

**Global Transparency Report 2023** 

# Reporting on our impact







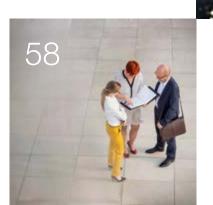


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# Welcome

# Welcome to our 2023 Global Transparency Report.

At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We're a network of firms in 151 countries, with more than 364,000 people who strive to deliver high impact work in assurance, advisory and tax and legal services.

We are committed to fostering a strong culture of quality and integrity that is core to our purpose.

Two years ago, we unveiled our landmark network strategy, The New Equation, which responds to fundamental changes in the world, including technological disruption, climate change and fractured politics.

The New Equation focuses on two interconnected needs that our clients face today and will continue to face in the future. The first is to build trust, which has never been more important, nor more difficult. The second is to deliver sustained outcomes in an environment where competition, the risk of disruption and societal expectations are greater than ever.

Our ability to help our clients build trust and deliver sustained outcomes is grounded in our efforts to continually strive to improve the quality of our work, the standards that we apply across our network, and the values, ethics and codes of conduct that guide our behaviour.



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In this Transparency Report you will find details of:

- Our financial performance the revenues we have earned over the last 12 months, the investments that we continue to make in building the PwC of tomorrow and some of the taxes that we pay
- Our commitment to quality including the results of our internal, audit quality inspections
- How we identify and manage the risks that we face across the world
- Our approach to governance and details of the standards that we expect all of our member firms to follow and rigorously apply

In addition, we continue to report on our progress against the 55 World Economic Forum (WEF) Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics. PwC worked with the WEF on the Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics and we believe that reporting against as many of these metrics as possible is a key element of our commitment to transparency. These metrics give our stakeholders a detailed understanding of PwC's impact on the planet, our people, the economy and society.

As a network, we strive to deliver work of the highest quality and to live and act in accordance with the standards we set ourselves and the values that are at the heart of PwC. However, we don't always succeed.

This year, it became apparent that significant breaches of confidentiality had occurred in PwC Australia. While these breaches occurred a number of years ago, the former leadership of PwC Australia had not taken appropriate responsibility for or action to investigate or remediate them since that time. These behaviours violated our standards and codes of conduct and are completely unacceptable. Under new leadership, PwC Australia has taken a number of <a href="steps">steps</a> to address its governance, culture and accountability in response to these issues.

I encourage you to read this Transparency Report and come back to us with your <u>comments</u>. While this is no time for complacency, we are proud of the progress we have made in being more open and transparent about our work, our achievements and the things we need to do better.

## **Bob Moritz**

Global Chair of PwC





# Our performance

## Revenue

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2023, PwC firms around the world recorded gross revenues of US\$53.1 billion, increasing by 9.9% in local currency and 5.6% in US dollars over the FY22 gross revenues of US\$50.3 billion.

References to growth rates in the following text refer to growth in local currency terms unless otherwise stated.

Growth from continuing operations, excluding Russia which left the PwC network on 4 July 2022, and our global mobility and immigration business which was sold on 29 April 2022, increased by 11.8%, reflecting the quality of the work delivered by our 364,232 professionals around the world and the power of the PwC brand.

While some countries continue to battle high inflation and economic growth remains sluggish in a number of key economies, revenue growth was steady throughout the year across the PwC network.

- Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) revenues were up by 10.2%. Consolidated revenues from the UK and Middle East rose by 16% (18% for continuing operations), while in Germany they increased by 13.1%. Across Africa, revenues grew more slowly, up 4.1%, with a strong performance from South Africa, coupled with more challenging market conditions elsewhere across the continent
- Excluding revenues from Russia from the prior year, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) saw growth of 15.2% as the economic impact of the war in Ukraine lessened across most of the region
- Asia Pacific revenues were up 7.2%, with a very strong performance from India which was the fastest growing large firm in the PwC network with a revenue increase of 24%. Australia grew by 10.7%
- Across the Americas revenues were up by 10.7%, with the US growing by 11.2%, Canada by 4.5% (10.9% for Continuing Operations). In Brazil, which for the second year posted the strongest revenue growth across South and Central America, revenues were up by 14.3%

"FY23 was another year of strong growth with revenues across the world growing by 9.9%, driven by our continued focus on delivering the services our clients need today and to secure the future of their businesses tomorrow."



**Dana McIlwain**Chief Administrative Officer and Global Operations Leader, PwC US



Audit remains the cornerstone of our brand and a key driver for growth

## Aggregated revenues of PwC firms by geographic region (US\$ millions)

	FY23 at FY23 exchange rates	FY22 at FY22 exchange rates	% change	% change at constant exchange rates
Americas	23,535	21,336	10.3	10.7
Asia Pacific	10,011	9,862	1.5	7.2
EMEA	19,548	19,096	2.4	10.2
Gross revenues	53,094	50,294	5.6	9.9

The percentage changes at constant exchange rates reflect local currency growth without the impact of US dollar exchange rates.

Each of our lines of business - Assurance, Advisory, and Tax and Legal Services - saw revenues grow in FY23.

## **Assurance**

Revenues from our assurance operations grew by 8.9% to US\$18.7 billion (FY22: US\$18.0 billion). Audit remains the cornerstone of our brand and the key driver for growth in our Assurance business. In an increasingly volatile world, the market continues to value an independent, objective view over reported financial information and the trust it builds in the capital markets. Our audit business has continued to grow over the last year as we manage complex market dynamics, such as auditor rotation, regulation and increasing competition. We also see increasing demand for assurance over a range of nonfinancial information, such as cyber and ESG disclosure, as companies seek to build trust with their stakeholders in new areas and expect to see this trend continue in future years.

Over the past year, we also saw substantial growth in our risk services. Geopolitical conflict and an inflationary environment have caused significant uncertainty. We have guided organisations to navigate this uncertainty, helping them bring confidence and delivering better business outcomes in areas such as regulatory response and remediation.

We also saw strong demand for our risk modelling and actuarial offerings as organisations increasingly seek assurance in broader areas.

## **Advisory**

Revenues from our advisory operations grew by 13% to US\$22.6 billion (FY22: US\$20.7 billion).

Much of the growth in our Advisory business has been driven by our clients' focus on the need to digitally transform their business models. We've strengthened our relationships with our key technology Alliance partners to go to market and deliver sustained outcomes, which has driven a 40% increase in revenues from alliances. We've also met the demand of our clients to deliver across the entire value chain - from strategy and implementation to run and operate - driving significant growth in our Managed Services business.

While challenging economic conditions continued to result in generally slow deal activity in a number of key markets around the world, our work to advise on and support our clients' mergers, acquisitions and disposals remained relatively strong throughout the year. In addition, our work to support corporate reorganisations or distressed enterprises also expanded.

# **Tax and Legal Services**

Revenues from our Tax, Legal and Workforce businesses grew strongly in FY23, up by 12.5% to US\$11.8 billion, compared with growth of 8.7% in the previous year. These growth numbers exclude revenues from our global mobility and immigration business which was sold on 29 April 2022. The sale of this business has allowed us to increase investment in both our core Tax, Legal and Workforce operations and in new business areas and capabilities (such as alliances and Al) which has helped drive our strongest growth for ten years.

Businesses are undergoing significant transformative changes, leading to a strong demand for Workforce services as clients seek support boosting workforce productivity and employee experiences in the face of new technology and disruption. Also driven by transformation has been the growth in our Legal Business Solutions operations in response to increasing demand for Managed Legal Services and Legal Tech Advisory & Implementation.

Demand for Connected Tax Compliance services continued to grow strongly as clients across the world grappled with added regulatory complexity and increasing compliance responsibilities. In addition, we are helping clients deal with increased tax and legal sustainability requirements, including the payment of so-called "green" taxes and compliance with environmental regulation.





US\$3.7br
was invested across the
PwC network in FY23

## Aggregated revenues of PwC firms by line of service (US\$ millions)

	FY23 at FY23 exchange rates	FY22 at FY22 exchange rates	% change	% change at constant exchange rates
Assurance	18,728	18,009	4.0	8.9
Advisory	22,599	20,708	9.1	13.0
Tax and Legal Services	11,767	11,577	1.6 (7.8*)	5.8 (12.5*)
Gross revenues	53,094	50,294	5.6	9.9
Expenses and disbursements on client assignments	(2,395)	(1,980)	21.0	26.6
Net revenues	50,699	48,314	4.9	9.2

The percentage changes at constant exchange rates reflect local currency growth without the impact of US dollar exchange rates.

FY23 revenues are the aggregated revenues of all PwC firms. They are expressed in US dollars at average FY23 exchange rates. FY22 aggregated revenues are shown at average FY22 exchange rates. Gross revenues are inclusive of expenses billed to clients. FY22 figures have been restated to reflect current business structures in operation in FY23. Interterritory revenues are not included in the aggregated figures.

\*The growth rates for Tax and Legal services includes revenues from our Global Mobility and Immigration business, which was sold on 29th April 2022 in the prior year comparison. Excluding revenues from the sold business, revenues at constant exchange rates grew by 12.5% instead of 5.8% and at variable exchange rates by 7.8% instead of 1.6%.

## **Investments**

Across the PwC network, we invested US\$3.7 billion during FY23, following investments of more than US\$3.1 billion in FY22.

In addition to investments in attracting experienced teams and people to PwC firms around the world, PwC firms completed 17 acquisitions (FY22: 17) and five strategic investments (FY22: 7) around the world in FY23, expanding our professional capabilities in a number of key areas particularly in the areas of technology consulting and cloud.

Investments are made by individual partnerships, or groups of partnerships collaborating together. These investments cover technology development, hiring of new partners and staff, the training of employees and acquisitions.

Unlike companies, partnerships can generally only make investments from their current year's income or from bank borrowings secured against future income. This means, most investments are charged to the income statement in the period in which they occurred as an expense. The treatment of acquisitions is dependent upon the individual partnership and acquisition. It varies from holding the asset in the balance sheet to charging the costs of the acquisition to the income statement over a period ranging from one to ten years.

## **Net income**

With economic growth remaining challenging in a number of markets, and inflation continuing to be high with consequent pressure on salaries and recruitment, overall costs across the network increased. So despite a very healthy increase in revenues, net income growth rose by only 3.1% in FY23 compared with 8.8% in FY22.

## Percentage change in net income

	FY23	FY22
Americas	2.7%	9.1%
Asia Pacific	2.0%	7.2%
EMEA	4.4%	9.2%
TOTAL	3.1%	8.8%







# **Taxation**

## Income taxes

In partnerships, individual equity partners are obliged to pay taxes on the income produced in the partnership at the marginal rates relevant to their total incomes. Total incomes consist of their PwC distributions plus any other sources of income, such as investments. In most cases, the partnership doesn't collect this information and it's therefore not possible to accurately estimate taxes paid on the earnings of each partnership. However, each member firm has strict requirements prohibiting its partners from entering into aggressive tax planning. As a result of this specific characteristic of partnerships, whereby individual equity partners are responsible for tax payments, partnerships in many jurisdictions are not obliged to pay corporate taxes.

Some of our partnerships have attempted to calculate the effective rate of tax that their partners are paying on the income they earn and have disclosed this information in their own markets.

## Other taxes

Not all of this information is gathered from member firms in the course of regular reporting. Further work during FY23 has identified improvements and a better approach to gathering this information and we expect this to improve in future years. This means some of the numbers are not strictly comparable year-over-year.

Each partnership pays a range of taxes, including employment taxes. We estimate that the total employment taxes, including social security contributions, paid by our largest 21 firms across the network in FY23 is US\$2.2 billion (FY22: US\$1.7 billion).

In the normal course of business, our firms also collect various taxes on behalf of local authorities. For our largest territories, in FY23, these included US\$3.5 billion (FY22 US\$3.0 billion) of sales tax and US\$5.0 billion (FY22 US\$4.3 billion) of employment taxes, including social security contributions, deducted from salaries. Sales tax collected is the gross amount collected on the sales of services and is not the same as the net sales tax paid over to authorities.

Our member firms pay a range of other taxes, such as property taxes US\$49.1 million (FY22 US\$48.8 million) and various other taxes, including unrecoverable sales taxes, totalling US\$253.5 million (FY22 US\$282.6 million).

## **Payments from governments**

Our 21 largest firms generate approximately 90% of our revenues. With the exception of reliefs that are enacted with general applicability, none of these firms received any significant or material support payments from governments in FY23.

# **Balance sheet**

Each partnership has its own assets and liabilities on the balance sheet. These balance sheets are supported by capital contributed by individual partners. Equity partners may be required to contribute extra capital if their responsibilities change or if a partnership requires additional capital to support anticipated organic and inorganic growth in the future.

Assets are predominantly related to working capital (debtors and cash), technology and the fixed assets associated with our offices.

Adequate banking facilities are maintained by each partnership, both to manage working capital and to provide protection against eventualities that may be reasonably expected to occur.

# **Outlook**

Our economists predict that global economic growth will slow for the remainder of 2023 and into 2024 as monetary policy tightening continues to weigh on economic growth. We project that global real GDP will increase by around 2.6% for the full year 2023 and remain at around the same growth level throughout 2024. So while growth will be slow for the foreseeable future, fears of a recession have for now receded.

While economic growth remains challenging in some markets, our focus on helping our stakeholders plan for the future is as relevant as ever and PwC's performance in the first three months of FY24 is still buoyant.



# **Data methodology**

As detailed in the Governance section of this Transparency Report, each member firm of the PwC network is owned and controlled by its own local partners, and is separate from other firms in the PwC network. We therefore cannot present consolidated financial information as envisaged by Generally Accepted Accounting Standards (GAAS). Accordingly, the information that is presented in this chapter is aggregated from each member firm.

The gross revenue figures show the recorded revenues earned on client projects. This involves a degree of estimation, considering for instance that individual projects are at varying stages of completion. Gross revenues also include disbursements incurred exclusively on behalf of clients.

Expenses are recognised as incurred, with accruals made for unpaid amounts at the end of the year. These expenses include, for example, property, administrative and employment expenses. Expenses do not include any payments to partners.

Revenue less expenses is a measure not included in Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). We call it 'net income'. This isn't the same as 'net profit before tax', which corporations sometimes report, because in some situations partnership agreements specify that certain expenses should be paid by the individual partners and not the member firm. An example is unfunded payments to retired partners. Such amounts are not included in expenses and are therefore excluded from net income. However, we believe this non-GAAP measure is useful in assessing the performance of the network consistently over time.



# Putting quality at the heart of everything we do

"Delivering high-quality work is at the heart of what we do at PwC and it is rightly what our stakeholders expect of us. It is the quality of our work that instils loyalty in our clients and pride in our employees.

At PwC, quality is about much more than complying with standards, policies and regulations. It's about being recognised by stakeholders for delivering sustained outcomes and long term value.

Maintaining high quality requires the right culture, which requires the right leadership that sets the tone from the top, and a comprehensive and proactive system of quality management. It also means that when we don't meet our quality standards, we need to learn from the experience, hold ourselves accountable, and work to get better."



