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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST FOUNDATION**

### **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2022, which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and related notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is UK Law and FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council (FRC)'s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

The Directors have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease its operations, and as they have concluded that the charitable company's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ('the going concern period').

In our evaluation of the Directors' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the charitable company's business model and analysed how those risks might affect the charitable company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST  
FOUNDATION** *(continued)*

**Report on the audit of the financial statements (continued)**

***Conclusions relating to going concerns (continued)***

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that charitable company will continue in operation.

***Detecting irregularities including fraud***

We identified the areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements and risks of material misstatement due to fraud, using our understanding of the entity's industry, regulatory environment and other external factors and inquiry with the directors. In addition, our risk assessment procedures included: inquiring with the directors as to the charitable company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations and prevention and detection of fraud; inquiring whether the directors have knowledge of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations or alleged fraud; inspecting the charitable company's regulatory and legal correspondence; and reading Board minutes. We discussed identified laws and regulations, fraud risk factors and the need to remain alert among the audit team.

The charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including companies, charities and financial reporting legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items, including assessing the financial statement disclosures and agreeing them to supporting documentation when necessary.

The charitable company is not subject to other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these non-direct laws and regulations to inquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These limited procedures did not identify actual or suspected non-compliance.

We assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. As required by auditing standards, we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition. We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

In response to the risk of fraud, we also performed procedures including: identifying journal entries to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation; and assessing the disclosures in the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST  
FOUNDATION** *(continued)*

**Report on the audit of the financial statements (continued)**

***Detecting irregularities including fraud (continued)***

In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

***Other information***

The Directors are responsible for the other information presented in the Annual Report together with the financial statements. The other information comprises the information included in the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report. The financial statements and our auditor's report thereon do not comprise part of the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statement audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

***Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006***

Based solely on our work on the other information undertaken during the course of the audit:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report or the Strategic Report;
- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

***Matters on which we are required to report by exception***

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in these respects.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST FOUNDATION** (continued)

**Respective responsibilities and restrictions on use**

***Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements***

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 11, the Directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements including being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

***Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud, other irregularities, or error, and to issue an opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud, other irregularities or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities).

***The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities***

Our report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Sean O'Keefe (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of  
**KPMG, Statutory Auditor**  
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**13 December 2022**