Paragraph 41(c) explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor’s responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor’s report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor’s responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

<sup>51</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>52</sup> Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.<sup>53</sup>
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]*

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

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<sup>53</sup> This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.



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