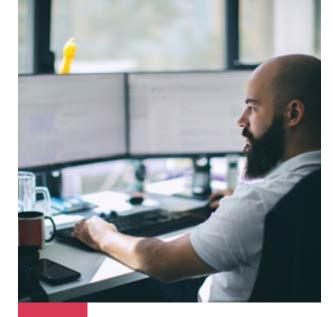
**Dana McIlwain**Chief Administrative Officer and Global Operations Leader, PwC US

# Quality is the foundation of our success

A quality outcome is what we strive for in every assignment we undertake, wherever we are in the world. Delivering high quality outcomes requires that we have the right:



The quality of our work across the full range of our services has remained a core focus for us, both in terms of how best to monitor and deliver quality. We expect local leadership to endorse our focus on quality through setting the right tone from the top, proactively monitoring quality, learning from any mistakes, communicating expectations to our people and holding themselves and our people accountable where necessary.







Carol Stubbings
Global Markets and Global Tax and
Legal Services Leader, PwC UK

# Tax and legal services

# We deliver high quality advice that is consistent with our purpose and professional standards

PwC's community of solvers in Tax and Legal Services provides a holistic view for clients by addressing complex issues, using our people's deep technical expertise. Our tax and legal professionals provide quality services while being empowered to think differently, reimagine solutions, and bring different capabilities together to deliver sustained outcomes to our clients.

We continue to invest for the future of our clients, our people and our network, including focused investments in the following areas:

- Global Connected Tax Compliance services using data, insights and technology to help our clients optimise their tax function resources, processes and outcomes
- Generative AI with game changing partnerships such as Harvey AI in our Legal Business Solutions practice, which is also being expanded to Tax, Workforce and beyond
- New alliances to enable us to offer broader solutions to our clients, including our global strategic collaboration with Microsoft and Icertis
- Technology platforms and tools that are adaptable to meet our clients' needs, such as our worldwide tax platform, Sightline, that meets needs locally and globally, whether our clients need reporting across multiple engagements and geographies or need to focus on a specific issue

High quality is paramount to what we do as a business and every plan, action and service we deliver needs to be held to this standard. This is a non-negotiable on how we do business and conduct ourselves as tax and legal advisors. To be true to our promise to deliver high quality outcomes, we link quality to each of our Global Tax and Legal Services strategic priorities and core areas so that it provides a foundation for all our strategic efforts. We enforce a culture of accountability where everyone is expected to behave ethically and professionally by putting quality first.

Our approach to quality is grounded in <u>our purpose and values</u>, as well as the application of our recently updated <u>Global Tax Code of Conduct</u>, which requires that:

- Tax advice is given based on an assessment of the client's specific facts and circumstances
- Tax advice that results in positions taken in a client's tax return will be supported by a credible basis in tax law
- All effective tax advice, in any tax authority, requires disclosure of all relevant facts
- As trusted business advisors, when giving tax advice, we help clients understand the broader context, including economic, commercial and/or reputational risks, as appropriate in the circumstances
- PwC firms advise clients of appropriate options available to them under the law having regard to all of the principles contained in the Global Tax Code of Conduct

As part of our efforts to enhance quality, Tax Policy Panels in our member firms, composed of senior partners and subject matter experts, aim to make sure our tax work adheres to our <u>Global Tax Code of Conduct</u>. The panels are more than just technical reviews; they contribute to more holistic, high-quality advice that takes in the broader business and societal context.

As of 30 June 2023, Tax Policy Panels have been established in 43 territories (FY22: 42), including in all of our 21 largest territories and we continue to expand the number of territories.

# **Advisory services**

# Helping clients build sustained outcomes

Our PwC Advisory team strives to identify new sources of value for clients. Through our deep expertise, extensive experience, and strategic thinking, we help clients solve important problems and deliver sustained outcomes. Our global community of solvers, backed by our rigorous focus on quality, allows us to address market complexity and business challenges with a world-class portfolio of asset-based solutions, leading technology enabled through deep Alliance partnerships and industry expertise that deliver the measurable results and sustained outcomes our clients demand.



"Seldom, if ever, in our increasingly complex world can a significant problem be solved by looking at it through just one lens. One of PwC's greatest strengths is that we deploy multi-skilled and multidisciplinary teams who look at problems in the round. Helping address problems in this way, with so many distinct and informed voices at the table, instils confidence and builds trust among stakeholders. It also makes the experience still more stimulating and enriching for our people as they are learning all the time from each other."



Mohamed Kande
Global Advisory Leader, PwC US.

PwC's Advisory professionals address stakeholder expectations by following a comprehensive approach to enhance quality through three lenses:

- The quality of our people. We continuously upskill and invest in our people including developing our people's capabilities to deploy the latest tools, technology and methodologies so we can provide more value for our clients
- The quality of delivery. We proactively identify, manage and mitigate risks associated with complex transformations. In addition, we use leading methodologies and automation to enable consistency, repeatability and quality to deliver excellence for our clients
- The quality of client experience. Our people provide differentiated client experiences by harnessing data, technology, industry expertise and technical know-how

To reinforce and enable our commitment to quality, PwC firms implement programmes designed to understand, monitor and promote quality across our projects. This includes ongoing reviews of our most significant projects to continuously evaluate and facilitate quality, and to make sure we are delivering value to our clients.

# **Assurance services**

PwC's Assurance practice continues to strive to meet evolving expectations of quality and value. Assured information helps to build trust in capital markets and in companies' performance on key issues like sustainability. To build trust effectively, however, assurance must be high quality. That's why we continue on our path of continuous improvement in the quality of our assurance services, grounded in maintaining our independence and objectivity, adhering to the ethical requirements of our profession and performing our work in accordance with all applicable professional standards. Along that path, we are also reimagining our role in building trust in the information that matters most to our clients and their stakeholders.

## Focusing on audit quality

Delivering quality audits is core to our purpose. We take any instance of a sub-standard audit seriously and we work hard to quickly understand and remediate the impacts of the issue, analyse the root cause, learn lessons

and take the opportunity to enhance the quality of future audits. Our member firms reflect the importance of quality - both quality outcomes and quality behaviours - in the evaluation, recognition and accountability of the relevant partners and leadership teams. Audit quality is the most important factor in performance evaluation and career progression decisions for both our partners and staff.

We welcome the increased public focus on audit quality, and the dialogue about how auditors, preparers, investors and other stakeholders can work collaboratively to increase the level of confidence in financial and nonfinancial reporting. We've actively contributed to this dialogue with audit committees, boards, regulators and standard-setters worldwide, both directly as PwC, and also collaboratively as a profession through organisations like the Global Public Policy Committee and the Center for Audit Quality in the US. PwC continues to publish our overall network internal inspection results for audit engagements. We're eager to continue engaging with others to share, listen and learn – while continuing to invest in enhancing the quality of every audit we undertake.

To help our member firms deliver quality audits consistently, we use a quality management framework based on clear objectives around audit quality and we provide support to help firms meet these objectives. Our member firms deliver high-quality audit services through access to the necessary capabilities in terms of both people and technology. That's why our quality objectives focus on having the right capabilities – both at a member firm level and across our network – and on using these capabilities to meet our own standards and applicable professional requirements. These capabilities are best developed and used within a culture of quality in which leaders set the right tone and are role models for our values, starting by acting with integrity. We continuously enhance our guidance and update our tools to support our engagement teams in addressing new and emerging risks and requirements as part of our audits.

## Framework that enables quality

Our audit quality is built on having the right culture and the right people, supported by effective methodologies, processes, and technology. We have a number of dedicated functions within the PwC network that develop practical tools, guidance and systems to support audit quality. PwC's assurance quality management framework – Quality Management for Service Excellence (QMSE) – directs each member firm to consider specific risks to quality and respond appropriately in line with its individual circumstances. Our approach

"At PwC, we believe passionately in leading by example. The commitment our leadership has to the highest-quality standards – underpinned by independence, ethics and professionalism – informs the way our people conduct themselves every day."



James Chalmers
Global Assurance Leader, PwC UK.





integrates quality management into how each firm runs its business and manages risk rather than viewing quality and risk management as a separate activity.

The QMSE framework introduces an overall quality objective that is supported by a series of underlying quality management objectives. Each firm's system of quality management (SoQM) should be designed and operated so that the overall quality objective, which includes meeting the objectives of ISQM 1, is achieved with reasonable assurance.

## The International Standard on Quality Management 1 (ISQM 1)

ISQM 1 became effective 15 December 2022 and applies to all firms performing audits or reviews of financial statements, or other assurance or related service engagements.

The PwC network's Assurance QMSE framework was designed to enable our firms to meet the requirements of ISOM 1.

This includes design and implementation of the SoQM to comply with ISQM 1 to meet the effective date and evaluation of the SoQM under the standard by 15 December 2023.

We have been on a multi-year journey to prepare for and embed both the intent and specific requirements of ISQM 1 into our approach to quality. To help us achieve this, we have invested and continue to invest significant resources in the enhancement of quality across our network. This includes having a strong quality infrastructure supported by the right people, underlying tools and technology at both the network level and within each of our firms, and a programme of continuous innovation and investment.

Our Global Assurance Quality (GAQ) organisation aims to support PwC firms in promoting, enabling, and continuously improving assurance quality through effective policies, tools, guidance and systems used to further promote and monitor quality and to build an appropriate level of consistency in what we do.

These elements have been integrated and aligned across our network to create a comprehensive, holistic and interconnected quality management framework that each member firm tailors to reflect its individual circumstances. Each firm is responsible for utilising the resources provided by the network as part of our efforts to deliver quality.

The achievement of our quality objectives is supported by a quality management process (QMP) established by each firm and its Assurance leadership, business process owners, and partners and staff. This QMP includes:

- Identifying risks to achieving the quality objectives
- Designing and implementing responses to the assessed quality risks
- Monitoring the design and operating effectiveness of the policies and procedures through the use of process-integrated monitoring activities, such as real-time assurance as well as appropriate Assurance Quality Indicators
- Continuously improving the SoQM when areas for improvement are identified by performing root cause analyses and implementing remedial actions and establishing a quality-related recognition and accountability framework to be used in appraisals, remuneration, and career progression decisions

# Values, judgements, objectivity and professional scepticism

Performing quality audits requires more than just the right tools and processes. The auditor's role is to reach a professional judgement based on reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements prepared by the entity's management are, as a whole, free of material misstatement and present a fair picture of the entity's financial performance and position. To carry out this assessment effectively, PwC auditors apply professional scepticism, objectivity, specialist skills and judgement. PwC's values guide our auditors in making their assessments, behaving ethically and building a strong culture in order to deliver trust.

We continue to learn from past experiences while fostering the behaviours that drive quality. We explore how auditors can professionally challenge each other and engage with clients even more effectively, how to create an environment that enables this challenge and dialogue, and how audit teams can use feedback to facilitate continuous learning. PwC firms apply global ethics and independence principles and guidelines that limit the non-assurance services they can provide to audit clients. In effect, these prohibit auditors from acting in a management capacity or as an advocate for an audit client and/or auditing the results of other services provided. These guidelines are reinforced by regulatory restrictions on which services the firms can provide to







audit clients. These restrictions vary by country but may include a complete ban on providing some services and caps on the revenue that can be generated from others as a proportion of audit fees. In addition to these restrictions, some member firms have further limited the services they provide to certain clients in response to local circumstances. PwC partners and staff are also subject to personal independence restrictions and requirements as described here.

# Quality starts and ends with people

Top-quality talent is at the heart of our business. We aim to recruit, train, develop and retain the best, brightest and values-driven people who share our strong sense of responsibility for delivering high-quality services. We truly believe our people help us differentiate on quality and are our most important asset. And to prepare staff and partners for the delivery of quality assurance services, our people have access to a comprehensive curriculum of formal and informal learning and technical courses. PwC's audit curriculum is available to our member firms in a modular format, allowing them to accelerate the delivery of different portions of the curriculum, if appropriate. Furthermore, our firms can develop additional training that augments the curriculum to meet local needs. We also develop and support our people through coaching, on-the-job training, and development learned through diverse experiences and by providing access to expertise through our multidisciplinary model.

The materials cover a variety of learning objectives that follow consistent principles:

- Focus on practical application
- Simulate on-the-job experiences
- Make use of technology in the physical or virtual classroom

Where appropriate and necessary, our audit teams are encouraged to draw on expertise from parts of the network outside the Assurance practice using our multidisciplinary model approach. For instance, audit – especially in today's data-rich world – requires analysis and judgement of vast amounts of increasingly diverse information. This means that it is helpful to have access to experts with a deep understanding of technologies, like data analytics, as well as capabilities around the valuation of physical assets and complex financial instruments, actuarial calculations, treasury operations, tax compliance, and many other areas. Being able

to bring these skills to bear on audit work helps strengthen audit quality and builds trust in the information contained in audited financial statements.

## Investing in the future

As part of our commitment to quality we are investing US\$1 billion in a multi-year effort to usher in a new era of auditing, leveraging technology to transform our audit ecosystem and setting a new benchmark for next generation audits.

It is a measure of our success in relation to this that PwC was awarded the 2023 '<u>Digital Innovation of the Year Award</u>' at the 12th annual International Accounting Forum & Awards in London for our global suite of Al services in development in support of our auditors.

A culture of innovation across the PwC network of firms continues to drive the creation of tech-enabled solutions addressing both local and global needs, including the technologies underlying this suite of Al services for PwC's next generation audit.

PwC's proprietary predictive analytics solution employs cloud-based machine learning and advanced statistical models that will provide PwC auditors with the ability to predict client revenue to support audit procedures. This technology will enable full population analysis of transactions that make up a financial statement line item balance, and includes built-in data reliability and model validation checks, which will help PwC teams further enhance their understanding of clients' businesses, while delivering a more tailored audit.

Looking forward, leveraging a first-of-its-kind relationship with Microsoft, PwC is building on the strengths of existing tools to transform the audit experience. Our next generation global audit will be fully integrated, fuelled by data, and leverage advanced technologies to enhance quality and value, and reduce unnecessary burden by streamlining data acquisition, standardising processes, and focusing auditors' work on areas of higher risk.

All our programmes, tools and technologies are built on a human-focused design, focusing on stakeholders' needs while reimagining ways for our people to work.

"At PwC we are moving quickly to develop and deploy machine learning and natural language processing capabilities across our global audit ecosystem. Our Al-enabled, data-driven services including generative AI and anomaly detection - will help to solve ageold challenges, which in the past may have burdened internal teams and clients' organisations, as they support the audit process. This generational leap forward will augment the capabilities of our professionals and free them up to do more of what they do best."



Mark Flavell
Global Next Generation Audit Technology Leader, PwC US





We are also building on our experience with our current tools including, for example:

- Aura our current internal cloud-based enterprise resource planning system for audits, used by 120,000 people across the PwC network
- Connect Suite our suite of collaboration tools with more than 215,000 internal and 1.2 million external users across 150,000 Connect sites, is helping us to collaborate and exchange information efficiently and securely with our clients and audit teams across the network
- PwC Confirmations our global, secure, web-based confirmation platform that facilitates streamlined and efficient processing of audit confirmations. This includes preparing, sending, monitoring and receiving electronic and paper responses for our auditors and third-party confirmers
- PwC Extract our data extraction tool which enables teams to gather and manage client data. It allows teams to connect to client systems, acquire data in a secure way and store it safely
- Halo for Journals our data analytics tool which provides deeper insights into clients' businesses through built-in visualisations. It empowers engagement teams to spend less time performing manual processes and more time understanding transactions. Halo for Journals enhances quality by helping to identify unusual items and potential risks. We're currently using Halo with nearly 19,500 audit clients (FY22: more than 18,000).



