

GB-A Regulatory audit report managers of collective assets 2024

Version 08/2024

General information	
Applicable to financial years beginning on or after 1 January	<i>y</i> 2024.
Name of the institution	
FI.InstitutName	
Place of domicile	
FINMA license	
Asset manager	
FINMA supervisory category	
Zulassung.Aufsichtskategorie	
Audit firm	
PG.InstitutName	
Recipients of the report	
Contact person	
Given name, surname	
Telephone	E-mail
1. Framework conditions governing the audit	
1. Framework conditions governing the addit	
This section lists the framework conditions for the audit purs	suant to margin no. 64 FINMA Circular 2013/3.
a) Canaval framanically of the audit	
a) General framework of the audit	
Audit scope / mandate	
Beginning of the reporting period	End of the reporting period
Beginning of the reporting period	Lind of the reporting period
Execution of the audit	
Execution of the duality	
b) Key management personnel involved in the audit	



Function O Lead auditor O Person responsible for the mandate O Manager O Anti-money-laundering specialists O IT specialists O Tax specialists O Valuation specialists O Legal specialists O Other	Surname, given name		Function level O Partner O Director O Senior Manager O Manager O Other
Function O Lead auditor O Person responsible for the mandate O Manager O Anti-money-laundering specialists O IT specialists O Tax specialists O Valuation specialists O Legal specialists O Other	Surname, given name		Function level O Partner O Director O Senior Manager O Manager O Other
c) Extent of reliance on the work of third parties Was there any reliance on the work of third parties? O Yes O No d) Confirmation of compliance with the audit strategy The audit firm confirms compliance with the audit strategy. O Yes O No e) Confirmation that the work was performed in accordance with the audit points defined by FINMA The audit firm confirms that the work was performed in accordance with the audit points defined by FINMA. O Yes O No f) Periods during which the audit procedures were performed			
Activity			
From		Until	
Month of the audit period	Year of the audit period	Month of the audit period	Year of the audit period
Activity			
From		Until	



Month of the audit period	Year of the audit period	Month of the audit period	Year of the audit period

g) Difficulties during the audit

Did any difficulties arise during the audit?
O Yes O No

h) Provision of information by the supervised entity

The audit firm confirms that the supervised institution provided all the required information in a timely manner and in the required quality.

O Yes O No

2. Independence of the audit firm

Audited financial year	
The audit firm confirms that it	has complied with the independence requirements under the S

The audit firm confirms that it has complied with the independence requirements under the Swiss Code of Obligations, the Audit Oversight Act and Ordinance, the Financial Market Auditing Ordinance and the supplementary provisions on independence under FINMA Circular 2013/3 in the above-mentioned financial year.

O Yes O No

3. Additional mandates performed by the audit firm for the supervised institution

Did the audit firm provide additional services to the supervised institution during the regulatory audit reporting period that do not conflict with the independence rules?

O Yes O No

4. Summary of audit results / further audit findings / confirmations and overall assessment

Presentation of all notices of reservation and recommendations by the audit firm at institutional and product level, incl. associated resolution and/or implementation deadlines and the respective measures pending or already taken by the supervised institution to rectify the notice of reservation or implement the recommendation (only those notices of reservation or recommendations need to be addressed for which the audit firm had planned own audit procedures according to the audit strategy).

Any instances of the supervised institution not agreeing to a notice of reservation or recommendation must be recorded. Repeated notices of reservation or recommendations must be specifically indicated.

State of implementation or resolution of notices of reservation and recommendations from the previous audit period.

The notices of reservation and recommendations must be classified as per margin no. 75.2ff of FINMA Circ. 2013/3 "Auditing".

4.1 Notices of reservation

For the period under review, we issue notices of reservation based on our audit procedures in accordance with the audit strategy.

O Yes O No



4.2 Recommendations

For the period under review, we make recommendations based on our audit procedures in accordance with the audit strategy.

O Yes O No

4.3 Notices of reservation in the prior year's report

Notices of reservation were issued in the prior year's report.

O Yes O No

4.4 Recommendations in the prior year's report

Recommendations were made in the prior year's report.

