






2026

Consultation paper

**Investigation and
Disciplinary
Guidelines for
Prescribed
Accountancy
Bodies**

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1. Introduction

IAASA is responsible for the supervision of prescribed accountancy bodies (PABs) in Ireland in respect of their regulatory functions under the Companies Act 2014. IAASA also oversees the Recognised Accountancy Bodies (RABs) in their regulation of statutory auditors and audit firms.

PABs play a key role in regulating and monitoring their members, including through investigation and disciplinary processes. These functions are essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring that professional standards are upheld.

The purpose of this consultation paper is to seek the views of stakeholders on proposed **Investigation and Disciplinary Guidelines**. These guidelines set out IAASA's expectations for how PABs should operate fair, effective, transparent, and proportionate investigation and disciplinary systems in the public interest.

2. Regulatory and Supervisory Context

IAASA's supervisory remit includes oversight of how PABs discharge their investigation and disciplinary responsibilities. This function is an essential component of the broader regulatory framework through which PABs monitor and regulate their members.

IAASA considers it necessary to issue these Investigation and Disciplinary Guidelines to:

- provide clearer expectations across this key area of regulatory activity
- ensure consistency across PABs
- support IAASA's oversight and assessment of PABs Investigation and Disciplinary function

These guidelines complement existing legislative requirements and the General Guidelines for Prescribed Accountancy Bodies, providing more detailed expectations in this area.

3. Proposed Investigation and Discipline Guidelines

3.1 Overview

IAASA proposes that the Investigation and Disciplinary Guidelines be structured around five core principles:

Core principles

1

A fair, objective and well governed process

2

Accessible and transparent engagement with complainants

3

Timely processes

4

Sanctions are fair, proportionate and dissuasive where appropriate

5

Transparency and accountability

These principles are designed to:

- promote public confidence in the accounting and auditing profession and its regulation
- protect clients, members of the public and other stakeholders
- uphold proper standards of conduct and competence
- deter repeat, or similar, poor behaviour

3.2 Scope and Application

The proposed guidelines apply to all Prescribed Accountancy Bodies within IAASA's supervisory remit.

Each PAB is expected to demonstrate compliance through effective investigation and disciplinary systems.

The application guidance outlines illustrative ways in which compliance may be demonstrated, but is not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive, recognising that PABs may adopt alternative approaches where these achieve the intended regulatory outcome, having regard to their size and complexity.

4. Matters on which IAASA is consulting

Set out below are matters on which IAASA is seeking stakeholders' views no later than 5pm, Friday 4 September 2026.

No.	Matter on which stakeholders' views are sought
1.	Do you support the creation of Investigation and Disciplinary Guidelines for PABs? If not, please explain why and suggest alternatives.
2.	Do the proposed guidelines appropriately support fair, effective and proportionate investigation and disciplinary systems?
3.	Are there any areas of the guidelines that should be expanded, clarified, or removed?
4.	Are the expectations clear, practical, and capable of consistent implementation across PABs?
5.	Are there operational challenges associated with implementation of these guidelines? How could these be addressed?

5. Making your submission

IAASA invites comments on the proposed guidelines, particularly in response to the consultation questions set out above.

Comments are most helpful if they:

- a) address the specific questions raised
- b) provide clear reasoning and supporting evidence
- c) suggest practical improvements or alternative approaches

Please send your responses to:

- **Deadline: 5pm on Friday 4 September 2026.**
- **Email: submissions@iaasa.ie**

IAASA will consider all responses from identifiable individuals and organisations that are received by this deadline.



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