#### Results of our network internal inspections for audit engagements

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total audit engagement reviews	1,756	1,706	1,618	1,661	1,768
Compliant (%)	85.6%	85.3%	83.3%	82.2%	76.5%
Compliant with Improvement Required (%)	10.2%	11.1%	13.2%	14.0%	18.4%
Total Compliant (%)	95.8%	96.4%	96.5%	96.2%	94.9%
Non-Compliant	73	61	56	63	91
Non-Compliant (%)	4.2%	3.6%	3.5%	3.8%	5.1%

## **Our internal inspections**

Engagement Quality Reviews (EQRs) are carried out by member firms and include reviews of completed engagements. These periodic reviews are designed to determine whether an engagement was performed in compliance with PwC Audit guidance, applicable professional standards and other applicable engagementrelated policies and procedures. EQRs are led by experienced independent Assurance partners supported by independent teams of directors, senior managers and specialists. Review teams are resourced to reflect the specialist knowledge or experience needed to objectively assess the selected engagements and are independent from those who are either subject to the review or are potentially affected by the results. Many member firms seek support from outside their member firm to maintain the objectivity of the review team, but this does not create or imply transfer of responsibility for the EQR outside of the member firm. Review teams receive training to support them in fulfilling their responsibilities. They use a range of checklists and tools developed at the network level when conducting their reviews. Additionally, the PwC network undertakes periodic reviews to evaluate certain elements of member firms' SoQMs. We also look at the member firm leadership's own assessment of the effectiveness of their SoQM and their determination of whether the overall quality objective has been achieved.







Between 2019 and 2023, we reviewed a total of 8,509 audits conducted by our member firms worldwide. The results are set out in the table above. Some 46% of those audits were of 'public interest entities' (PIEs) (essentially listed and other significant companies, as defined by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) Code of Ethics). Of these PIE audits inspected, 123 were classified as non-compliant over the past five years. In cases where an audit is deemed to be non-compliant, we consider what, if any, impact this may have on the entity's financial statements.

For the 2023 inspection cycle, of the 1,756 audit reviews completed through our internal inspection process, 73 (4.2%) were rated as non-compliant. Of those, five have been assessed as requiring a restatement of the audited organisation's financial statements and/or for the auditor's report to be withdrawn or reissued. We continue to invest in enhancing audit quality as described above, and we remain fully committed to a culture of continuous improvement.

# Monitoring by audit regulators

In addition to our internal inspections programme, our member firms are subject to monitoring and inspection by external regulators. In all, 58 of these regulators are members of the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR).

In an industry-wide effort to improve audit quality, the six biggest global auditors and regulators on IFIAR's Global Audit Quality Working Group agreed on a target to decrease the proportion of audits of listed PIEs identified with findings from inspections by 24 regulators on an aggregated basis by 25% over a four-year period from 2019 to 2023. IFIAR's 2023 Survey will include their conclusion on whether the collective target has been met after the end of this four-year period and our results will be incorporated in the collective results. We continue to monitor our progress and work hard to achieve this target and will report back on the results of the IFIAR findings in our next Global Transparency Report.

"Over the last 12 months, the PwC network faced both familiar and emerging risks in the business environment, including with respect to quality, independence, objectivity and compliance, and the continuing war in Ukraine, fractures in the global economy, political instability, headwinds in the capital markets and how to address climate change. In this report, you will read about how we identify and manage the risks we face and how we work together to deliver legal and regulatory compliance across our network."



Coenraad Richardson
Global Chief Risk Officer, PwC UK

Identifying, managing and mitigating risk is an essential part of running any business. At PwC, we work with many organisations to help them deal with the growing <u>risks</u> they face in our increasingly complex and challenging world. We also invest significant time and resources into anticipating and managing risks to our own business.

At PwC, the <u>Global Board</u> of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited (PwCIL) provides oversight, review and approval of our network's enterprise risk management (ERM) approach and focus. The Risk Committee of the Board is responsible for monitoring key risks and responses, setting expectations for quality assurance, setting the network's overall risk management framework, and overseeing compliance with network standards and policies (and the compliance monitoring process), as well as considering legal and regulatory requirements.

The Network Leadership Team provides strategic direction, including in the area of ERM.

The Chief Risk Officer (CRO) is responsible for network risk management, including ERM.

Members of the <u>Global Leadership Team</u> work through and consider some of the most significant risks and set the guidelines for the compliance and monitoring associated with them.

The PwC network and its member firms take a systematic approach to ERM. The risks with the highest potential impact for the PwC network are reviewed on an annual basis. These Key Network Risks (KNRs) and their related significant mitigation plans are reviewed by the Global Board.

KNRs are risks which have the potential to either undermine the achievement of the network strategy and business objectives, or fundamentally damage the network and compromise its future.

In assessing the significance of risks, consideration is given to the impact on:

- client and service quality, and the network's ability to fulfil its obligations to clients and regulators and to meet the expectations of other stakeholders
- the trust of clients and other key stakeholders (including regulators and governments)
- legal and regulatory compliance across the network
- achievement of the network strategy, including its purpose
- the ability of member firms to recruit and retain key talent
- revenues across the network of firms







# Human led

**People:** Failure to attract, retain and develop a diverse pool of skilled talent will impact our ability to deploy resources rapidly to realise opportunities, deliver quality, meet clients' changing needs, and deliver our strategy.



Client and service quality: A significant failure in evaluating the risks associated with accepting or continuing with a client or engagement, or a significant service delivery quality failure, could impact our reputation and lead to litigation and/or regulatory action.





**Significant adverse matters:** Failure to respond appropriately, with the necessary expertise and speed, to adverse matters, causing an actual or potential negative impact on a member firm or firms and/or the network. The adverse impact can be financial, security-related, technological, and/or reputational.



**Information and cybersecurity:** Failure to manage the security of member firms, clients and our people's data or reduced defences against ransomware attacks could impact our reputation and cause legal and brand damage to the network.

**Technology resilience and availability:** Failure to manage critical system availability, will impact the ability to service clients and manage the business.

**Tech-powered** 

**Technology enabled disruption:** Failure to prepare for and respond to disruption will impact our ability to bring new services and solutions to the market responsibly and with speed and agility.

The most significant risks facing our network are inherent to the nature of our business and the external environment. The current risk landscape and volatility is recognised in a new KNR, Geopolitical.

The risks we face around ensuring the quality of our services, meeting our applicable legal obligations, and adhering to the professional regulations and standards under which we operate (including those related to auditor independence) remain as important as ever. The same goes for the security and resilience of our systems and technology infrastructure; the strength of the individual member firms that provide our global reach and capability; and our ability to recruit, retain and develop the staff both to service our existing clients and develop opportunities for growing the business.

We remain acutely aware of our impact on the world around us and the need to work with our stakeholders to manage those impacts more effectively. This is why we are committed to reporting our impact using the World Economic Forum's Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics.





# Material issues impacting stakeholders

The issues that are of concern to our key external stakeholders are assessed and taken into account as part of the process of identifying KNRs. This includes:

- the quality of work performed for clients and delivery of sustained outcomes
- our compliance with applicable laws, regulations, professional standards, rules, and internal policies. This includes our member firms' compliance with audit and assurance independence rules and regulations
- our ability to meet the evolving requirements of regulatory and public policy
- our member firms' compliance with applicable data management standards
- our member firms' ability to safeguard and manage data appropriately
- the quality of our information and cybersecurity processes and procedures
- the actions of our people and member firms aligning with our values and societal expectations
- the resilience of member firms to withstand economic, regulatory and political shocks
- the resilience of critical technology systems across our network and member firms
- our ability to attract, retain, train and deploy the right people to ensure high-quality delivery and innovation
- the maintenance of the PwC brand and the confidence it gives in our work and deliverables

# **Engaging with our stakeholders**

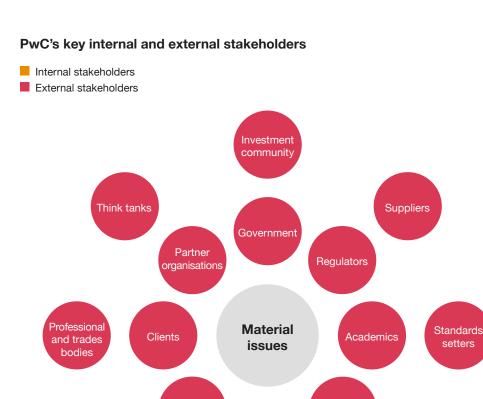
PwC engages with stakeholders at both network and individual member firm levels. Details of how PwC communicates with certain stakeholders at the member firm level can be found in individual firms' <a href="transparency">transparency</a> reports.

Some examples of how PwC engages as a network are described below. These examples are by no means exhaustive. They are an indication of the many ways that we actively engage with our stakeholders on key issues throughout the course of the year.

- Our People we engage with our people across the world, both locally and network-wide, via a variety of fora including global and local surveys
- Clients we work with more than 178,000 clients across the globe, ranging from individuals to the world's largest corporations
- Standard setters we actively participate in the process of commenting on both financial and nonfinancial reporting consultations
- Regulators we work closely with our regulators across the world, particularly
  on efforts to enhance audit quality and support the effective operation of tax
  systems around the world
- Think tanks and NGOs participating in discussions on key issues such as climate change and social inequality is a top priority for PwC and a key part of our work to fulfil our purpose
- Investors as one of the world's largest network of audit firms, we play a key role in the functioning of capital markets. Understanding the views and needs of investors is very important to us
- Alumni there are many thousands of PwC alumni across the world and they remain an important part of the PwC community

PwC participates in public policy development in a variety of ways which are intended to complement the <a href="PwC Purpose">PwC Purpose</a> to build trust and solve important problems. These include active participation in, for example:

- Standard-setter bodies, such as the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), and the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB)
- Regulatory and other standard-setter consultations and comments on exposure drafts and draft regulations and standards



Potential

clients

Alumni

NGOs

**PwC** 

partners

Potential colleagues

PwC colleagues



- Multilateral organisations, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Forums for bringing stakeholders together to make progress on issues of importance to society such as the World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Development of a wide variety of thought leadership

As can be seen on our <u>website</u>, PwC supports policy development and thought leadership regarding important topical issues including climate, tax, financial reporting, accounting and auditing, broader business issues, the future of work, sustainability reporting and assurance, independence, inclusion and diversity, and use of emerging technologies.

All member firms are expected to follow global policies regarding conduct and compliance with regard to any public policy development or lobbying. By way of example, PwC has put in place a set of principles that our network expects to be followed by all firms when hiring a former government official or when a former PwC partner or other senior staff member from PwC takes a senior post in government in order to avoid any potential for conflicts of interest. This covers not only organisations regarded as strictly governmental but also organisations that regulate or have public oversight of the professional services that we provide. The principles are intended to minimise potential conflicts and avoid the potential that confidences gained from one role could be used in another or for the advantage of a PwC firm. Having a set of principles for use across the PwC network helps us take a consistent approach.

In addition, member firms must follow any additional local laws or regulatory requirements with regard to participation in public policy development.

# PwC'S approach to client acceptance

We are implementing a global, cloud-based technology to manage client and engagement acceptance and continuance across our network. This helps member firms make better decisions about who they choose to work with and the services they agree to provide. It also helps us to manage the risks associated with potential conflicts, and, as a result, to continue to foster trust with our stakeholders.

The PwC ethics and compliance standards and policies set out how our member firms should mitigate the risk that they inadvertently become involved in actual or potential money-laundering activities, and these form an important part of our approach to client acceptance. As most legislation on anti-money laundering is based on the <a href="Financial Action Task Force">Financial Action Task Force</a> (FATF) recommendations, the PwC standard is consistent with these recommendations. In addition to the PwC standards, member firms are required to comply with local laws and professional regulations.

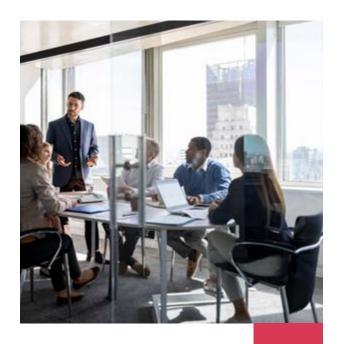
The standards require each PwC member firm to establish systems, policies and procedures to mitigate the risk of being directly or indirectly involved in money-laundering, terrorist financing, or financial crime more broadly. The specific standard requirements for each PwC member firm are described in the following section.

The standards also set out the core requirements and prohibitions for all PwC partners and staff. They make clear that engaging in money-laundering practices is illegal and unacceptable behaviour, and partners and staff have obligations to assist in the prevention of money laundering. Specifically, as part of client acceptance, PwC partners and staff must:

- establish their client's identity (including the identification of ultimate beneficial owners where required)
- not provide any service, or enter into any business relationship, that could constitute being directly or indirectly involved in money-laundering activities

Our policy and guidance provide practical and detailed explanations that outline concepts such as what to look for. Each member firm is required to establish a reporting procedure whereby any partner or staff member can report any knowledge or suspicion of money laundering.







# **Ethics and independence**

## **Ethics codes and practices**

At PwC, we adhere to the fundamental principles of ethics set out in the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA). These are:

- Integrity to be straightforward and honest in all professional and business relationships
- Objectivity to not allow bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others to override professional or business judgements
- Professional competence and due care to maintain professional knowledge and skill at the level required to ensure that a client or employer receives competent professional services based on current developments in practice, legislation and techniques; and to act diligently and in accordance with applicable technical and professional standards
- Confidentiality to respect the confidentiality of information acquired as a result of professional and business relationships. This includes not disclosing any such information to third parties without proper and specific authority, unless there is a legal or professional right or duty to disclose, and not using the information for the personal advantage of the professional accountant or third parties
- Professional behaviour to comply with relevant laws and regulations and avoid any action that discredits the profession

All member firms must also comply with our network standards, which cover a variety of areas related to ethics and compliance, including ethics and business conduct, independence, anti-money laundering, anti-trust and fair competition, anti-corruption, information protection, firms' and partners' taxes, sanctions laws, internal audit, and insider trading. We take compliance with these ethical concerns seriously, so we strive to embrace the spirit and not just the letter of these requirements. We require our people to undertake annual mandatory training and submit annual confirmations of their individual compliance as part of our system to support appropriate understanding of the ethical requirements under which we operate. Our partners and staff are expected to uphold and comply with our ethics standards.

Each member firm is required to uphold the <u>PwC purpose and values</u>. In addition, each member firm must adhere to the PwC network standards, including the <u>PwC Global Code of Conduct</u> (for more details on the Code <u>see the Governance</u> section)

All PwC people are expected to live by the values expressed in the Code over the course of their careers at PwC. They have a responsibility to report and express concerns, and to do so fairly, honestly, and professionally when dealing with a difficult situation or when they see any instances of behaviour inconsistent with the Code.

# **Accountability Framework**

Each member firm has an Accountability Framework, supported by disciplinary policies and mechanisms. The framework covers:

#### ■ Ethics and Conduct

This includes the PwC Code of Conduct and PwC values & behaviours, ethics and business conduct and behaviour identified in complaints, investigations and/or litigation.

### ■ Compliance requirements

Network and territory policies and compliance requirements (e.g appropriate and timely completion of required training, Annual Compliance Confirmation, maintaining credentials)

## ■ Independence

This includes both personal and service and other business relationships.