O Yes O No

4.5 Material weaknesses from additional mandates/services

Have any material weaknesses been identified in the context of additional mandates/services according to chapter 3?

O Yes O No

4.6 Material weaknesses raised by third parties

Have any material weaknesses been raised by third parties (including internal audit) that were not considered by the audit firm as notices of reservation or recommendation in connection with audit procedures in accordance with the audit areas in the audit strategy?

O Yes O No

4.7 Confirmations of the audit firm

4.7.1 FINMA recommendations and rulings

The audit firm records its audit opinion on compliance with the recommendations and legally binding FINMA rulings in force during the reporting period, stating the audit depth applied.

The audit firm will only respond to legally binding rulings in connection with the approval of the institution or collective investment schemes if they contain explicit provisions, which must be audited.

Comments on the implementation of FINMA recommendations in the context of supervisory reviews / deep dives are also dealt with in this section.

Are there any legally binding rulings containing explicit provisions which must be audited?

O Yes O No

Are there any legally binding FINMA recommendations?

O Yes O No

4.7.2 Audit report of the prior period

The audit firm confirms that the audit report of the prior period was discussed at a meeting of the body responsible for governance, supervision and control and that minutes were taken.

O Yes O No

4.8 Overall assessment of the audit firm

4.8.1 Guarantee of irreproachable business conduct and good reputation



Based on the audit procedures performed, the audit did not reveal any findings that would call into question the guarantee of irreproachable business conduct by the institution and persons responsible for administration and management and the good reputation of those persons responsible for administration and management as well as qualified participants.

O Yes O No

The influence of the qualified participants is not detrimental to a prudent and solid business activity.

O Yes O No

4.8.2 Licensing and approval requirements

The audit did not reveal any findings that would affect the ongoing compliance with the licensing and approval requirements. The notices of reservation listed under 4.1 with a deadline do not call into question compliance with the authorisation requirements as a whole.

O Yes O No

There are no measures required on the part of FINMA

O Yes O No

5. Important information on the audited institution

5.1 Business activities and structure of client base

The audit firm describes the key business areas of the supervised institution, the relevant customer segments and the location of the head office.

Business areas
Customer segments
Location of the head office
5.2 Group structure and participations/relationships with other firms
The audit firm describes the structure of the group, the qualified participants and key relationships and dependencies with other companies or stakeholders (economically significant contracts, group-internal cooperation etc.)
Structure of the group
Qualified participants
Relationships and dependencies with other companies or stakeholders

5.3 Operational and organisational structure

The audit firm shows the organisation of the body responsible for governance, supervision and control (committees and commissions) and the management board and expresses an opinion on the allocation and completion of the imposed and irrevocable duties.



± finma
Organisation of the body responsible for governance, supervision and control as well as the management board
Allocation and completion of the imposed and irrevocable duties
5.4 Major changes at the supervised institution
The audit firm presents major changes at the supervised institution, especially regarding owners, management bodies, business model, relationships with other companies and strategic orientation.
In addition, major changes to administered or managed collective investment schemes and/or individual asset management mandates as well as other operational areas are commented. This can, for example, comprise major changes in corresponding assets, the launch of investment funds in new asset categories or the discontinuation of operational areas or asset categories.
Are there any major changes at the supervised institution? ○ Yes ○ No
5.5 Future challenges The audit firm provides a future-oriented outlook for key, especially regulatory, changes that will affect the supervised institution and possible impact its business activity, as well as an indication of the measures planned or initiated.
No. Area
Description
No. Area
2
Description
6. Audit firm's confirmations and summary of the audit proceduresperformed
By saying "Yes" or "No", the audit firm establishes its audit opinion on the audit points addressed. Where individual audit points are not applicable ("N/A"), this is explained. The statements to be made by the audit firm relate in each case to the ongoing compliance with the requirements mentioned.
If the audit firm answers an audit point with "Yes", it is not necessary to explain how the audit firm arrived at this assessment.
In the case of weaknesses or if an audit point was answered with "No", the audit firm provides a meaningful explanation. In the case of judgements based on facts established by Internal Audit or third parties, a corresponding disclosure is made.
The main audit procedures that form the basis for the audit firm's confirmation must be described (list).



