

Bitesize Briefing FINANCIAL REPORTING FACULTY

What makes up an annual report?

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Introduction

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- Not just the financial statements!
- Per the FRC's Glossary of Terms Ethics and Auditing:
 - "An annual report contains or accompanies the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon and usually includes information about the entity's developments, its future outlook and risks and uncertainties, a statement by the entity's governing body, and reports covering governance matters".
- The annual report is a combination of forward looking statements and historic financial information

- This ultimately depends on the size of the entity, but typically comprises of a combination of the following:
 - Strategic Report (Medium-sized and upwards)
 - Directors' Report (All entities except micros)
 - Statement of Directors' Responsibilities (All audited entities except micros)
 - Corporate Governance Statement (Very large/ PIEs)
 - Directors' Remuneration Report (PIEs)
 - Audit Report
 - Financial Statements

Other Information (the 'front end')

Company size: a reminder

(2 out of 3 criteria to be met for 2 years running)

Micro

Turnover ≤ £632k

Gross Assets ≤£316k

Employees

Small

Turnover ≤ £10.2m

Gross Assets ≤ £5.1m

Employees ≤ 50

Medium

Turnover ≤ £36m

Gross Assets ≤ £18m

Employees ≤ 250

Large

Turnover > £36m

Gross Assets

Employees > 250

Public Interest Entity (PIE)

Traded,
Banking or
Insurance
company
with > 500
employees

- The 'other information' assists users in making investment decisions
- The purpose of the Annual Report is "to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on the entity's operations and the entity's financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements." (FRC's Glossary of Terms Ethics and Auditing)
- The 'front end' reporting is getting more attention due to high profile corporate failures/ scandals
- There is also an expectation gap in terms of what elements of the Annual Report are subject to audit



The 'Front end'

Components of the 'Front end'

Medium	Large	PIE
 Strategic Report Directors' Report 	 Strategic Report includes Section 172 statement Directors' Report includes carbon and energy reporting Corporate governance statement (in limited circumstances) 	 Strategic Report includes s172 statement and non-financial reporting Directors' Report includes carbon and energy reporting Corporate governance statement Directors' remuneration report

Strategic Report

- All companies (other than small) are required to produce a Strategic Report
- This should tell the story of the entity and cover the following:
 - Fair review of the business
 - Principal risks and uncertainties
 - Statement of how the directors have complied with their statutory duties under section 172 of CA 2006
 - Key performance indicators (financial and non-financial)
 - If the entity is a PIE: a separate non-financial reporting statement about environmental matters, employees, social matters, respect for human rights, and anti-corruption and anti-bribery (see ICAEW's *Narrative Reporting* webinar for more detail)

Directors' Report

- All companies (except micros) must produce a Directors' Report
- Specific disclosure requirements include:
 - Proposed dividends (not required if small)
 - Post balance sheet events and future developments (not required if small)
 - Financial risk management policies (not required if small)
 - Policies regarding employment, training, career development and promotion of disabled people, as well as how the directors have engaged with employees (if over 250 employees)
 - How the directors have had regard to the need to foster relationships with key customers and suppliers (large entities only)
 - Energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (large entities only)

Corporate Governance

- Very large/ PIEs only
- Fair, balanced and understandable statement
 - should provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the company's position and performance, business model and strategy
- Principal risks
 - there should be a description of the principal risks as well as an explanation of how these are managed/ mitigated
- Viability assessment
 - this is an assessment of the company's prospects over a specified period, which needs to be justified
 - there also needs to be a statement of going concern relating to that same period

Directors' Remuneration Report

- Disclosure for quoted entities only
- Requirements set out in Schedule 8 of SI 2008/410 as amended
- Statement of company policy on directors' remuneration
- Performance chart showing shareholder return
- Directors' remuneration
 - Emoluments (salary, bonus etc)
 - Share options and long term incentive schemes
 - Pensions
 - Excess retirement benefits
 - Compensation for past directors
 - Sums paid to third parties

...And the rest of the annual report?

- Financial statements
 - Statement of Profit or Loss
 - Statement of Comprehensive Income
 - Statement of Financial Position
 - Statement of Changes in Equity
 - Statement of Cash Flows
 - Accounting policies
 - Notes to the financial statements
- Historic, based on a fixed point in time
- Must adhere to a number of fundamental principles, such as:
 - Understandability
 - Prudence
 - Comparability

Financial Statements – Performance Statements

Profit or loss

Gains and losses that management are responsible for

For example:

- normal trading activity
- fair value movement on investment property

Other Comprehensive Income

Other gains and losses that management can't control

For example:

- revaluation of PPE
- actuarial gains/losses on defined benefit pensions

Statement of Changes in Equity

Transactions with members

For example:

- share issues
- dividends



Responsibilities

Responsibilities

- The preparation of the annual report (both the other information and the financial statements) is the responsibility of the directors
- Audit committees also have a role to play here
- The auditors have limited responsibilities in relation to the other information
- (NB: a discussion about the auditors responsibilities regarding the financial statements is outside the scope of this briefing)

What about audit?

- There is a expectation gap here not all aspects of an annual report are subject to audit
- Scope of audit: to obtain <u>reasonable</u> assurance that the <u>financial</u>
 statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or
 error
 - this focusses solely on the financial statements, not the 'front end' reporting
 - the auditor is required to review any other information presented with the financial statements to identify material misstatements or inconsistencies with the audited financial statements or based on their understanding of the company
 - specific auditing standard sets out the auditors' responsibilities
- However, this is not giving an opinion that the entirety of the 'other information' is correct



Summary/key messages

Summary / key messages

- Complexity varies significantly dependent on the size of the entity
- The 'front end' tends to be forward-looking, hence it is important for investor decision making
- The financial statements are backward-looking, representing a fixed point in time
- Remember it is the directors' responsibility to prepare the annual report
- The auditors are not required to audit all of it

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