Further, each member firm has access to a confidential tier of the <u>PwC Ethics Helpline</u> where any PwC partner, staff member or third party can raise questions or report concerns. For more details on how concerns are handled, see the <u>Governance</u> section of this report.







### PwC's approach to anti-corruption

PwC is opposed to corruption in any form and recognises the importance of making smart choices when it comes to its business relationships.

The PwC Ethics and Compliance standards and policies specifically set out how member firms are expected to identify and mitigate the risk of bribery and corruption in their activities. They are consistent with the principles of the UK Bribery Act of 2010 and the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977. The standards require each member firm to establish systems, policies and procedures to prevent bribery and corruption. They set out specific requirements for each member firm, including:

- appointing an experienced individual who, with appropriate leadership oversight, is responsible for implementing the standards' requirements
- annually preparing a risk assessment to evaluate (a) the level and type of risks the firm faces, and (b) the policies and procedures the firm uses to comply with this standard and/or to respond to local risks
- training all personnel (including new joiners) annually on policies and guidance that apply locally and across our network
- taking steps to identify and resolve any departures from, or violations of, policies in place locally or across our network
- annually undertaking monitoring to assess compliance with these standards as well as policies and guidance that apply locally or across our network, and resolving any deficiencies, where identified

Each year, all partners and staff at PwC member firms are required to sign a personal confirmation of their anticorruption compliance.

During FY23 there were no instances of corruption in our 21 largest firms culminating in publicly reported regulatory or court adjudications, as related to either the current or previous year.

Our 21 largest firms had total monetary losses aggregating less than US\$10 million in FY23 (equivalent to 0.0002% of our global revenue) as a result of final publicly reported regulatory or court adjudications associated with malpractice or violations of other related industry laws or regulations, fraud, insider trading, anti-trust, anti-competitive behaviour, or market manipulation. A similar monetary loss was also reported for FY22.

For the information above related to corruption or malpractice matters, the figures provided do not include matters subject to ongoing legal or regulatory proceedings or appeals.

### Objectivity and independence

As auditors of financial statements and providers of other types of professional services, PwC member firms and their partners and staff are expected to comply with the fundamental principles of objectivity, integrity and professional behaviour. Independence underpins these requirements in our work with assurance clients. Compliance with these principles is essential to serving our clients and thereby instilling confidence in the capital markets.

The PwC Global Independence Policy is based on the IESBA International Independence Standards, supplemented by the independence requirements of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the US Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), and the EU Audit Regulation of 16 April 2014. It contains minimum standards with which PwC member firms have agreed to comply, including processes that are to be followed to maintain independence from assurance clients.

Each member firm has a designated partner (known as the Partner Responsible for Independence or (PRI)) with appropriate seniority and standing. This partner is responsible for implementing the PwC Global Independence Policy, including managing the related independence processes and providing support to the business. The partner is supported by a team of independence specialists.

### Independence policies and practices

The PwC Global Independence Policy covers the following areas, amongst others:

personal and firm independence - including policies and guidance on the holding of financial interests and other financial arrangements, such as bank accounts and loans by partners, staff, the firm and its pension schemes







- non-audit services and fee arrangements the policy is supported by Statements of Permitted Services (SOPS), which provide practical guidance on the policy's application regarding the provision of non-audit services to audit clients and related entities
- business relationships including policies and guidance on joint business relationships (such as joint ventures and joint marketing) and on the purchasing of goods and services acquired in the normal course of business
- acceptance of new audit and assurance clients and the subsequent provision of non-assurance services for those clients

In addition, we have a Network Risk Management Policy governing the independence requirements related to the rotation of key audit partners.

These policies and processes are designed to help us comply with relevant professional and regulatory standards of independence that apply to the provision of many assurance services. Policies and supporting guidance are reviewed and revised when changes arise, such as updates to laws and regulations, changes to the IESBA International Independence Standards, or changes in response to operational matters.

Each firm supplements the PwC Global Independence Policy as required by local regulations in cases where these requirements are more restrictive than the global policy.

### Independence-related systems, tools and processes

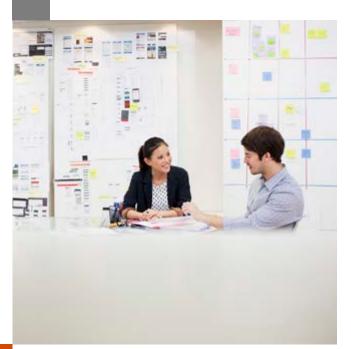
As a member of the PwC network, each PwC member firm has access to a number of systems and tools which support member firms and their partners and staff in executing and complying with our independence policies and procedures. These include:

■ the Central Entity Service (CES), which contains information about corporate entities including all PwC audit clients and their related entities (including all public interest audit clients and SEC-restricted entities) as well as their related securities. The CES assists in determining the independence restriction status of clients of the member firm and those of other PwC member firms before entering into a new non-audit service or business relationship. This system also feeds the 'Independence Checkpoint' and Authorisation for Services [detailed further below]

- the Independence Checkpoint, which facilitates the pre-clearance of publicly traded securities by all partners and managerial practice staff before acquisition and is used to record their subsequent purchases and disposals. When a PwC member firm wins a new audit client, or a security otherwise becomes restricted (for example as the result of a corporate transaction), this system automatically informs any PwC partner or staff member holding securities in that client if they need to sell the security
- Automated Investment Recording (AIR), a solution available to PwC member firms that simplifies portfolio maintenance for PwC partners and staff in the Independence Checkpoint by automatically recording security transactions using regular direct feeds from participating brokers
- Authorisation for Services (AFS), a global system that facilitates communication regarding a proposed non-audit service between a non-audit services engagement leader and the audit engagement leader, documents the analysis of any potential independence threats created by the service and proposed safeguards (where deemed necessary), and acts as a record of the audit partner's conclusion on the permissibility of the service. In addition, independence specialist resources in our global SEC Centre of Excellence utilise AFS to support the approval process relating to the provision of non-audit services to SEC-restricted entities (see 'Controls over non-audit services' below)
- the Global Breaches Reporting System, which is used to report any breaches of external auditor independence regulations (e.g. those set by regulation or professional requirements) where the breach has cross-border implications (e.g. where a breach occurs in one territory which affects an audit relationship in another territory). All breaches reported are evaluated and addressed
- the Global Joint Business Relationship (JBR) system facilitates our compliance with JBR requirements. It assists the independence specialists in the JBR Center of Excellence in gathering information to assess, from an independence perspective, the permissibility of proposed joint business relationships and in monitoring the continued permissibility of previously approved existing joint business relationships
- My Compliance Dashboard, which is a standardised compliance platform available to partners and staff in all PwC member firms. It is used by firms to issue, manage and report on confirmations obtained including the annual compliance confirmation and, where relevant, engagement independence confirmations.







We continue to invest at a network level in technologies to strengthen our independence-related systems and tools.

Each member firm also has a number of specific systems which could include, for example, a rotation tracking system that monitors compliance with audit rotation policies for engagement leaders and other key audit partners involved in an audit.

### Independence training and confirmations

Consultation with independence specialists by engagement teams on independence issues is central to the PwC culture. In addition to required consultations, teams are encouraged to consult with independence specialists whenever a matter is complex or if there is any doubt about what to do.

PwC's processes are supported by comprehensive training of all partners and staff. Each member firm provides all partners and staff with annual or ongoing training in independence matters. This training is typically based around milestones related to onboarding, a change in position or role, changes in policy or external regulation, and, as relevant, provision of services. Partners and staff receive computer-based training on independence policy and related topics. Additionally, training is delivered on an as-needed basis by independence specialists and risk and quality teams.

All partners and staff are required to complete an annual confirmation of their compliance with relevant aspects of the member firm's independence policy, including their own personal independence. In addition, all partners confirm that all non-audit services and business relationships for which they are responsible comply with policy and that the required processes have been followed in accepting these engagements and relationships. These annual confirmations are supplemented by periodic and ad-hoc engagement-level confirmations for certain clients.

### Independence monitoring and disciplinary policy

Each member firm is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of its quality management system in managing compliance with independence requirements. In addition to the confirmations described above, as part of this monitoring, member firms perform:

- compliance testing of independence controls and processes
- personal independence compliance testing of a random selection of partners and managerial practice staff as a means of monitoring compliance with independence policies
- an annual assessment of the firm's adherence to our network's standard on independence

The results of monitoring and testing are reported to the member firm's management on a regular basis.

Each member firm has an Accountability Framework, supported by disciplinary policies and mechanisms, that promote compliance with independence policies and processes, and require any breaches of independence requirements to be reported and addressed. This includes a discussion with the client's audit committee regarding the nature of a breach, an evaluation of the breach's impact on the independence of the member firm and the engagement team, and the need for actions or safeguards to maintain objectivity. The member firm also follows any supplemental local requirements relating to the reporting of breaches. We assess all of our breaches and they are all taken seriously and investigated as appropriate. As a result of our investigations we know that most breaches do not adversely impact our objectivity and impartiality and may, for example, be attributable to an oversight. The investigations of any identified breaches of independence policies also serve to identify the need for disciplinary measures, improvements in systems and processes, and for additional guidance and training.

### **Compliance review**

For details of PwC's network standards, policies and monitoring please see the <u>Governance</u> section. Each firm is required to evaluate any departures from independence requirements in the PwC independence policies and/ or external regulations to understand the root cause and impact of such exceptions, and undertake any further remediation as appropriate.





### Controls over non-audit services

Before providing non-audit services to entities that are subject to independence restrictions, all member firms are required to obtain authorisation from the group audit engagement partner responsible for services to that entity (or a related entity).

To promote understanding of the independence requirements that apply, PwC has developed a comprehensive set of policy and supplementary guidance documents that address the provision of non-audit services to audit clients and their related entities. These documents are based on the requirements of the IESBA International Independence Standards, as well as the rules and standards issued by other regulatory authorities. Member firms supplement this for any relevant local standards.

When our member firms are providing non-audit services to audit clients, they are allowed to provide only those non-audit services that are permissible under the applicable rules. In some instances, these non-audit services are required by law or regulations to be performed by the auditor. However, while we have controls in place regarding the provision of non-audit services to audit clients, we are also conscious of the threats to independence in appearance that can be created by providing non-audit services to our audit clients. So we assess this threat as part of our acceptance processes.

Our Network Risk Management Policy also requires that engagement teams who provide certain non-audit services to SEC-restricted entities obtain input from an independence specialist in our global SEC Centre of Excellence. The conduct of certain services to SEC issuer audit clients is closely supported and monitored through extended processes, including (as applicable) review of audit committee pre-approval communications, independence review of initial engagement communications with the client such as proposal materials, preengagement independence coaching discussions for the service team and independence in-flight review of the engagement through the course of the service.

# How we govern ourselves and the standards we live by

"An important part of the Global Board's work is cooperation with PwC's global leadership teams to review performance, oversee implementation of standards, and liaise with governance bodies at our member firms. Open dialogue and the sharing of best practices is key in holding ourselves accountable and reflects our commitment to continuous improvement. We're also working to increase independent oversight, reflected in the inclusion of independent members of boards at the member firm and network level.

I was pleased to welcome a new independent member to our Global Board this year. Jaya Vaidhyanathan brings extensive experience working with leading financial services firms and technology companies.

Good governance is fundamental to maintaining PwC's reputation and its values in a fast-changing world."



Lisa Sawicki
Chair, Global Governance Board, PwClL

# Legal structure, leadership and governance

### **Network structure and member firms**

PwC is a global network of separate firms, operating locally in 151 countries around the world. This structure is important since in many parts of the world, the right to practise audit and accountancy is granted only to firms that are majority-owned by locally qualified professionals. As of 1 July 2023, our network has 631 <a href="active and client-facing entities">active and client-facing entities</a>. A Territory Senior Partner (TSP) is selected by each firm to lead that firm for a fixed term. The length of this term, and the maximum number of terms for which any TSP can be elected, are set by each member firm.

## **PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited**

PwC firms are members of PwCIL, a UK private company limited by guarantee that facilitates coordination between member firms. PwCIL does not practise accountancy or provide services to clients. It works specifically to develop and implement policies and initiatives to create a common and coordinated approach for member firms in key areas such as strategy, brand, risk, and quality.

Member firms have the right to use the PwC name, and the resources and methodologies of the PwC network are made available to them. In return, member firms agree to abide by common policies and standards. Each member firm agrees to pay its allocated share of network costs.

The firms in our network are committed to working together to provide high-quality services on a global scale to international and local clients, while remaining local businesses with deep knowledge of local laws, regulations, and standards.



## **Network Leadership Team**

Our Network Leadership Team (NLT) sets the overall strategy for the PwC network and the standards to which member firms agree to adhere. The NLT is made up of:



**Bob Moritz**Global Chair of the PwC network



**Tim Ryan**TSP of our member firms in the US



Raymund Chao
TSP of our member firms in China



Petra Justenhoven
the fifth member, is appointed by the
Global Board. She is also the Chair
of PwC Europe and the TSP of our
member firms in Germany



**Kevin Ellis**TSP of our member firms in the UK



The Global Chair of the PwC network and the fifth member may each serve for a maximum of two terms of no more than four years each. The terms of the other NLT members are limited by the arrangements in their respective firms. The NLT met 25 times in FY23 (FY22: 19). In FY23, 19 NLT meetings were held virtually.



### **Strategy Council**

Our <u>Strategy Council</u> comprises the TSPs of 21 of our largest member firms. It agrees on the network's strategic direction and facilitates alignment for the execution of that strategy. The Strategy Council is expected to meet at least quarterly. In FY23, the Strategy Council met nine times (FY22: eight). Of these meetings seven were virtual and two in person.

### **Global Leadership Team**

Our <u>Global Leadership Team</u> (GLT) is appointed by, and reports to, the NLT. Its members are responsible for leading teams drawn from our member firms to coordinate and lead PwC's activities across all areas of the business. The GLT met seven times in FY23 (FY22: 10). All of these meetings were virtual.

### **Global Board**

As of 1 July, 2023, PwCIL's <u>Global Board</u> has 19 members who are responsible for the governance of PwCIL and the PwC network, oversight of the NLT, and approval of network standards. With the exception of one external independent director, the other 18 elected members are full-time partners of PwC member firms from around the world who don't belong to the senior leadership teams of those firms. Of the current 18 elected Board members, eight are women. During FY23, the Board met 12 times (FY22: 12). All but four of those meetings were held virtually. Collectively, the Board's standing committees met 30 times (FY22: 25). The 19 committee meetings held in FY23 were virtual.

Board members are elected every four years by partners exercising their votes through their member firms. The current Board, which has members from 13 countries, took office in June 2021. Board members may serve a maximum of two terms of four years each. Six of the Board members are in their second term. Six board members currently serve as chair of their member firm's governance body; this helps foster strong alignment among member firms on matters of strategy, quality and execution. You can view a short biography of each Board member here, including details of any other boards or bodies that they serve on.

Having a broad range of backgrounds and experiences is an essential ingredient in the Board's discussions. In addition to their technical expertise across a range of disciplines, our Board members also have experience and competencies across the spectrum of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues including inclusion and diversity, social mobility, renewable energy and corporate governance.

The Board currently has four standing committees focused on governance, markets, risk and operations. It may establish other committees from time to time. Below is a summary of each committee's focus areas.