6.1 Corporate Governance

Audit area	Audit field
Corporate Governance	Internal audit
Explanation	
The audit firm comments on major negative audit results be the supervised institution. Material weaknesses identified be from the audit firm in the reporting year are to be summarise.	by internal audit impacting audit fields without intervention
Net risk Intervention in the reporting y	ear
The institution has an internal audit unit and/or is covered by the internal audit unit of the group.	
Internal audit has adequate resources.	
Internal audit has the required professional competence.	
The quality of the work by internal audit is adequate.	
Internal audit has identified no material weaknesses in the institution.	
The confirmations are based on the following audit procedu	res
6.2 Internal organisation	
5.2 Internal organisation	
	l system
6.2.1 Internal organisation and internal control	I system Audit field
6.2.1 Internal organisation and internal control	•
6.2.1 Internal organisation and internal control Audit area Internal organisation	Audit field
6.2.1 Internal organisation and internal control Audit area Internal organisation	Audit field Internal organisation and internal control system vernance by checking the structure of the balance inciple of "checks & balances"). the individual members of the body responsible for
Audit area Internal organisation and internal control Explanation The audit firm assesses the adequacy of the corporate gos between management and monitoring at the institution (print the audit firm considers the professional qualifications of governance, supervision and control and/or the executive	Audit field Internal organisation and internal control system vernance by checking the structure of the balance inciple of "checks & balances"). the individual members of the body responsible for management of the supervised institution to be
Audit area Internal organisation and internal control Audit area Internal organisation Explanation The audit firm assesses the adequacy of the corporate governeed between management and monitoring at the institution (prince of the sudit firm considers the professional qualifications of governance, supervision and control and/or the executive inadequate, it must detail its reasons. If the institution manages collective investment schemes we whether the respective internal organisation is adequate.	Audit field Internal organisation and internal control system vernance by checking the structure of the balance inciple of "checks & balances"). the individual members of the body responsible for management of the supervised institution to be vith a sustainability context the audit firm assesses
Audit area Internal organisation and internal control Audit area Internal organisation Explanation The audit firm assesses the adequacy of the corporate gos between management and monitoring at the institution (prince of the sudit firm considers the professional qualifications of governance, supervision and control and/or the executive inadequate, it must detail its reasons. If the institution manages collective investment schemes we	Audit field Internal organisation and internal control system vernance by checking the structure of the balance inciple of "checks & balances"). the individual members of the body responsible for management of the supervised institution to be vith a sustainability context the audit firm assesses



There is adequate congration between the body		
There is adequate separation between the body responsible for governance, supervision and control and operational management.		
The members of the body responsible for governance, supervision and control as well as the executive management have the required professional qualifications.		
The internal organisation is appropriately structured taking into account the nature and extent of the business activities.		
There is an effective separation between decision-making (asset management), execution (trading and settlement) and administration for the management of collective investment schemes.		
The internal control system is appropriately structured taking into account the nature and scope of the business activities.		
The institution complies with the articles of association and organisational regulations approved by FINMA.		
The authorised institution has an inventory of contracts and directives and keeps it up to date.		
The institution affiliated itself to an ombudsman.		
The customer segmentation is appropriate as per Art. 4 FinSA.		
The confirmations are based on the following audit procedures		
6.2.2 Information technology		
Audit area	Audit field	
Internal organisation	Information technology	
Explanation		
The audit firm assesses the appropriateness of the design of the IT structure. This includes in particular the infrastructure (hardware/software), IT strategy and IT organisation as well as IT security and Business Continuity Management (BCM). Moreover, it assesses the appropriateness of the processes and measures in the area of cyber risks.		
The audit firm names the relevant systems for fund management, fund administration, individual asset management, order processing, client relationship management (CRM), compliance and risk management.		
Net risk Intervention in the reporting year		
IT is appropriately designed taking into account the nature and extent of the business activities.		
	1	



