
INTERNAL AUDIT RESPONSIBILITIES

F1 EXTRACTS FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND'S ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUDIT CODE OF PRACTICE

The internal audit service must consider the whole of the HEI's risk management, control and governance arrangements, including all its operations, resources, staff, services and responsibilities for other bodies. It should cover all activities associated with the institution, including those not funded by HEFCE. For example, it should consider controls that protect the HEI in its dealings with any subsidiary or associated company or student union, or any other activity in which the HEI has an interest.

Internal auditors should also assess the adequacy of the arrangements to prevent and detect irregularities, fraud and corruption.

The HEFCE guidance on internal audit practice in HEIs is that we endorse the approach set out in GIAS and that set out in the Code of Ethics and International Standards (March 2004) of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and that organisation's Position Statement on Risk Based Internal Auditing (August 2003).

F2 EXTRACTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS

The Government Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) set out the broad standards which all IAS providers must follow, and defines the scope of their work as follows:

Internal audit primarily provides an independent and objective opinion to the Accounting Officer on risk management, control and governance by measuring and evaluating their effectiveness in achieving the organisation's agreed objectives.

Risk management, control and governance comprise the policies, procedures and operations established to ensure the achievement of objectives, the appropriate assessment of risk, the reliability of internal and external reporting and accountability processes, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and compliance with the behavioural and ethical standards set for the organization.