Committee	Focus areas
Governance	■ Network governance and leadership matters, including succession planning
Markets	■ Relationships (including clients and joint business relationships) and markets
	■ Portfolio of services (including delivery models)
	■ Brand positioning
	■ Corporate responsibility and public interest
Operations	■ Finance and operations including network investments and performance
	■ People, including upskilling, culture and values
	■ Technology strategy, enablement and execution, including data protection
Risk	■ Enterprise-wide risk management and legal matters
	Quality, network standards, ethics and compliance and policies
	Admission and withdrawal of members to the PwC network







### Governance boards in member firms

Each member firm is required to have a separate local governance body to oversee the performance of the firm's leadership and to provide direction and guidance. Traditionally, these governance boards were made up of partners from that firm. However, as with the Global Board, external people are increasingly joining these boards and member firms are setting up additional advisory bodies comprising external members. The Network promotes independence as best practice. For example, the majority of the 21 largest territory firms either have, or are taking steps to establish, some form of external oversight, in the form of external governance board members and/or advisory bodies:

- PwC US currently has one independent board member on its primary governance body as well as the governance body of its audit firm. The audit firm of PwC US has an Assurance Quality Advisory Committee (AQAC) comprised of three independent members. The AQAC does not have oversight responsibility but provides an independent perspective to leadership on Assurance quality topics
- PwC UK has four independent non-executive directors in its Public Interest Body and three audit non-executives in its Audit Oversight Body (one of whom is not also a member of the Public Interest Body)
- PwC Canada has three independent directors on its board
- PwC Switzerland has a Public Interest Committee consisting of five independent members
- PwC Australia has an independent Audit Quality Advisory Board comprising three members and is in the process of recruiting independent members to its main oversight board
- PwC Netherlands has an oversight board wholly comprising independent members as required by Dutch legislation
- PwC Italy has an independent director on its audit firm board
- PwC India has two independent nominated members on its board and a separate Advisory Committee consisting of four independent members advising the TSP from an external perspective
- PwC Germany has a 16 member Supervisory Board consisting of four independent individuals, five former PwC partners and seven employees. Eight board members are elected by the employees and eight board members are elected by the shareholders. None of the board members are active PwC partners

# **Transparency**

Many PwC member firms publish annual transparency reports disclosing information relating to their legal structure and ownership, governance structure, internal quality management systems, quality assurance, education and independence practices, audit revenue, and partner remuneration. These reports are designed to give stakeholders insights into key aspects of PwC member firms, and to aid understanding of how PwC member firms are organised and deal with key issues such as quality management. Many of them are set out in accordance with local legal and regulatory requirements, such as article 13 of EU regulation No. 537/2014. To read our member firms' transparency reports, click here.

# **Network standards and policies**

Each PwC member firm agrees to abide by certain standards, including:

**Strategy and alignment:** Implementing a strategy aligned with the PwC network's strategy, and implementing the strategic initiatives set out by PwC's NLT

**Investment:** Contributing a percentage of its net revenues to fund investments, at levels to be agreed annually with PwC's NLT. Investments are used to fund enhancements in quality, risk management, technology development and acquisitions, among other things

**Technology:** Implementing the network's technology strategy, including specific policies on information security and data protection

**Quality:** Establishing business processes that promote and facilitate the delivery of high-quality services and complying with all applicable PwC network and professional standards and requirements. These include having processes in place to enable firms to provide high-quality services in a manner that meets relevant stakeholder expectations, and member firms only accepting clients and undertaking engagements that are consistent with PwC's network risk management policies

**Brand:** Consistently reflect the attributes of the PwC brand, including brand positioning, brand personality and visual identity, in all external and internal activities and messages





**Governance:** Put in place an oversight function, independent from management, which practises good governance

**Enterprise risk management:** Establish an enterprise risk management programme and integrate this within its business operations. It will also perform an enterprise-wide risk assessment which identifies and prioritises the components of enterprise-level risk, and develop specific action plans to mitigate each identified risk

**People:** Put in place an appropriate strategy, policies, processes and systems to attract, retain and develop a diverse group of people of the quality needed to deliver services and operate its business

**Ethics and compliance:** Each PwC member firm should implement the systems, policies and procedures necessary to comply with our ethics and compliance standards, as detailed below.

- Ethics and business conduct: Embed a strong culture of ethics and business conduct in its people and in the way they conduct their business
- Anti-money laundering: Implement systems, policies, and procedures to mitigate the risk of being directly or indirectly involved in money laundering, terrorist financing or financial crime more broadly
- Anti-trust and fair competition: Implement systems, policies and procedures so that our firms compete in the marketplace in accordance with applicable law and regulations of fair competition, including not disclosing competitively sensitive or confidential business information or entering into agreements with a competitor that might limit competition
- Anti-corruption: Establish systems, policies and procedures for the prevention of bribery and corruption, in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations
- Information protection: Put in place appropriate technologies, systems, policies and procedures to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information in its possession (in line with ethics code and local information protection measures)
- Taxes paid by member firms and their partners: Organise and conduct its tax affairs in a manner consistent with PwC's Global Tax Code of Conduct and that lives up to PwC's reputation and expectations and requires the same of its partners

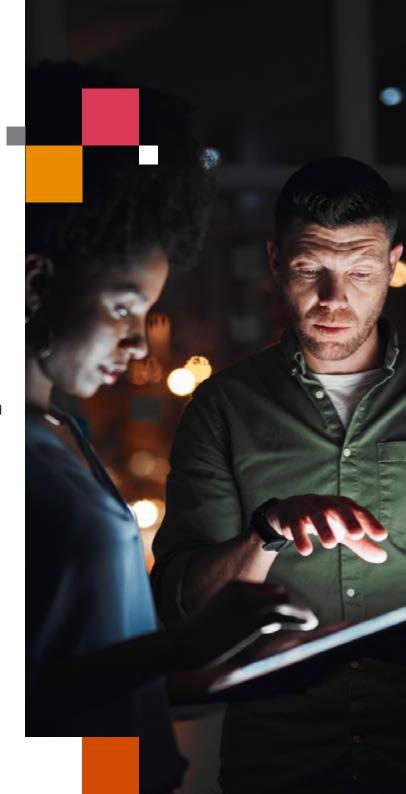
- Sanctions laws: Implement policies and procedures to prevent being involved with clients or activities that may violate applicable sanctions laws and regulations
- Internal audit: Have an appropriate level of internal audit coverage over key audit risks including, but not limited to, operational, information technology and compliance risks
- Insider trading: Establish systems, policies and procedures for the prevention of insider trading, in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations
- Independence: Establish systems, policies and procedures to ensure that the firm and its people comply with independence laws and regulations, including PwC's requirements and policies.

In addition to the PwC network's common standards and policies, PwC member firms also have access to common methodologies, technologies and supporting materials for many services.

These methodologies, technologies and materials help member firms, partners and staff perform their work more consistently, and promote quality while supporting their compliance with the way PwC does business and in line with our strategy – The New Equation.

### Monitoring compliance with network standards and policies

Monitoring compliance by PwC member firms: Each member firm must monitor its controls and the effectiveness of its quality management systems in a manner appropriate to the level of risk in its environment. In particular, each firm must assess whether the policies and procedures that constitute its system of quality management support the delivery of services in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and professional standards. This includes completing annual risk assessments and action plans, reviews of its systems and procedures, transaction testing where appropriate, and reviews at the individual engagement level across each line of service.





Monitoring compliance at the network level: Each year, PwC member firms assess their compliance against the network standards using a common technology platform. This platform facilitates the review and assessment of controls, the establishment of testing requirements, and the collection and evaluation of evidence relevant to the member firm's assessment:

- Each year, every member firm completes an annual self-assessment of its compliance with network standards and related policies and procedures and confirms whether it is in compliance with the standards. The member firm supports its self-assessment with appropriate evidence in required areas
- As part of the self-assessment, the firm's TSP signs a confirmation stating whether the member firm was in compliance, in all material respects, with each network standard. The TSP also commits to addressing any remedial actions identified during the self-assessment. To address specific matters where process improvements are needed, member firms, with the assistance of the network, prepare, review and execute action plans
- Each self-assessment is independently evaluated by a core team of specialists and feedback is provided to the member firm, where appropriate. Where a member firm is unable to confirm compliance, in all material respects, with the standards, it must implement a remediation plan which is monitored with the network's assistance

All member firm partners and staff complete individual annual compliance confirmations indicating their understanding of, and compliance with, those policies which are applicable to them.

# Striving to do the right thing

Our member firms conduct their business activities within the framework of applicable professional standards, laws, regulations, internal policies and an acute awareness that our collective reputation depends upon the conduct of every partner and staff member. PwC nurtures a culture that supports and encourages our people to behave appropriately and ethically, with integrity, especially when they have to make tough decisions. Our people have ready access to a wide array of support within their respective member firms – both formal and informal – and technical specialists to help them reach appropriate solutions.

Despite all our work to guide our people to do the right thing, we don't always get it right. This year, it became apparent that significant breaches of confidentiality had occurred in PwC Australia. While these breaches occurred a number of years ago, the former leadership of PwC Australia had not taken appropriate responsibility for or action to investigate or remediate them since that time. These behaviors violated our standards and codes of conduct and are completely unacceptable.

Under new leadership a number of actions have been taken by PwC Australia in the past six months to address its Governance, Culture and Accountability. While there is some way to go, PwC Australia is taking steps to start earning back the trust that has been lost. The highly regrettable situation in Australia is also a reminder to us as a network about what can happen when we don't keep our purpose and our values central to everything we do and that building and maintaining a culture of quality and integrity is a continuous journey that requires focus, effort and dedication.

One of the central ways we guide our people across the PwC network on how to behave is our codes of conduct, which highlights the importance of ethical conduct.

The PwC Global Code of Conduct (the 'Code') is applicable to all partners and staff in our network. The Code, which highlights the importance of ethical conduct, provides principles-based guidance, helping our people think about difficult questions, promoting consultation, and encouraging our people to speak up if they have concerns. The Code sets out a common set of expectations for our conduct, a key element of which is abiding by applicable laws and regulations. If any local law or regulation is more restrictive than the Code, local law or regulation governs.

Network and local policies and supplemental guidance complement the principles embodied in this Code and the PwC Network Risk Management Policies.

The Code was updated recently to include enhanced guidance on issues such as reinforcing the importance of a strong Speak up culture, whereby partners and staff can feel safe raising a question or concern, the use of social media, the importance of maintaining confidentiality, integrity and objectivity in everything we do, and stating that we don't tolerate harassment, discrimination or bullying. An extensive year-long communications campaign is underway across the PwC network, led by our global leadership and local Territory Senior Partners, to introduce the updated code and emphasise the key messages about our ethical culture.







In the area of taxation, there's a general principle that taxpayers have the right to manage their tax affairs provided they act within the law. Equally, they should also be able to access independent advice on their tax position. However, in order to make informed decisions, our clients require guidance to understand the dynamic and complex nature of tax laws – both at a national and international level. In helping our clients and our people make these informed decisions on tax, taking into account the relevant considerations, our member firms act according to our Global Tax Code of Conduct.

The tax code was updated to reflect recent events, changes to the global tax environment and to reinforce the importance to PwC of having a well functioning tax system, acting as good stewards when operating as tax advisors and respecting confidentiality in all aspects of our work as tax advisors. In addition, the tax code emphasises how all our tax advisors are accountable and expected to act in line with the code and the obligation to call out behaviour that is not in line with the code. The updated tax code is currently being rolled out with an extensive engagement campaign across our 44,000 strong community of tax professionals across the world.

We also expect professional standards of conduct from the external organisations with whom we work. External parties who work with our member firms must adopt and comply with the <a href="PwC Global Third Party">PwC Global Third Party</a>
Code of Conduct or its equivalent.

# **Complaints and allegations**

The Code and the behaviours we seek to reinforce are brought to life in numerous ways for our people, including formal training, leadership programmes emphasising a culture of speaking up and showing respect at work, and in our day-to-day work and handling of complaints and investigations.

**Speak up.** Speaking up is crucial to our culture at PwC – it's a living example of our values. Speaking up when something doesn't seem right demonstrates integrity and that we have the courage to do the right thing. It also helps to prevent mistakes and misconduct, while showing that we care about each other and our business. And it assists us in living up to our commitment to deliver quality outcomes. Everyone within the PwC network – no matter their level or role – is encouraged and empowered to speak up when dealing with a situation that doesn't seem right. All PwC partners and staff have a responsibility to report and express their concerns, even if the concerns involve senior people.

Each member firm has a confidential and secure tier of the <u>PwC Ethics Helpline</u> and supporting case management system, whereby any PwC partner, staff member or third party can raise a question or concern, without fear of retaliation.

**Listen up.** Listening and collaboration mean we consult with our colleagues so that concerns are heard and addressed in an open and professional manner. We have many reporting channels at PwC. In addition to the Ethics Helpline, partners and staff can consult with the Ethics and Business Conduct leaders, managers or supervisors, coaches, Human Capital, Risk Management, or the Office of General Counsel. We want our people to choose a channel that is most comfortable for them to speak up.

**Follow up.** For any allegation, complaint, or concern, we investigate and address the situation in an appropriate, timely and objective way. If a concern is reported, it's handled with appropriate confidentiality. Disciplinary action is taken as appropriate and in accordance with established accountability frameworks in each member firm.

**Non-retaliation.** PwC is committed to protecting our people against retaliation when complaints are filed in good faith. Retaliation is serious misconduct that will not be tolerated, and any PwC professional – whether a partner or staff member – who takes retaliatory action will be held accountable.

### **Conflicts of interest**

Given the broad nature of our operations and the many clients that we serve, PwC frequently faces the risk of potential conflicts of interest. We take any potential conflict of interest seriously. If a conflict is identified, we're committed to facilitating member firms' efforts to take timely steps to address it. Member firms maintain internal controls and processes designed to identify potential conflicts and comply with applicable laws and regulations. Our programmes reinforce the need to act in accordance with the code and frameworks for ethical decision-making at both a member firm and network level. The network and member firms understand that there's a greater risk of conflict of interests, or a perception of such issues by our stakeholders, in some key areas (including working with government). There are separate principles to deal with these areas.







# Working with government officials

Our network has a set of principles that it expects all member firms to follow when hiring a former government official or when someone from PwC takes a senior post in government. When we refer to government in this context, the term covers not only organisations regarded as strictly governmental, but also organisations that regulate or have public oversight of the professional services that we provide.

# Our principles

When we recruit staff from governments, as explained above, or when our people leave PwC to join those organisations, our principles are as follows:

- when government officials join PwC, we uphold any professional restrictions the government or the law imposes on them. Where there are no rules, we put appropriate restrictions in place
- when government officials join PwC, they don't represent us in front of those government bodies they previously represented for a period of at least one year, or for a longer period if prescribed by the government
- when a senior PwC person joins a body that has regulatory oversight of PwC and our practitioners, we advise the body of any ongoing financial interest they have in PwC (e.g. pension arrangements). In addition, we ask that the individuals are not involved in making decisions about PwC for at least one year and until that financial interest concludes
- to enable us to uphold the practice outlined in the point above, we ask retired partners to advise us before accepting an appointment with any government body or regulatory agency

There will be differences in how these principles apply to local circumstances for our member firms, as local laws or regulations could override the principles or provide additional requirements with which a member firm must comply. However, we expect member firms to have a common minimum approach in line with these principles.

