

## Section A: Respondent Classification

1. In which country or jurisdiction do you work or serve? (If international, please indicate so; if a region of the world, please indicate which region.)

UK

2. Please indicate which of the following best describes your role:

Role <i>(Please select the most appropriate category)</i>	Relevant Survey Questions
<input type="checkbox"/> Investors and investor representatives	<a href="#">B.1</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other users of financial statements (e.g., Analyst, Customer, Creditor/Supplier, Lender), please specify: _____	<a href="#">B.1</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Those charged with governance (TCWG), including Audit Committees and Board of Directors	<a href="#">B.3</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Regulators and audit oversight authorities	<a href="#">B.4</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> National standard setters	<a href="#">B.5</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Internal auditors	<a href="#">B.6</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accounting firms and individual professional accountants in public practice (PAPPs)	<a href="#">B.2</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Preparers and other professional accountants in business (PAIBs)	<a href="#">B.6</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Public sector organizations	<a href="#">B.6</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> IFAC member bodies	<a href="#">B.5</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Academics	<a href="#">B.6</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____	<a href="#">B.6</a>

3. Would you be willing to be contacted for an interview on the topic of fees?

Yes

No

4. Please provide the following contact information (optional):

Your name and job title/role: ALEX PEAL PARTNER

Your email address: apeal@jamescouper.co.uk

Your organization's name: JAMES COUPER KRESTON /SMP

3. What do you believe should be done to respond appropriately to concerns about the level of fees charged by audit firms? What should be IESBA's role? Who else should play a role and what should that role be?

*Non-Audit Services*

4. In your opinion, would a high ratio of non-audit fees to audit fees charged to an audit or assurance client create threats to an auditor's compliance with (Please select one or more answers):
- Professional competence and due care as defined by the IESBA Code?
  - The other fundamental principles that are included in the IESBA Code – integrity, objectivity, professional behavior and confidentiality?
  - Independence as defined by the IESBA Code?
  - None of the above.
5. In your opinion, would a professional accountant's or the firm's compliance with one of the following be impacted if a high percentage of that firm's revenue is generated from providing non-audit services to the firm's clients (Please select one or more answers):
- Professional competence and due care as defined by the IESBA Code?
  - The other fundamental principles that are included in the IESBA Code – integrity, objectivity, professional behavior and confidentiality?
  - None of the above.

**B.2. Accounting Firms and Other PAPPs**

*General*

1. Do you believe that the level of fees charged by an audit firm gives rise to ethics and/or independence issues? Please explain your response.

Yes - a high audit fee may lead to the partner being less not to upset the client due to their importance to the partner/the firm. In some countries there is significant pressure to push down fees (including under cutting by large firms) and this makes it difficult to do a good job.

2. What policies and procedures does your firm have in place to deal with threats that might be created by the level of fees charged? For example, does your firm monitor client revenues to identify possible fee-related ethical issues such as a self-interest threat created by over-reliance on fees (e.g., by office, individual engagement partners or other method)? If so, please explain.

We monitor fee levels by engagement partner and consider whether this might be an issue. We follow the requirements of the ethics code.

3. Do you believe that the IESBA Code establishes sufficient and appropriate provisions to help professional accountants and firms deal with threats to compliance with the fundamental principles and independence that might be created by the level of fees charged? Do you believe that the IESBA Code appropriately deals with the issues you identified in Q1?

No - in respect of high fees for non public interest clients the code does not provide sufficient guidance as to what might be acceptable for the individual or the firm. For low fees and cases of "low balling" there is no ~~real~~ real guidance.

4. Do you believe that there are aspects of your firm's policies and procedures described in Q2 above that are more stringent than the provisions in the IESBA Code? If so, please explain why.

No

5. What do you believe should be done to respond appropriately to concerns about the level of fees charged by audit firms? What should be IESBA's role? Who else should play a role and what should that role be?

There should be more guidance on the acceptable level of a fee to an individual and a firm for non ~~the~~ public interest client. More needs to be done to prevent a race to the bottom in respect of low fees and "low balling".

*Non-Audit Services*

6. As a matter of policy, does your firm provide non-audit services to audit and assurance clients?
- If yes, are there certain types of services beyond those prohibited by the IESBA Code that your firm does not provide? Please provide some examples.
  - If no, why?

Yes - accounting and tax services as well as general business advice.  
we don't go beyond the Code requirements.

7. In your opinion, would a high ratio of non-audit fees to audit fees charged to an audit or assurance client create threats to an auditor's compliance with (Please select one or more answers):

- Professional competence and due care as defined by the IESBA Code?
- The other fundamental principles that are included in the IESBA Code – integrity, objectivity, professional behavior and confidentiality?
- Independence as defined by the IESBA Code?
- None of the above.

8. In your opinion, would a professional accountant's or the firm's compliance with one of the following be impacted if a high percentage of that firm's revenue is generated from providing non-audit services to the firm's clients (Please select one or more answers):

- Professional competence and due care as defined by the IESBA Code?
- The other fundamental principles that are included in the IESBA Code – integrity, objectivity, professional behavior and confidentiality?
- None of the above.

**B.3. TCWG, Including Audit Committees and Board of Directors**

*General*

1. What role does the level of fees play in your consideration of the appointment of your organization's independent auditor?