

IRSG Terms of Reference

Key objectives

1. TheCityUK and The City of London Corporation co-sponsor the International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG). IRSG members will be required to be members of TheCityUK, exceptions to this rule may be made in the case of small firms such as FinTechs to ensure their specific interests can be represented.
2. The IRSG will seek to be one of the leading cross-sectoral forums in Europe for the financial and related professional services (FRPS) industry to discuss and act upon regulatory developments. Within an overall goal of sustainable economic growth, it will identify opportunities to engage with governments, regulators and European/international institutions to promote an international regulatory framework that will facilitate open, competitive capital markets which enable the industry's customers and clients to have confidence in the products and services it is providing.
3. Acknowledging the change of status to the UK as it leaves the EU, but recognising the ongoing mutual interest in maintaining the strongest connections possible between the UK and the EU27. The IRSG will work to influence the regulatory landscape in the UK, Europe and at the international level to enhance the UK's position as an international financial centre so that it can continue to drive domestically, across Europe and internationally.
4. Through research, publications, policy initiatives and active engagement with policy makers, the IRSG will be a proactive contributor to the international regulatory debate. Where appropriate it will respond to regulatory initiatives or consultations from official bodies, but it will endeavour always to be forward-looking in taking a long-term view of the regulatory landscape. It will anticipate and proactively seek to shape future regulatory developments.
5. TheCityUK and the City of London Corporation are responsible for the governance of the IRSG. The IRSG Chair supported by the two Deputy Chairs, will report on IRSG progress to TheCityUK Board and the City of London Corporation. All official IRSG positions will be approved by TheCityUK's Board and the Chair and Deputy Chairs of the City of London's Policy and Resources Committee.
6. IRSG governance and performance will be reviewed regularly by the City of London Corporation and TheCityUK and will also form part of TheCityUK's performance assessment.
7. It will consult regularly with senior officials from HMG, the Bank of England and the FCA to ensure mutual understanding of priorities, activity and planned engagement. It will seek similar opportunities for open and constructive dialogue with other governments, European institutions and international bodies. It will work also closely with other key stakeholders, especially the major trade associations.

The Council

8. The Council agrees the high-level strategy of the IRSG and will hold the IRSG Board, which has responsibility for the delivery of these objectives through workstreams and dialogues, to account. The Council will identify emerging themes and an overall set of priorities. In developing the IRSG's strategy its Chair will consult IRSG members. It will provide an accountability mechanism for the IRSG's overall strategy rather than individual policy positions. It will also be invited to nominate industry representatives for workstreams and advise on the political context the IRSG operates in. The IRSG Board will manage the implementation of the work: convening workstreams, standing committees, dialogues, commissioning research etc. It will also oversee the IRSG's interaction with other bodies and its general engagement activities.
9. The Council will meet four times annually. Extraordinary meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chair. The Council may choose to invite representatives from other bodies (e.g. HM Treasury, the Bank of England etc) to attend meetings as participating observers.

Composition

10. The Council will be chaired by a senior City practitioner (currently Mark Hoban), who will serve as Chair of the IRSG for a period of 3 years.
11. The Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London Corporation and the Chair of TheCityUK's Public Affairs Committee will be *ex officio* the Deputy Chairs of the Council.
12. Membership of the Council will primarily be comprised of regulatory strategy experts, the chair of the IRSG Board, representatives from the main trade associations, TheCityUK and the City of London Corporation. Its membership (excluding observers) will be agreed by the Chair, TheCityUK and the City of London Corporation. Membership will be reviewed every two years.
13. Members will be nominated to the Council by financial and professional services firms and will be selected to ensure that the Council comprises a representative mix of members with sectoral knowledge and expertise. The Council will also include representatives of key sectoral trade associations.
14. Members are not permitted to send alternates to a Council meeting if they are unable to attend, unless a speaking role was envisaged on that occasion. Council members who are unable to attend three consecutive Council meetings will be asked to step down.
15. Members of the Council are not permitted to also participate in the IRSG Board (with the exception of the Chair of TheCityUK's Public Affairs Group and other relevant committees and the Managing Director of the City Office in Brussels). The same individual cannot be represented on the IRSG Council and the IRSG Board.

Selection criteria for members being recruited to the Council

16. In considering candidates for membership of the Council, the following criteria will be considered:
 - levels of seniority;

- broad financial or professional services experience;
- preparedness to contribute actively in the Council's work.

and the need to maintain the Council's overall:

- cross-sectoral representation;
- international representation;
- diversity.

The IRSG Board

17. The IRSG Council will be supported by a Board. The IRSG Board will be chaired by a senior regulatory industry practitioner.
18. The membership of the IRSG Board will be no more than 20 and includes the IRSG Chair, the Chair of TheCityUK's Public Affairs Group, the Chairs of all IRSG workstreams and the Managing Director of the City Office in Brussels. It will also include a representative of UK Finance, the ABI, the Investment Association and AFME. In light of the increasing importance of domestic regulatory developments an individual with responsibility for these issues will also be assigned.
19. IRSG Board membership will draw in senior regulatory and policy expertise from across the industry to reflect the international and cross-sectoral nature of the IRSG and ensure diversity. Membership of the Board will be for a period of three years. When a seat is vacated this will not be automatically retained by the same member firm to ensure that there is an evolution of membership on the board.
20. The IRSG Board will execute the IRSG's strategy and as such agree remits for workstreams, review and sign off content developed by the IRSG with all of its workstreams, standing committees and dialogues accountable to the Board.
21. The Board will report to and act for the IRSG Council and its Chair. Where an area of work agreed by the IRSG requires the creation of a bilateral dialogue, workstream or standing committee, the Board will oversee the establishment of the group. It will seek to ensure that the membership provides the necessary technical expertise where appropriate.
22. The Board will meet every six to eight weeks. Board members who are unable to attend three consecutive meetings will be asked to step down.

Coordination

23. As with other activity and committees, ensuring the IRSG remains focused on its strategy and delivers outcomes in a coordinated manner will be key. As such, a Coordination Group comprised of the Chair of the IRSG Council, the Director of Innovation and Growth of the City of London Corporation and the Chief Executive of TheCityUK will meet regularly to review progress made by the IRSG against its objectives and ensure complementarity with other industry activity. This activity will be supplemented by regular Secretariat meetings to discuss operational updates.

Working arrangements

24. TheCityUK's Public Affairs Group (PAG) will support the IRSG in developing messages and engagement tactics through the deputy chair of the Council who is the chair of PAG. IRSG positions on regulatory reform will be drawn on by TheCityUK and the City of London Corporation and used in the respective engagement strategies of both.
25. Broader coordination with the work of TheCityUK and the City of London Corporation will be undertaken by the coordination group. This includes a particular focus on TheCityUK's International Trade and Investment Group (ITIG), TheCityUK's Brexit Committee and TheCityUK's Long-Term Competitiveness Committee. The IRSG Chair will be a member of TheCityUK's Board and will join other committees as necessary.
26. The secretariat for the IRSG bodies will be provided jointly by the City of London Corporation and TheCityUK, drawing on expert support as appropriate to deliver its main responsibilities i.e. programme management of IRSG activities, coordination of contributions to content development and support for engagement activities.

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