This year we are again reporting against the 21 core metrics that cover the four key areas of Principles of Governance, Planet, People and Prosperity and the additional 34 metrics that go into more detail for each area.

Of the total 55 metrics, 16 are not relevant to PwC as a professional services network. Of the 39 metrics that are relevant to us, we are reporting fully against 16 metrics, partially against 19 and not reporting against the remaining four relevant metrics. A similar result to last year. We are proud of the work that we have done in relation to these metrics but there is always more we can do and we will strive to comply fully with more metrics in the future.

### **Principles of governance**



Our purpose: Build trust in society and solve important problems.



Our values: Act with integrity, make a difference, care, work together, reimagine the possible.



All of our partners and staff are required to complete annual training on PwC's anti-corruption policies and procedures.



Our Code of Conduct sets out a common framework on how we expect our 364,000-plus people to behave.



As of 1 July, 2023, PwCIL's Global Board has 19 members who are responsible for the governance of PwCIL and the PwC network. During FY23, the Board met 12 times.



Each member firm has access to a confidential ethics helpline.

### **Planet**



On track to meet our near term science-based targets.



Reduced business travel emissions by 49% from FY19 baseline.



Reduced scope 1 & 2 emissions by 61% from FY19 baseline, with 91% of our electricity from renewable sources.



Delivered our third annual voluntary Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).



Working towards our FY25 target of 50% of suppliers (by emissions) having science-based targets, with 18% having targets and a further 10% committed to setting targets.



This year we've expanded our disclosures to include our land footprint in or adjacent to biodiverse regions and an estimate of our water use in water-stressed regions.



364,232 total headcount.



129,829 people joined PwC.



36,285 net new jobs created in the last year.



of workforce is female.



86% of our people are proud to work at PwC.



Average learning completions per month increased to **1.89** million (up from 1.87 million last year).

## **Prosperity**



Global revenue US\$53.1 billion up 9.9% over FY221.



Number of acquisitions: 17 (FY22: 17).



42,666 PwC people volunteered to support their communities.



Investments: US\$3.7 billion compared with US\$3.1 billion in FY22.



Volunteering time: 870,403 hours.



Total employment taxes paid by 21 largest firms US\$2.2billion (estimate).



# **Principles of governance**







Core Metrics			
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information
Governing Purpose	Setting Purpose	Comply	Please see our purpose and values.
Quality of Governing Body	Governance Body composition	Comply	Please see the Governance chapter of our FY23 Global Transparency Report for information on our Global Board and Global Leadership Team.
Stakeholder Engagement	Material issues impacting stakeholders	Comply	Please see the Risk chapter of our FY23 Global Transparency Report for a discussion on material issues impacting stakeholders.
Ethical Behaviour	<u>Anti-Corruption</u>	Comply	Please see our approach to anti-corruption All of our partners and staff are required to complete an annual training on the anti-corruption policies and procedures. For FY23, most of our 21 largest firms reported 99-100% completion, although there were outliers who reported in the range of 88-97%. Every firm is required to develop a sanctions protocol to require 100% completion of training for all partners and staff and institute consequences for late completion. In FY23, there were no incidents of corruption in our 21 largest firms culminating in publicly reported regulatory or court adjudications, related to either the current or previous years. The figures provided do not include matters subject to ongoing legal or regulatory proceedings or appeals.  The Network has a robust anti-corruption programme and does not tolerate any form of bribery or corruption. This is clearly stated in PwC's Code of Conduct, in our policies and procedures, in all required training on anti-corruption and in regular messaging and communications by firm leaders. We have developed a framework of governance and transparency to promote tone at the top leadership and accountability, reinforcing our zero-tolerance around bribery and corruption. We also require our third parties to comply with the Third Party Code of Conduct, which prohibits any form of bribery or corruption.  As part of our overall programme, firms prepare an annual risk assessment and action plan, in order to conduct regular assessments of the firm's compliance risk, which is tailored to the firm's evolving business profile (including geographies in which we operate and clients who we serve), to confirm that the programme is operating as designed and is meeting firm, legal and regulatory requirements and expectations. Firms have also implemented monitoring programmes that include independent testing and reporting to prevent and detect compliance issues and to facilitate appropriate and timely responses to any risk identified. Testing includes review of expenses for gif

Core Metrics			
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information
Ethical Behaviour	Protected Ethics Advice and Reporting Mechanism	Comply	Please see the Risk chapter of our Global Transparency Report for a discussion on how we manage ethics and independence.  We have implemented the PwC Ethics Helpline and Case Management System across the Network and each firm has a separate and secure helpline tier for their reported cases and investigations. The Ethics Helpline is available for all PwC partners and staff as well as clients, third parties and any other external party; reporters can remain anonymous when using the helpline. Firms support and drive a Speak up culture, encouraging all partners and staff to ask questions or report any issues or concerns about ethical behaviour or organisational integrity.  In addition to the helpline, Firms have many other reporting channels, including resources in the Ethics team, Human Capital, the Office of General Counsel, Risk Management, supervisors, coaches and relationship leaders or partners. Firms reinforce and communicate those channels through internal communications, training, policies, and dedicated Ethics intranet sites.  Firms have developed Ethics Committees, where they meet regularly to review reported cases and trends; they work with key stakeholders and firm leadership to address these issues and develop proactive strategies to promote and maintain an ethical culture. Firms have also established Ethics Champions and trusted partners in their business units to further support the ethics function.
Risk and Opportunity Oversight	Integrating Risk and Opportunity Into Business Process	Comply	Please see the Risk chapter of our Global Transparency Report for a discussion of how we identify and manage our key network risks.

Expanded Metrics			
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information
Governing Purpose	Purpose led-management	Comply	PwC's purpose to build trust in society and solve important problems is at the heart of our strategy and all our decision making. Examples of how our purpose is brought to life, what we do and how we behave can be found in our FY23 Global Annual Review
Quality of Governing Body	Progress against strategic milestones	Partially Comply	PwC's strategy The New Equation which launched in June 2021 has at its heart our network's purpose "to build trust in society and solve important problems." Progress against some of the objectives of that strategy such as <a href="financial performance">financial performance</a> and <a href="net zero">net zero</a> can be found on our website.
Quality of Governing Body	Remuneration	Partially Comply	PwC's Global Board in coordination with territory Governance Bodies oversees the remuneration of the leaders of the PwC network - the Network Leadership Team (NLT) - in respect of their network roles. Determining the remuneration of the NLT is based on performance against an agreed set of key performance indicators (KPIs) in line with the PwC strategy, including KPIs related to ESG factors. In addition, the Global Board has oversight of the NLT's determination of PwC's Global Leadership Team (GLT) remuneration. The KPIs that the GLT is judged upon, depending on role, can include KPIs related to ESG factors.
Ethical Behaviour	Alignment of strategy and policies to lobbying	Partially Comply	PwC participates in public policy development in a variety of ways which are intended to complement the PwC purpose to build trust and solve important problems. These include active participation in, for example -  Standard-setter bodies, such as the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), and the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB). Regulatory and other standard setter consultations and comments on exposure drafts and draft regulations and standards  Multilateral organisations, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  Forums for bringing stakeholders together to make progress on issues of importance to society such as the World Economic Forum (WEF)  Development of a wide variety of thought leadership  PwC supports policy development and thought leadership regarding important topical issues including climate, tax, financial reporting, accounting and auditing, broader business issues, future of work, sustainability reporting and assurance, independence, diversity and inclusion, and use of emerging technologies. All member firms are expected to follow global policies regarding conduct and compliance with regard to any public policy development or lobbying. By way of example, PwC has put in place a set of principles that our network expects to be followed by all firms when hiring a former government official or when someone from PwC takes a senior post in government in order to avoid any potential for conflicts of interest. This covers not only organisations regarded as strictly governmental but also organisations that regulate or have public oversight of the professional services that we provide. The principles are intended to minimise potential conflicts, to avoid the potential that confidences gained from one role could be used improperly in another or for the advantage of a PwC firm and to comply with applicable regulatory and legal restrictions on post-government employment. Having a set of principles for use across the PwC netwo

Expanded Metrics								
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information					
Ethical Behaviour	Monetary losses from unethical behaviour	Partially Comply	In FY23, our 21 largest firms had total monetary losses aggregating less than US\$10 million (equivalent to .0002% of our global revenue) as a result of final publicly reported regulatory or court adjudications associated with malpractice or violations of other related industry laws or regulations, fraud, insider trading, antitrust, anti-competitive behaviour, or market manipulation.  The figures provided do not include matters subject to ongoing legal or regulatory proceedings or appeals.					
Risk and Opportunity Oversight	Economic, environmental and social topics in capital allocation framework	Comply	Our network's purpose and strategy are focused on building trust in society and solving the world's important problems. Our Global Board approves our network budget which is set by the NLT in alignment with the network's purpose and strategy and our net zero commitments. You can see here the impact of the Board's oversight in PwC's work this year on issues such as climate change and inclusion and diversity.					













Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
Climate Change	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions	Comply	PwC's detailed network GHG emissions are available in our	2023 PwC Network Environmen	t Report				
Climate Change	TCFD implementation	Comply	PwC's response to the TCFD recommendations is available in	in our <u>2023 PwC Network Enviro</u>	onment Report				
Nature loss	Land use and ecological sensitivity	Comply	We assessed the extent to which PwC member firms' office locations are in or adjacent to key biodiversity areas and/or protected areas. These are designated areas that have been recognised as contributing significantly to the long term conservation of nature and biodiversity.  PwC member firm offices in or adjacent to biodiverse regions						
			Region	Number of offices in or adjacent (i.e. within 1km) to key biodiversity and/or protected areas	Land footprint (ha)				
			Americas	34	13				
			Asia Pacific	19	2				
			Europe, Middle East and Africa	117	29				
			Total	170	44				
			PwC member firm offices include owned, leased or managed locations as of 30 June, 2023. Key biodiversity areas and protected areas we identified using the The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT). This tool combines three biodiversity datasets – the World Database Protected Areas, the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, and The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.  Relevant office land footprint data was estimated using relevant legal or government documents, and/or area calculator tools using satelli imagery. In instances where PwC member firms are one of multiple tenants in a building, the land footprint was proportionally accounted Where this information was not readily available the total land footprint of the office has been reported. Some of our offices already have biodiversity plans and we will continue to share their learnings more broadly across our network.						

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
Fresh water availability	Water consumption and withdrawal in water-stressed areas	Comply	Water use in our operations and supply chain is not deemed to be material at this time. Insights from our nature baseline impact analysis are available in our 2023 PwC Network Environment Report.  However, we recognise it is important to understand any impact in sensitive areas, therefore we assessed the extent to which PwC's 744 member firm offices are located in water-stressed regions by overlaying a map of water-stressed areas onto our office network. A total of 253 PwC's member firm offices are located in water-stressed regions. We estimate our water usage in these regions to be 564 megalitres per annuwhich represents 43% of our estimated total.  A number of our member firms have set water consumption targets and track their progress against these targets (e.g. PwC UK). We will continue to share these findings and learnings more broadly across the network.  Impact of PwC member firm offices in water-stressed regions  Region  Number of offices in water-stressed regions  Americas  51  100  Asia Pacific  Europe, Middle East and Africa  142  212  Total  Baseline water stress measures the ratio of total water withdrawals to available renewable surface and groundwater supplies. Water withdrawal include domestic, industrial, irrigation, and livestock consumptive and nonconsumptive uses. Available renewable water supplies include the impact of upstream consumptive water users and large dams on downstream water availability. Higher values indicate more competition amon users. Baseline water stress was determined using the WRI Aqueduct water risk alias tool. Water stressed regions are those defined as and, extremely high and high.  Water usage was estimated by extrapolating average per capita water use from a number of PwC member firms. The per capita factor was also tested by way of benchmark against comparable industry data disclosed in peer reviewed papers.  We have assumed for these purposes that water used in our offices does not return to the same catchment area, or does not return in the sam period. Therefore						

Expanded Metrics			
Topic	Metric	Adoption status	More information
Resource Availability	Resource circularity	Partially Comply	Some of our member firms have adopted circularity principles in their business. PwC UK has a strategy to decouple material consumption from business growth and move towards a circular economy. More information about their programme can be found <a href="here">here</a> .
Nature Loss	Land use and ecological sensitivity Impact of land use and conversion	Not Material	As a professional services network, our impact in these areas is limited and not deemed to be material at this time. Insights from our nature baseline impact analysis are available in our 2023 PwC Network Environment Report.
Fresh Water Availability	Impact of freshwater consumption and withdrawal	Not Material	
Air Pollution	Air pollution Impact of air pollution	Not Material	
Water Pollution	Nutrients Impact of water pollution	Not Material	
Solid Waste	Single-use plastics Impact of solid waste disposal	Not Material	













Core Metrics									
Topic	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
Dignity & Equality	Dignity & Equality  Diversity and inclusion (%)  Partially Comply		Like last year we are disclosing percentages of male and female employees and partners by Line of Service and management level as well as ethnicity data by Line of Service and management level where it is available. We are currently not reporting people data by age group. Wherever gender percentages are disclosed, we have removed workers who did not provide a response from the numbers reported. For headcount metrics, we have excluded 1.2% of our global workforce who did not provide a response on gender.  Representation of women, particularly at the director and partner levels, remains lower in Advisory, but we have seen improvements year over year. While we are continuing to focus on retention and hiring of females to fill more senior Advisory roles, we are facing continued challenges due to overrepresentation of males in technology and engineering fields both in university programs and in industry.  Our aspiration is to achieve balanced overall gender representation. We also continue to maintain our focus on being recognised as an inclusive employer of choice by developing policies and benefits to attract and retain female and diverse talent at all levels. We recognise the role we play in supporting our people with both their work and personal lives, at all stages of their careers. Please see our inclusion and diversity pages for further information.  Employee Category by Line of Service, Management Level & Gender						
			Line of Service	Aggregated Management Level	Female %	Male %	Not declared %		
			Advisory	Intern/Trainee	46.1%	53.8%	0.16%		
				Associates	43.7%	56.2%	0.07%		
				Managers	36.0%	63.9%	0.06%		
				Directors	25.9%	74.0%	0.09%		
				Partners	17.8%	82.2%	0.00%		
			Advisory total		39.4%	60.6%	0.07%		
			Assurance	Intern/Trainee	45.3%	54.7%	0.06%		
				Associates	54.7%	45.3%	0.04%		
				Managers	49.2%	50.8%	0.04%		
				Directors	40.7%	59.3%	0.05%		
				Partners	25.3%	74.7%	0.00%		

Core Metrics								
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information					
			Assurance total	51.5%	48.5%	0.04%	Not declared %	
			Internal Firm Services	Intern/Trainee	49.9%	49.8%	0.23%	
				Associates	61.4%	38.5%	0.05%	
				Managers	57.0%	42.9%	0.11%	
				Directors	52.2%	47.7%	0.08%	
				Partners	30.3%	69.7%	0.00%	
			Internal Firm Services total		58.7%	41.2%	0.08%	
			Tax and Legal Services	Intern/Trainee	50.3%	49.6%	0.15%	
				Associates	57.9%	42.0%	0.10%	
				Managers	52.8%	47.1%	0.07%	
				Directors	40.8%	59.2%	0.02%	
				Partners	28.5%	71.5%	0.00%	
			Tax and Legal Services total	I	53.3%	46.6%	0.08%	
			Total		49.0%	51.0%	0.06%	
			Grouping		Includes			
			Intern/Trainee		Intern/Trainee			
			Associates	Associates		sociate, Administra	tive, Specialists	
			Managers		Senior Manager, Mar	nager		
			Directors		Managing Director, D	irector, Salaried Pa	ırtner	
			Partners		Equity Partner			

