

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS ('RICS')

**INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW IN RESPECT OF THE ISSUES RAISED AT
RICS**

**IN 2018 AND 2019 FOLLOWING THE COMMISSIONING BY
THE RICS AUDIT COMMITTEE OF A TREASURY MANAGEMENT AUDIT**

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

APRIL 2021

1. Articles have appeared in the Press suggesting that the RICS tried to suppress a critical internal report into its finances and then wrongly censured those who sought to explore the issue.
2. The purpose of this Independent Review, conducted by Alison Levitt QC, is to consider the governance, obligations and duties of the RICS in relation to these issues.
3. There are three core objectives for the Independent Review:
 - (i) To consider the way in which the internal report was commissioned and dealt with and to determine whether there were any shortcomings in this respect;
 - (ii) If there were, to consider the extent to which this represents a failure of governance;
 - (iii) To make recommendations for the future.
4. In the course of the Review, regard will be had to the specific questions which appear at Appendix A to this document.
5. Alison Levitt QC should provide a report which addresses the three core objectives. Any findings and recommendations should be evidence-based and proportionate. She will endeavour to produce her report by mid-June 2021.
6. This Independent Review was commissioned by the Governing Council of the RICS. However, the Review and Alison Levitt QC are independent of the RICS. Ms Levitt

QC was appointed by the Steering Committee of the RICS and is instructed by Sophie Kemp of Kingsley Napley LLP. Ms Levitt QC will be supported by barrister Christopher Foulkes, also of 2 Hare Court Chambers, and a team of solicitors from Kingsley Napley LLP.

7. Details of the governance of, and the methodology for the Independent Review will be agreed between Alison Levitt QC and Kingsley Napley LLP. It will include the issuing of a call for evidence.

APPENDIX A

Questions to be considered by the Independent Review

1. The background to, and the circumstances of the commissioning of a Treasury Management Audit in 2018;
2. When, how and on what basis the Audit was undertaken and completed;
3. The internal reporting and progress of the outcome of the Audit to the RICS Management Board and Governing Council (including the adequacy of corporate governance and oversight arrangements);
4. Whether reporting and escalation procedures were sufficiently clear and if so, whether they were acted upon properly or at all;
5. The nature of concerns raised within RICS about the Audit;
6. The steps taken in response to concerns about the Audit (in particular the Internal Governance Review of 20th September 2019);
7. The background to and circumstances surrounding the Management Board meeting of 25th September 2019;
8. The concerns raised by four non-executive directors (Amarjit Atkar, Simon Hardwick, Bruce McAra, Steve Williams) and others in relation to this Board meeting;
9. The response to those concerns;

10. The timing and the circumstances in which Messrs. Atkar, Hardwick, McAra and Williams were exited as non-executive directors of the Management Board;
11. The governance and oversight arrangements in place at RICS in relation to removal of non-executive directors and whether these were adhered to;
12. The nature and accuracy of subsequent briefing internally and externally on the departure of the non-executive directors.