

# AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

## Role of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is a committee of the board whose responsibilities include:

- Reviewing the half-yearly and full year accounts and results announcements of the company and any other formal announcements relating to the company's financial performance and recommending them to the board for approval.
- Reviewing the group's systems for internal financial control and risk management.
- Monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the company's internal audit function and considering regular reports from internal audit on internal financial controls and risk management.
- Considering the appointment of the external auditors, overseeing the process for their selection and making recommendations to the board in relation to their appointment to be put to shareholders for approval at a general meeting.
- Monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness and independence of the external auditors, agreeing the nature and scope of their audit, agreeing their remuneration, and considering their reports on the company's accounts, reports to shareholders and their evaluation of the systems of internal financial control and risk management.

The full terms of reference of the Audit Committee are provided on the company's website at [www.matthey.com](http://www.matthey.com).

## Composition of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises all the independent non-executive directors. Biographical details of the independent directors are set out on pages 38 and 39. Their remuneration is set out on page 51. The Chairman of the Audit Committee is Mr A M Thomson, who was formerly Finance Director of Smiths Group plc and is currently President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. The group Chairman, Chief Executive, Group Finance Director, Head of Internal Audit and external auditors (KPMG Audit Plc) attend Audit Committee meetings by invitation. The Committee also meets separately with the Head of Internal Audit and with the external auditors without management being present. The Company Secretary is secretary to the Audit Committee.

## Main Activities of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met four times during the financial year ended 31st March 2010. At its meeting on 29th May 2009 the Committee reviewed the company's preliminary announcement of its results for the financial year ended 31st March 2009, and the draft report and accounts for that year. The Committee received reports from the external auditors on the conduct of their audit, their review of the accounts, including accounting policies and areas of judgment, and their comments on risk management and control matters.

The Audit Committee met on 20th July 2009 to receive reports on internal controls from both the internal and external auditors and approve amendments to the Group Control Manual. The external auditors also presented their proposed fees and scope for the forthcoming year's audit. The Committee also assessed the performance of both the internal and external auditors. The review of the external auditors was used to confirm the appropriateness of their reappointment and included assessment of their independence, qualification, expertise and resources, and effectiveness of the audit process. The Committee recommended to the board the reappointment of KPMG Audit Plc as auditors. In addition, the Committee received a presentation on the group's taxation management processes and strategy from the group's Director of Tax. The group's Sustainability Report 2008/09 was also reviewed, which is available on the company's website at [www.matthey.com](http://www.matthey.com).

At its meeting on 23rd November 2009 the Audit Committee reviewed the company's half-yearly results, the half-yearly report and the external auditors' review and also papers on credit control and credit risk and on litigation affecting the group. The Committee received a presentation on the risks facing the Emission Control Technologies business from the Environmental Technologies Division Finance Director.

At its meeting on 2nd February 2010 the Audit Committee reviewed management's and internal audit's reports on the effectiveness of the company's systems for internal financial control and risk management. The Committee reviewed the group's credit control procedures and risks, controls over precious metals and IT controls. The group's corporate social responsibility reporting arrangements and whistleblowing procedures were also reviewed. Changes to the Group Control Manual were ratified. The Committee also received a presentation on the risks facing the Precious Metal Products Division from the Division Finance Director.

Since the year end the Committee has met to review the company's preliminary announcement of its results and draft report and accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2010, and also the company's assessment of going concern.

## Independence of External Auditors

Both the board and the external auditors have for many years had safeguards in place to avoid the possibility that the auditors' objectivity and independence could be compromised. Our policy in respect of services provided by the external auditors is as follows:

- Audit related services – the external auditors are invited to provide services which, in their position as auditors, they must or are best placed to undertake. This includes formalities relating to borrowings, shareholders' and other circulars, various other regulatory reports and work in respect of acquisitions and disposals.
- Tax consulting – in cases where they are best suited, we use the external auditors. All other significant tax consulting work is put out to tender.
- General consulting – in recognition of public concern over the effect of consulting services on auditors' independence, our policy is that the external auditors are not invited to tender for general consulting work where we believe it would compromise their audit independence and objectivity.

The split between audit and non-audit fees for the year ended 31st March 2010 and information on the nature of non-audit fees appear in note 5 on the accounts.

## Internal Audit

During the year the Audit Committee reviewed the performance of the internal audit function, the findings of the audits completed during the year and the department's resource requirements and also approved the internal audit plan for the year ending 31st March 2011.

Internal audit independently reviews the risks and control processes operated by management. It carries out independent audits in accordance with an internal audit plan which is agreed with the Audit Committee before the start of the financial year.

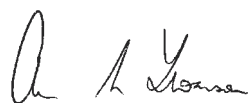
The plan provides a high degree of financial and geographical coverage and devotes significant effort to the review of the risk management framework surrounding the major business risks.

Internal audit reports include recommendations to improve internal controls together with agreed management action plans to resolve the issues raised. Internal audit follows up the implementation of recommendations and reports progress to senior management and the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee receives reports from the Head of Internal Audit on the department's work and findings.

The effectiveness of the internal audit function is reviewed and discussed on an annual basis with the Head of Internal Audit.

On behalf of the Committee:



**Alan Thomson**  
Chairman of the Audit Committee