Core Metrics												
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information									
			Employee Category by M	lanagemer	nt Level &	Gender						
				FY23				FY22				FY21
			Aggregated Management Level	Female (%)	Male (%)	Not Declared (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Not Declared (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Not Declared (%)
			Intern/Trainee	47.0%	52.9%	0.13%	47.0%	52.9%	0.14%	49.90%	50.10%	0.06%
			Associates	52.8%	47.1%	0.06%	52.8%	47.2%	0.06%	53.60%	46.30%	0.05%
			Managers	46.6%	53.3%	0.07%	46.6%	53.3%	0.07%	46.50%	53.40%	0.05%
			Directors	36.7%	63.2%	0.07%	36.7%	64%	0.09%	35.60%	64.40%	0.04%
			Partners	23.4%	76.6%	0.00%	23.20%	76.80%	0.00%	22.40%	77.60%	0.00%
			Grouping				Include	es				
			Intern/Trainee	Intern/Trainee			Intern/	Trainee				
			Associates				Senior Associate, Associate, Administrative, Specialists					alists
			Managers			Senior	Manager, N	Manager				
			Directors	Directors			Managi	ing Directo	r, Director, S	Salaried Pa	artner	
			Partners				Equity	Partner				

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
			We report ethnicity data for nine of our larger territories. Wherever ethnicity is disclosed, we have reported the majority/minority % after removing workers from those nine territories who did not provide a response. The included workers represent 37.6% of our global workforce. We are unable to report ethnicity data for our other larger territories because either the territories do not collect this data or local laws prohibit sharing of this data. Each of the nine reporting territories has mapped the majority/minority ethnicity of its workforce.  All of the reporting territories have unique ethnic minority classifications and populations. What is consistent however is the higher representation of minorities in more junior grades. Over the past year we have improved minority representation within three of our Lines of Service, which is largely driven by Associates.  Employee Category by Line of Service, Management Level & Ethnicity						
			Line of Service	Aggregated Management Level	Majority %	Minority %			
			Advisory	Intern/Trainee	54.2%	45.8%			
				Associates	69.2%	30.8%			
				Managers	62.0%	38.0%			
				Directors	65.1%	34.9%			
				Partners	74.7%	25.3%			
			Advisory total		66.2%	33.8%			
			Assurance	Intern/Trainee	63.3%	36.7%			
				Associates	54.0%	46.0%			
				Managers	59.0%	41.0%			
				Directors	74.2%	25.8%			
				Partners	82.4%	17.6%			
			Assurance Total		58.6%	41.4%			

Core Metrics							
Topic	Metric	Adoption status	More information				
			Internal Firm Services	Intern/Trainee	27.5%	72.5%	
				Associates	63.6%	36.4%	
				Managers	66.3%	33.7%	
				Directors	77.9%	22.1%	
				Partners	87.9%	12.1%	
			Internal Firm Services total		63.8%	36.2%	
			Tax and Legal Services	Intern/Trainee	54.5%	45.5%	
				Associates	57.9%	42.1%	
				Managers	64.8%	35.2%	
				Directors	72.9%	27.1%	
				Partners	80.1%	19.9%	
			Tax and Legal Services total	ıl	62.8%	37.2%	
			Total		62.9%	37.1%	
			Grouping		Includes		
			Intern/Trainee		Intern/Trainee		
			Associates		Senior Associate, As	sociate, Administrative, Specialists	
			Managers		Senior Manager, Mar	nager	
			Directors		Managing Director, Director, Salaried Partner		
			Partners		Equity Partner		

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
			Grouping			Includes			
			Majority			Defined locally by territories			
			Minority			Defined locally by te	erritories		
Dignity & Equality	Pay equality (%)	Partially Comply	Like last year we are again disclosing gender pay ratios by management level as well as by Line of Service and ethnicity.  When considering the ratios of both basic salary and basic salary and bonus, our gender pay gap has increased slightly year over year for all management levels, with the exception of basic salary for Directors. Our pay gap is measured using the World Economic Forum definition as the ratio of the average woman's pay to the average man's pay at each staff level. The numbers reported are based on the weighted average of gender pay gaps at each staff level in our 21 largest territories, and includes those employed on the last day of the fiscal year.  For global pay gap metrics, we have removed workers whose gender is not declared or where a response was not provided from the numbers reported, which is 0.4% of our workforce in our 21 largest territories.  Global Pay Gap by Management Level						
				F	Y23	FY22			
			Grouped Management Level	Ratio of basic salary: Female to Male (%)	Ratio of basic salary and bonus: Female to Male (%)	Ratio of basic salary: Female to Male (%)	Ratio of basic salary and bonus: Female to Male (%)		
			Associates	94.0%	94.0%	95.0%	94.7%		
			Managers	93.6%	93.0%	93.7%	93.2%		
			Directors	92.2%	91.4%	91.8%	91.8%		
			Grouping		Includes				
			Associates		Senior Associate, As	ssociate, Administrativ	e, Specialists		
			Managers		Senior Manager, Manager				
			Directors		Managing Director, Director, Salaried Partner				

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information	n					
			Similar to last year, Assurance has the lowest pay gap for both base only and base + bonus.  The gap for Advisory remains the widest of our Lines of Service, but we did see small improvements this year in closing the gap. This is largely driven by the relative seniority of employees in Advisory and the high proportion of men in these senior roles. Minor discrepancies in FY22's disclosures have been corrected in the tables below to facilitate a more accurate comparison year over year.  Global Pay Gap by Line of Service						
				FY23 FY22					
			Line of Service	Ratio of basic salary: Female to Male (%)  Ratio of basic salary and bonus: Female to Male (%)		Ratio of basic salary: Female to Male (%)	Ratio of basic salary and bonus: Female to Male (%)		
			Advisory	84.3%	82.8%	83.9%	82.5%		
			Assurance	92.7%	91.7%	93.3%	92.6%		
			Tax and Legal Services	89.6%	87.9%	89.0%	88.1%		
			Internal Firm Services	88.3%	87.5%	88.0%	87.5%		
			bonus.	ider pay gap, the main drive			y only and 84.9% (FY22: 85.2%) for base pay + of ethnic minorities at more senior levels -		
			Note on ethnicity minority % after reglobal workforce.	data: We report ethnicity do emoving workers from thos We are unable to report eth t sharing the data. Each of	se nine territories who did r hnicity data for our other la	not provide a response. The rger territories because eit	y is disclosed, we have reported the majority/ e included workers represent 37.6% of our ther the territories do not collect this data or //minority ethnicity of its workforce.		
			Ratio of basic sa (%)	lary: Minority to Majority	Ratio of basic salary and bonus: Minority to Majority (%)	Ratio of basic salary: Minority to Majority (%)	Ratio of basic salary and bonus: Minority to Majority (%)		
			90.2%	90.2%		92.8%	91.8%		
			Grouping			Includes			
			Majority			Defined locally by territo	ries		
			Minority			Defined locally by territo	ries		

Core Metrics			
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information
Dignity & Equality	Wage level (%)	Partially Comply	At PwC, we believe in paying people equitably, irrespective of their race, gender or age. We do not have data on standard-entry wage level by gender compared to the local minimum wage. However, our member firms are required to comply with all applicable local laws, and we have confirmed with our Strategy Council member firms that they have processes and controls in place to comply with all applicable local wage laws. PwC member firms regularly conduct comprehensive reviews of compensation data to understand any differences between and among staff. Global Chair / Employee Pay Ratio - Results
			Ratio of the Global Chair's Compensation to the median FY23 employee pay 143
			Similar to last year, we are disclosing the ratio of our Global Chair's compensation to the median FY23 employee pay (including base pay and bonus).  In FY23, our Global Chair Bob Moritz earned 143 times the median remuneration (basic salary and bonus) of PwC people (excluding partners) in our 21 largest territories. (FY22: 142 times, FY21: 130 times)  Mr Moritz's remuneration is determined by the PwC Global Governance Board. It includes a performance component assessed by the Global Governance Board based on the achievement of his and the Network Leadership Team's (NLT's) annual priorities, progress against the NLT shared strategic goals, and input collected from relevant leaders.  The FY23 ratio is relatively consistent with FY22, as both the Global Chair's compensation and the median remuneration increased slightly this year.
Health and Wellbeing	Health and safety (%)	Partially Comply	Given the nature of the work undertaken by PwC, we do not believe that reporting against workplace injuries etc. is a relevant metric for PwC. Fortunately the nature of the work undertaken by PwC means that workplace injuries are extremely rare.  The safety and wellbeing of our people is a top priority. Most PwC firms around the world have best practice health and wellbeing programmes in place. Some examples include -  • A number of territories including Australia, Canada, CEE, Germany, Italy, Middle East, Switzerland, the US and the UK have invested in mental health first aiders.  • In China, a Wellbeing App has been developed, providing a seamless, personalised experience with a wide range of inclusive products and services that foster employee connections, interactions and the opportunity to create meaningful relationships with colleagues.  • In CEE, team members participated in a 21-day gratitude challenge focused around four topic areas: Focus on You, Focus on Others, Focus on the World, and Make Habits Stick.  • The Middle East and Sweden are examples of territories that have adopted a data-driven approach to foster sustainable working practices. Information around workloads, mental health and flexibility is collected via an anonymous survey. Using the insights gathered, programmes for coaching, habit adoption and work methodologies were developed.

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
			<ul> <li>At the network level, we are committed to integrating sustainable working practices into our people's diverse work styles, enabling quality delivery and supporting high performance routines. We offer all of our people access to an assessment that helps them improve their daily routines by helping them assess their workday and identify areas for improvement or adjustments.</li> <li>This year, we have confirmed with our Strategy Council member firms that its professionals are offered affordable options to access medical and healthcare services deemed adequate for the given country, if the country's public or universal healthcare programme is not sufficient.</li> </ul>						
Skills for the Future	Training provided (#, \$)	Partially Comply	This year, we are again disclosing the average training hours per employee by Line of Service and gender, which includes any learning tracked via Vantage, our global learning experience platform. It does not include on-the-job learning, coaching, or external learning such as conferences. We are also disclosing the average training and development expenditure per full time employee for our 21 largest territories. This includes internal training costs only. We do not collect data on external training costs.  Average Learning & Development Hours						
			Fiscal year Average training hours per employee (global)						
			FY23	65.7					
			FY22	69.7					
			FY21	56.3					
			FY20	57.9					
			FY19	52.3					
			Average training hours by Line of Service						
			Fiscal year	FY23	FY22				
			Advisory	50.4	48.3				
			Assurance         102.2         114.1           Internal Firm Services         26.4         27.1						
			Tax and Legal Services	49.7	48.3				

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
			Average training hours by Gender						
			Gender	FY23	FY22				
			Female	65.8	70.0				
			Male	64.5	69.2				
			Not declared	61.4	52.0				
			Our annual average number of hours of training per employee has decreased slightly this year, but remains higher than the three years prior to FY22. Last year we had several upskilling campaigns underway as part of The New Equation, which drove average training hours up.						
			Our average learning completions per month have increased to 1.89 million (up from 1.87 million in FY22).						
			Assurance continues to spend the most time on learning, which is expected as they study to achieve their qualifications and complete a higher volume of required training each year than the other Lines of Service. When calculating average training hours by employee category, we have excluded training hours for workers whose gender is not declared or a response was not provided or are missing a Line of Service, which is 0.15% and 0.03% of total learning hours, respectively.						
			Our average learning & development expenditure per full time employee for our largest 21 territories is US\$2,052 (FY22:US\$2,088). This includes internal training expenditure only. We do not collect external training costs which, if included, would raise this figure.						

Expanded Metrics	Expanded Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information							
Dignity and Equality	Pay gap (%, #)	Partially comply	Please see our disclosures on inclusion and diversity where v Service for the PwC network as a whole.	Please see our disclosures on inclusion and diversity where we share our pay gap ratios broken down by both gender and ethnicity plus Line of Service for the PwC network as a whole.						
Dignity and Equality	Discrimination and harassment incidents (#) and the total amount of monetary losses	Partially comply	During the year, across our 21 largest firms PwC has not incurred monetary losses as a result of legal proceedings relating to employee discrimination and harassment incidents which have been publicly reported by way of a regulatory or court adjudication.  Where concerns about discrimination or harassment are raised internally, a wide variety of responses are utilised to prevent or sanction potential or actual misconduct, depending on the nature and severity of the concern raised. These measures may include but are not limited to formal warnings, training and coaching, impact on evaluation, compensation and promotion, impact on title, role and client assignments, and impact on continued employment from suspension to termination.							
Dignity and Equality	Living Wage	Not Comply	At PwC, we believe in paying people equitably, irrespective of their race, gender or age. We do not have data on current wages compared to the living wage in the countries we operate in. However, our member firms are required to comply with all applicable local laws, and we have confirmed with our Strategy Council member firms that they have processes and controls in place to comply with all applicable local wage laws.							
Health and wellbeing	Employee Wellbeing (%)	In progress	Most PwC firms around the world have best practice health and wellbeing programmes in place which are available to all of our people. While we do not currently track participation globally, we are working to understand what type of centralised reporting might be possible in the future. Please see examples in the Health and safety (%) core metric to learn more about our work to promote our people's wellbeing.							
Skills for the future	Monetised impacts of Training - increased earning capacity as a result of training intervention (%, \$)	Comply	Our spend on training and development is made up of a few staff, learning development and delivery, and professional qu our Learning Management System and Learning Experience well as global development and delivery of key talent program In FY23 we invested 3.1% (FY22: 3.3%) of payroll costs on to an increase in payroll costs rather than a decrease in L&D teach. Beyond formal training, they also learn on the job, fro Effectiveness of the training and development	lalifications. Our glo Layer, attendance to mmes. training across our 2 spend. In addition,	bal L&D functions or racking, evaluation a 21 largest territories. our people are given	over the costs of learning platforms such as and assessments, and curated learning, as  The apparent change in investment is due a time away from their daily roles to learn or				
			L&D effectiveness question	FY23 Score	FY22 Score	FY21 Score				
			"The Learning & Development I have used at PwC, 72% 70% 68% including classroom/virtual classroom, digital assets, webcasts, reading, job aids, eLearns and other digital learning has helped me prepare for the work I do"		68%					
			In this year's Global People Survey, 72% (FY22: 70%) of our increase of 2 points compared to prior year.	people agree that F	PwC training helps to	o prepare them for the work they do, an				

Expanded Metrics	Expanded Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information							
Dignity and equality	Risk for incidents of child, forced or compulsory labour  Human rights review, grievance impact and modern slavery (#. %)	Not material	As a professional services network, we do not consider our impact to be material in these areas.  We do not use child, forced or compulsory labour in any of our own operations. Our suppliers have to abide by our Global Third Party Code of Conduct, or its equivalent, which is explicit in our opposition to and intolerance of any form of child labour, human trafficking and modern slavery.							
Dignity and equality	Freedom of association and collective bargaining at risk (%)	Not material	As a professional services network, we do not consider our impact to be material in these areas.							
Health and wellbeing	Monetised impacts of work- related incidents on organisation (#, \$)	Not material	As a professional services network, we do not consider our impact to be material in these areas.							
Skills for the future	Number of unfilled skilled positions (#, %)	Not material	As a professional services network, we do not consider our impact to be material in these areas.							