The design of the processes and measures to detect and minimise cyber risks and report cyber attacks is appropriate with regard to the nature and scope of the business activities.	
The confirmations are based on the following audit proced	lures
6.2.3 Risk management	
Audit area	Audit field
Internal organisation	Risk management
Explanation	
If the institution manages collective investment schemes whether sustainability risks are adequately covered within If the licence holder holds personal data on individual per asset management – the audit firm will assess the organi	n risk management. rsons ("client data") – e.g. in connection with individual
	<u> </u>
Net risk Intervention in the reporting	year
The institution has regulated the principles of risk management and determined the risk tolerance. The risk management function is appropriately designed taking into account the nature and extent of the business activities. The risk management is functionally and hierarchically segregated from the operational business units. The risk management function has adequate professional competence and time resources. The identification, measurement and control of liquidity risks and other material risks of managed collective investment schemes are carried out appropriately.	
The identification, measurement and control of the risks of pension fund management mandates are carried out appropriately.	
The identification, measurement and control of risks related to all other management mandates (e.g. individual asset management for private clients) are carried out appropriately.	
The risk management in relation to other business activities is carried out appropriately.	
The risk management in relation to operational risks is carried out appropriately.	
The risk management in relation to the confidentiality of client data is carried out appropriately.	



Risk reporting to the executive management and the body responsible for governance, supervision and control is appropriate.		
Adequate internal liquidity thresholds according to FinIO-FINMA art. 11 para. 5 have been defined.		
The requirements regarding periodic scenario analysis according to FinIO-FINMA art. 10 para. 1 have been complied with.		
The confirmations are based	on the following audit proced	ures
6.2.4 Compliance		
Audit area		Audit field
Internal organisation		Compliance
Net risk	Intervention in the reporting	year
The compliance function is taking into account the natubusiness activities.	appropriately designed are and extent of the	
The compliance function is functionally and hierarchically segregated from the operational business units.		
The compliance function has adequate professional competencies and time resources.		
The compliance reporting to the executive management and the body responsible for governance, supervision and control is adequate.		
The confirmations are based	on the following audit proced	ures
6.2.5 Delegation of tas	ks / Outsourcing	
Audit area		Audit field
Internal organisation		Delegation of tasks / Outsourcing
Explanation		
		ations" an overview of the material tasks delegated by the nandataries) in accordance with Art. 14 FinIA, 15-17 FinIO
The delegation of investme	nt decisions is to be treated in	section No. 6.2.6.
Net risk	Intervention in the reporting	year



ures
Audit field
Investment decision process
with a sustainability context the audit firm assesses if the estment decision process.
year

6.2.7 Compliance with investment guidelines



Audit area	Audit field	
Internal organisation	Compliance with investment guidelines	
Explanation		
If the institution manages collective investment schemes v sustainability criteria and/or restrictions (e.g. exclusions) a		
The audit firm assesses compliance with investment restrictions and the remediation of investment breaches for managed collective investment schemes and individual asset management.		
The audit firm adopts a summary position on the material states the measures taken to remediate the breaches. It a rectified within an appropriate timeframe.	active investment breaches during the reporting year and lso assesses whether passive investment breaches were	
Net risk Intervention in the reporting y	rear	
The organisational and operational structure for monitoring investment restrictions and remediating investment breaches is appropriate.		
Investments correspond to legal, fund contractual and contractual investment restrictions.		
The monitoring of investment regulations and/or restrictions is appropriate.		
The measures taken to remediate investment breaches were appropriate and in the interests of the investor.		
The confirmations are based on the following audit procedu	ires	
6.2.8 Duties in relation to derivative transaction	ns	
Audit area	Audit field	
Internal organisation	Duties in relation to derivative transactions	
Net risk Intervention in the reporting y	rear	
Internal directives and methods/processes relating to the settlement via a central counterparty are appropriate and were applied effectively (for audit depth "audit").		
Internal directives and methods/processes relating to notification duties to a trade repository are appropriate and were applied effectively (for audit depth "audit").		
Internal directives and methods/processes relating to risk-mitigation obligations are appropriate and were applied effectively (for audit depth "audit").		



