

Southampton Solent University

Audit Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23 June 2025 at 17:00hrs
at Southampton Solent University, East Park Terrace, Southampton

Present

Philip de Klerk, Independent Governor & Committee Chair
Mike Gaston, Co-opted FE Governor (Up to 25/16)
Philip Ouma, External Committee Member
Dr Alan Whitehead CBE, Independent Governor

In attendance

Kerrie Clark, Director of Finance
Jim Irving, Pro Vice-Chancellor Students and Governance
Professor James Knowles, Vice-Chancellor
Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial and Operating Officer
Kirsten Barnes, Executive and Insurance Officer (standing in for Clerk to the Governors)
Reena Bajaj, PwC, internal audit
Ben Connor, PwC, internal audit
David l'Anson, BDO, external audit

25/20 Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies:
Fay Quayle – Independent Governor
Don Iro – Independent Governor
3. The meeting was quorate.

25/21 Conflicts of Interest

1. No conflicts of interest in items relating to this meeting were declared.

25/22 Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting on 24 March 2025

Decision

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 25 were approved as an accurate record.

25/23 Matters Arising

**Paper 25/AC/12
Confidential Unreserved**

25/24 Internal Audit

**Paper 25/AC/13
Confidential Unreserved**

25/25 Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26

**Paper 25/AC/14
Confidential Unreserved**

25/26 External Audit Planning Report

**Paper 25/AC/15
Confidential Unreserved**

25/27 Risk Management Group report & risk register	Paper 25/AC/16 Confidential Unreserved
25/28 Cyber Security report	Paper 25/AC/17 Confidential Unreserved
25/29 Compliance with E6 condition (harassment & sexual misconduct)	Paper 25/AC/18 Confidential Unreserved
25/30 Annual Review of: a) Whistleblowing Policy b) Counter fraud/anti bribery policy c) Financial regulations d) OfS guidance on reportable events	Paper 25/AC/19 Confidential Unreserved
25/31 Review of Audit Committee's terms of reference	Paper 25/AC/20 Confidential Unreserved
25/32 Self-evaluation of Committee	Paper 25/AC/21 Confidential Unreserved
End of Part 1	
Part 2: for noting or taken as approved	
25/33 Annual report on GDPR & FOI requests	Paper 25/AC/22 Confidential Unreserved
25/34 Order of business 25/26	Paper 25/AC/23 Open
1. Noted.	
25/34 Complaints received under the Public Information Disclosure Act and the University's Fraud policy	Confidential
25/35 Reports from the National Audit Office (NAO and Office for Student (OfS)	Open
1. Links to these had been provided to members. 2. Report vi. – T levels launched by DfE outlining need for new technical education routes. The challenge was that demand was low and there was no significant market.	
25/36 Serious & Reportable Incidents	Confidential Unreserved
25/37 Whistleblowing	Confidential Unreserved
25/38 Next meeting in 2025/26	

Monday 1 December 2025 17:00hrs – On Teams

The meeting closed at 18:21 hrs.