Core Metrics	Core Metrics										
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information								
Employment and wealth generation	Absolute number and rate of employment	Partially Comply	To deliver on our strategy - The New Equation - which launched in June 2021, we have committed to creating over 100,000 net new jobs over five year period, with a clear emphasis on hiring specialists in increasingly critical areas such as cybersecurity, cloud, climate, transformation, and supply chain. We have reached two thirds of our target in just two years, adding 32,576 jobs in FY22 and 36,285 this past year.  Similar to last year, we are disclosing our hires and total turnover broken out by region, Line of Service and gender and providing headcount, hires and total turnover by ethnicity. Partners are excluded from hires and hire rate, while both partners and interns are excluded from terminations and turnover rate.  Overall, our hiring is quite balanced from a gender perspective: 48.6% of our FY23 hires are female (FY22: 48.4%). To improve the representation of women, many member firms have introduced initiatives to support a diverse range of candidates.  When reporting the gender representation of our hires we have removed those workers who did not provide a response, which is 3% of our FY23 new joiners.								
			Region	Global Line of Service	FY23 Hires	Rate of New Hire	Female (%)	Male (%)	Not Declared (%)		
			Americas	Advisory	6,863	31.4%	44.1%	55.6%	0.37%		
				Assurance	10,687	47.3%	48.1%	51.7%	0.24%		
				Internal Firm Services	4,937	33.9%	50.6%	48.9%	0.47%		
				Tax and Legal Services	5,670	40.8%	49.8%	49.8%	0.41%		
			Americas Total		28,157	38.6%	47.9%	51.8%	0.34%		

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More informa	ation					
			Region	Global Line of Service	FY23 Hires	Rate of New Hire	Female (%)	Male (%)	Not Declared (%)
			Asia Pacific	Advisory	20,377	45.2%	40.0%	59.9%	0.05%
				Assurance	21,382	48.0%	58.3%	41.7%	0.03%
				Internal Firm Services	4,833	35.7%	56.3%	43.7%	0.00%
			Tax and Legal Services	5,908	40.8%	57.6%	42.4%	0.02%	
			Asia Pacific Total		52,500	44.6%	50.8%	49.2%	0.04%
			Region	Global Line of Service	FY23 Hires	Rate of New Hire	Female (%)	Male (%)	Not Declared (%)
			Europe, Middle East and	Advisory	14,773	45.0%	40.2%	59.8%	0.03%
			Africa	Assurance	21,611	46.2%	45.8%	54.2%	0.05%
				Internal Firm Services	5,690	28.3%	58.3%	41.7%	0.06%
				Tax and Legal Services	7,098	39.1%	53.8%	46.2%	0.02%
			Europe, Middle East and Africa Total		49,172	41.7%	46.7%	53.3%	0.04%
			Grand Total		129,829	42.1%	48.6%	51.3%	0.11%

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
			This is the second year that we are reporting hires by ethnicity. The minority representation of our hires in FY23 of 42.1% (FY22: 32.9%) improved by nine percentage points over last year's hires and is slightly higher than the minority representation of our overall staff (37.1%). We continue to focus on attracting and recruiting ethnic minority talent through targeted programmes and recruitment campaigns.  Note on ethnicity data: we report ethnicity data for nine of our larger territories. Wherever ethnicity is disclosed, we have reported the majority/minority % after removing workers from those nine territories who did not provide a response. The included workers represent 34.1% of our FY23 new joiners. We are unable to report ethnicity data for our other larger territories because either the territories do not collect this data or local laws prohibit sharing the data. Each of the nine reporting territories has mapped the majority/minority ethnicity of its workforce.						
			Hires by Line of Service, Management Level & Ethnicity						
			Line of Service	Aggregated Management Level	Majority (%)	Minority (%)			
			Advisory	Intern/Trainee	60.2%	39.8%			
				Associates	73.3%	26.7%			
				Managers	60.3%	39.7%			
				Directors	64.5%	35.5%			
			Advisory Total		68.7%	31.3%			
			Assurance	Intern/Trainee	59.7%	40.3%			
				Associates	49.6%	50.4%			
				Managers	43.2%	56.8%			
				Directors	70.5%	29.5%			
			Assurance Total		51.8%	48.2%			
			Internal Firm Services	Intern/Trainee	22.5%	77.5%			
				Associates	55.6%	44.4%			
				Managers	58.2%	41.8%			
				Directors	72.4%	27.6%			
			Internal Firm Services Total		48.9%	51.1%			

Core Metrics							
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information				
			Tax and Legal Services Intern/Trainee		49.5%	50.5%	
				Associates	54.3%	45.7%	
				Managers	57.3%	42.7%	
				Directors	72.1%	27.9%	
			Tax and Legal Services Total		53.9%	46.1%	
			Overall Total		57.9%	42.1%	
			Grouping		Includes		
			Intern/Trainee		Intern/Trainee		
			Associates		Senior Associate, Associate, Administrative, Specialists		
			Managers		Senior Manager, Manager		
			Directors		Managing Director, Director, Salaried Partner		
			Grouping		Includes		
			Majority		Defined locally by territories		
			Minority		Defined locally by territories		
			Our commitment to delivering a differentiated people experience has continued to make PwC a great place to work. In FY23, 60,901 our member firms (FY22: 65,375), resulting in a total turnover rate of 19.7% (FY22: 23.5%). We are in contact with many of our former colleagues via our strong and active alumni network.  While our overall turnover rate improved by 3.8 percentage points over FY22, the ratio of female to male leavers has remained relative consistent and proportionate to our overall headcount.  When reporting the gender representation of our leavers we have removed those workers who did not provide a response, which is 2 FY23 leavers.				

Core Metrics									
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information						
			Total Turnover by Region, Line of Service & Gender						
			Region	Global Line of Service	Total Terminations	Turnover Rate (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Not Declared (%)
			Americas	Advisory	3,790	17.3%	33.5%	66.2%	0.37%
				Assurance	5,093	22.5%	47.9%	51.9%	0.20%
				Internal Firm Services	1,927	13.2%	46.9%	52.8%	0.31%
				Tax and Legal Services	2,673	19.2%	49.5%	50.2%	0.30%
			Americas Tot	tal	13,483	18.5%	44.0%	55.7%	0.28%
			Asia Pacific	Advisory	8,596	19.1%	37.0%	63.0%	0.05%
				Assurance	9,539	21.4%	55.9%	44.1%	0.03%
				Internal Firm Services	1,793	13.2%	55.1%	44.9%	0.06%
				Tax and Legal Services	2,855	19.7%	54.1%	45.9%	0.00%
			Asia Pacific	Total	22,783	19.4%	48.5%	51.5%	0.04%
			Europe, Middle East and Africa	Advisory	7,700	23.4%	39.0%	61.0%	0.01%
				Assurance	10,560	22.6%	49.9%	50.1%	0.05%
				Internal Firm Services	2,866	14.2%	60.9%	39.0%	0.07%
				Tax and Legal Services	3,509	19.3%	58.1%	41.9%	0.00%
			Europe, Midd	lle East and Africa Total	24,635	20.9%	49.0%	51.0%	0.03%
			Total		60,901	19.7%	47.7%	52.3%	0.09%

Core Metrics						
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information			
			The turnover of our minority staff is slightly higher than the overall reported minority population (37.1%) and lower than the rate of minority hires (42.1%).  Note on ethnicity data: we report ethnicity data for nine of our larger territories. Wherever ethnicity is disclosed, we have reported the majority/minority % after removing workers from those nine territories who did not provide a response. The included workers represent 31.5% of our FY23 leavers. We are unable to report ethnicity data for our other larger territories because either the territories do not collect this data or local laws prohibit sharing the data. Each of the nine reporting territories has mapped the majority/minority ethnicity of its workforce.			
			Total Turnover by Line of Service, Management Level & Ethnicity			
			Line of Service	Aggregated Management Level	Majority %	Minority %
			Advisory	Associates	68.7%	31.3%
				Managers	59.3%	40.7%
				Directors	66.2%	33.8%
				Directors	64.5%	35.5%
			Advisory Total		65.5%	34.5%
			Assurance	Associates	55.1%	44.9%
				Managers	55.4%	44.6%
				Directors	78.6%	21.4%
				Directors	70.5%	29.5%
			Assurance Total		56.1%	43.9%
			Internal Firm Services	Associates	63.5%	36.5%
				Managers	64.5%	35.5%
				Directors	76.7%	23.3%
				Directors	72.4%	27.6%
			Internal Firm Services Total		65.1%	34.9%

Expanded Metrics					
Topic	Metric	Adoption status	More information		
Employment and wealth generation	Significant indirect economic impacts	Partially comply	Our global network works collaboratively with a variety of organisations to address skills-related challenges facing the world at large, and to create sustained outcomes.		
			Since the launch of PwC's global commitment in 2018 to invest in the future of 15 million people, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and micro and social enterprises to help them maximise their potential, we've reached 23.7 million beneficiaries. 10 million+ of these beneficiaries were reached through our New world. New skills community programmes. New world. New skills. is our biggest global initiative in this area and addresses the mismatch between the skills people have today and those needed to navigate the digital world.		
			Through our collaboration with UNICEF in support of Generation Unlimited, we are working to help create more opportunities for today's youth. Bob Moritz co-chaired the Generation Unlimited Global Leadership Council meeting where stakeholders shared their perspectives on the challenges that exist for young people today. We jointly published thought leadership including <a href="The Net Zero Generation">The Net Zero Generation</a> , which addresses the need to upskill youth across the world to enable the net zero transition.		
			During Davos, PwC Global Climate Leader, Emma Cox led a panel discussion on investing in green skills to deliver net zero. Through our partnership with the World Economic Forum's Reskilling Revolution programme, we jointly published Putting Skills First, which outlines the need for a 'skills-first approach' to address skills and labour shortages and includes a framework for action for business and government.		
			Through our collaboration with the Global Solutions Initiative, we support its Young Global Changers (YGCs) programme, which has attracted over 400 young changemakers from 120 countries since 2017. The YGCs are provided with opportunities to network and build their skills. In 2023, a select group of YGCs participated in the Global Solutions Summit's Recoupling Awards, which recognised young changemakers who are driving impactful projects in their communities. Click <a href="here">here</a> for more.		
Innovation of Better Products and Services	Social value generated (%)	Partially comply	Work that we classify as "entirely" Sustainability related has generated US\$519m in FY23 (FY22: US\$301m). We also undertake further work on Sustainability matters as part of larger, multi-disciplinary projects. Revenue for these projects, including Sustainability, totalled \$605m in FY23.		
Innovation of Better Products and Services	<u>Vitality Index</u>	Not Comply	Currently, we collect data on our revenues in accordance with our lines of service. While we may change our data collection in the future, based on our current data collection we are not able to report against this metric.		

Expanded Metrics				
Торіс	Metric	Adoption status	More information	
Community and social vitality	Total Social Investment (\$)	Partially comply	Across the world, we contribute to our local communities by volunteering and offering our services on a pro-bono or discounted basis. For example, in this financial year, 42,666 PwC member firm volunteers gave 870,403 hours of volunteering (FY22: 34,245 volunteers, 789,000 hours). These numbers do not include all volunteering undertaken by PwC people. They only relate to PwC organised programmes or voluntary reports by our people in relation to PwC supported charitable causes. We do not systematically collect information on the charitable and volunteer activities of our people.	
			Over the last year, the financial value of our community activities is US\$240.4m (FY22: US\$222.5m.) This includes disaster response contributions (cash and in-kind donations) from our 21 largest territories totalling US\$3.4m (FY22: US\$6.2m).	
			Another of our key societal impacts is supporting our people's learning and development. On average, we spent US\$2,052 (FY22: US\$2,088) per employee on internal learning and development activities. This translates to an average of 65.7 per person (FY22: 69.7 hrs).	
			Across our network, 244,927 people completed one or more pieces of learning related to inclusion & diversity in FY23 (FY22: 226,042). This includes our Inclusive Mindset training programme, in which 314,890 learning hours have been logged by our people who have completed the curriculum to date. The total investment in the Inclusive Mindset programme is US\$684,403 (unchanged from FY22). Click <a href="here">here</a> for more on how we are delivering sustained outcomes for our communities.	
Community and social vitality	Additional tax remitted	Partially comply	Given the separate legal structure of member firms within the PwC network, we do not collect comprehensive information at a global level on taxes paid by each individual firm. However, this year we are providing details of some of the taxes paid by PwC firms around the world. To review this information, please see the <a href="Financials">Financials</a> section of our Global Transparency Report.	
Community and social vitality	Total tax paid by country for significant locations	Not comply	It is a characteristic of partnerships that payment of the taxes on the income produced in the partnership is an obligation of the individual equity partners. Given this and the separate legal structure of member firms within the PwC network, we do not collect information at a global level on taxes paid by each individual firm and its partners. We do provide some information on some taxes aggregated at a network level (see the <u>Financials</u> chapter of this Global Transparency Report) and some of our individual firms do provide information on their <u>total tax</u> <u>contributions</u> .	
Employment and wealth generation	Financial investment contribution  Infrastructure investments and services supported	Not Material	As a professional services network, we do not consider our impact to be material in these areas.  Since PwC is a network of privately owned separate legal entities, the metric on financial investment contribution is not relevant to PwC. As a professional services network, we make limited investments in infrastructure outside of renting property.	

- 1: The 9.9% revenue growth reported is growth in local currency. In US dollars revenues grew by 5.6%
- 2: Some numbers may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.
- 3: All numbers are at 30 June 2023, the end of our 2023 financial year, unless otherwise stated.
- 4: Some of the data reported relates to the 21 PwC territories known as the Strategy Council. These countries or regions included in the Strategy Council are: Australia, Africa Central and Southern Africa, Brazil, Canada, Central and Eastern Europe, China, France, Germany, Italy, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Middle East, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States. Together the Strategy Council represents 90% of PwC's global revenues so while we would prefer to report data that covers the whole of the PwC network and will work towards that wherever possible sometimes this can be challenging. We believe that reporting data that covers 90% of our revenues gives a very good indication of our performance or impact in a particular area.
- 5: We report ethnicity data for nine of our larger territories. (We are unable to report ethnicity data for our other larger territories because either the territories do not collect this data or local laws prohibit sharing the data). Each of the nine reporting territories has mapped the majority/minority ethnicity of its workforce.
- 6: Environmental data is provided by, or estimated for, each PwC member firm, and is then consolidated at the network level where a consistent methodology is applied for inclusion in this report.
- 7: Some FY22 metrics included data from PwC Russia where relevant, however Russia left the PwC Network on 4 July 2022 so no Russian data is included in the FY23 report.
- 8: In this report the terms PricewaterhouseCoopers, PwC, our, we and us are used to refer to the network of member firms of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited or, as the context requires, to one or more PwC member firms.



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At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We're a network of firms in 151 countries with over 364,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services. Find out more and tell us what matters to you by visiting us at www.pwc.com.