Internal directives and meth		
Internal directives and methods/processes relating to the obligation to trade via trading venues and organised trading systems are appropriate and were applied effectively (for audit depth "audit").		
The confirmations are based	on the following audit proced	ures
6.2.9 Notification oblig	ations (institution)	
Audit area		Audit field
Internal organisation		Notification obligations (institution)
Net risk	Intervention in the reporting	year
The institution complied with the provisions relating to notification obligations.		
The confirmations are based	on the following audit proced	ures
6.2.10 Offering of finar	icial instruments FinSA	
Audit area		Audit field
Internal organisation		
Internal organisation		Offering of financial instruments FinSA
Internal organisation Net risk	Intervention in the reporting	J [
	Intervention in the reporting] [
] [
Net risk The provisions for the offering	ng of financial instruments] [
The provisions for the offering are complied with. There are appropriate process appointing third parties for the second	ng of financial instruments esses and controls when the provision of financial] [
Net risk The provisions for the offering are complied with. There are appropriate process appointing third parties for the services. Advertising for financial instates such.	ng of financial instruments esses and controls when the provision of financial	year
Net risk The provisions for the offering are complied with. There are appropriate process appointing third parties for the services. Advertising for financial instates such.	esses and controls when the provision of financial ruments is clearly indicated	year
The provisions for the offering are complied with. There are appropriate process appointing third parties for the services. Advertising for financial instates such. The confirmations are based	esses and controls when the provision of financial ruments is clearly indicated	year
The provisions for the offering are complied with. There are appropriate process appointing third parties for the services. Advertising for financial instates such. The confirmations are based	ng of financial instruments esses and controls when he provision of financial ruments is clearly indicated on the following audit proced	year
The provisions for the offering are complied with. There are appropriate process appointing third parties for the services. Advertising for financial instates such. The confirmations are based 6.3 Minimum capital are	ng of financial instruments esses and controls when he provision of financial ruments is clearly indicated on the following audit proced	year



Explanation

The management of business relationships with

complex structures is correct.

The minimum capital according to Art. 42 FinIO must be paid up in full and must not be impaired by a loss carried forward or a current loss of the year. The audit firm provides in annex under "10.2 Documents to be submitted " the calculation of the required and eligible capital based on the numbers in the financial statements (reference to the annual report may be made, provided it contains the relevant information regarding required and eligible capital). Net risk Intervention in the reporting year Adequate processes and controls to monitor compliance with the minimum capital and the capital adequacy requirements are in place. The minimum capital requirements are complied with. The capital adequacy requirements are complied with. The confirmations are based on the following audit procedures 6.4 Rules of conduct 6.4.1 Anti-money laundering provisions Audit field Audit area Rules of conduct Anti-money laundering provisions Net risk Intervention in the reporting year A General audit points: The design of the organisational measures for compliance with anti-money laundering rules is appropriate. The management of high-risk business relationships is correct. High-risk transactions are managed correctly. Notification duties and asset freezes are performed correctly. B Identification: Year of last intervention The opening of business relationships (incl. identification of contracting party, determination of controlling persons, beneficial owners) is correct. C Complex structures: Year of last intervention



D Politically Exposed Person	ns (PEP):				
The management of business relationships with PEP is correct.			Year of last intervention		
E Trade Finance & Sanctions	S:				
The management of trade finance and sanctions is correct.			Year of last intervention		
F Virtual Assets / Virtual Ass	et Service Provider:				
Services in the context of Virtual Assets are provided correctly.			Year of last intervention		
The confirmations are based	on the following audit procedu	ures			
References for supplements					
(refer to FINMA audit points)); mention other/additional aud	dits			
6.4.2 Protection of inve	estors' interests CISA				
Audit area		Audit field			
Rules of conduct		Protection of investors' interests CISA			
Net risk	Intervention in the reporting y	year			
The processes and controls to ensure the protection of investors' interests are appropriate.					
Investors' interests are upheld.					
For real estate funds:					
The appropriate directives and processes are in place to ensure that borrowing takes place at market conditions.					
The confirmations are based on the following audit procedures					
6.4.3 Conduct rules FinSA					
Audit area		Audit field			
Rules of conduct		Conduct rules FinSA			
Net risk	Intervention in the reporting y	year			



The operational organisation management, controlling an risks in the management of (portfolio management), por advisory services, investme individual transactions and e is appropriate.	d reporting of suitability financial instruments tfolio-based investment nt advisory services for		
The internal processes for concludes related to the manager instruments (portfolio manager investment advisory service services for individual transactions are appropriate	ment of financial gement), portfolio-based s, investment advisory actions and execution-only		
The measures taken to prove education in the manageme (portfolio management), por advisory services, investme individual transactions and eare appropriate.	ent of financial instruments tfolio-based investment nt advisory services for		
The confirmations are based	on the following audit procedu	ures	
References for supplements			
(refer to FINMA audit points); mention other/additional au	dits	
6.4.4 Market conduct r	ules and market integri	ty	
Audit area			
Audit area		Audit field	
Audit area Rules of conduct		Audit field Market conduct rules and m	arket integrity
	Intervention in the reporting	Market conduct rules and m	narket integrity
Rules of conduct	Intervention in the reporting	Market conduct rules and m	narket integrity
Rules of conduct	methods/processes for the , management and	Market conduct rules and m	narket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the are	methods/processes for the , management and ea of market conduct are	Market conduct rules and m	parket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the areappropriate. The rules of market conduct	methods/processes for the , management and ea of market conduct are	Market conduct rules and myear	parket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the areappropriate. The rules of market conduct	methods/processes for the , management and ea of market conduct are	Market conduct rules and myear	parket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the areappropriate. The rules of market conduct	methods/processes for the , management and ea of market conduct are	Market conduct rules and myear	parket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the areappropriate. The rules of market conduct The confirmations are based References for supplements	methods/processes for the , management and ea of market conduct are	Market conduct rules and mayear	parket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the areappropriate. The rules of market conduct The confirmations are based References for supplements	methods/processes for the management and ea of market conduct are are complied with. on the following audit procedult; mention other/additional audit	Market conduct rules and mayear	parket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the areappropriate. The rules of market conduct The confirmations are based References for supplements (refer to FINMA audit points	methods/processes for the management and ea of market conduct are are complied with. on the following audit procedult; mention other/additional audit	Market conduct rules and mayear	parket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the areappropriate. The rules of market conduct The confirmations are based References for supplements (refer to FINMA audit points	methods/processes for the management and ea of market conduct are are complied with. on the following audit procedult; mention other/additional audit	Market conduct rules and mayear	parket integrity
Rules of conduct Net risk The internal directives and ridentification, measurement monitoring of risks in the areappropriate. The rules of market conduct The confirmations are based References for supplements (refer to FINMA audit points 6.4.5 Cross-border activations area	methods/processes for the management and ea of market conduct are are complied with. on the following audit procedult; mention other/additional audit	Market conduct rules and movear Vear Jures Audit field Cross-border activities	parket integrity



The methods/processes for the identification, measurement, management and monitoring of cross-border risks are appropriate.					
The internal guidelines regarding cross-border activities are complied with.					
The confirmations are based on the following audit procedures					
References for supplements					
(refer to FINMA audit points); mention other/additional audits					

7. Additional audits

The audit firm summarises the results of additional audits. Any notices of reservation and recommendations are to be included in chapter 4.

Were additional audits carried out in accordance with the audit strategy?

O Yes O No

8. Additional comments

8.1. Events after the completion of the audit procedures

Are there any significant events that were identified in the period between the completion of the audit procedures and the submission of the audit report?

O Yes O No

8.2 Supplementary reports

Is there any supplementary reporting (e.g. management letter) with details of significant findings and recommendations?

O Yes O No

8.3 Additional comments or information from the audit firm

Are there any additional comments or information from the audit firm?

O Yes O No

9. Signatures/confirmation by the audit firm

The lead auditor together with another auditor with signatory powers sign the PDF-report (qualified electronic signature), which they submit as an attachment to the electronic survey via the FINMA survey platform.

If it is not possible to sign the report electronically in a qualified manner, it must be printed out, signed by hand an submitted to FINMA by post in addition to the electronic submission of the survey via the FINMA survey platform.



10. Annex

10.1 List of delegations

10.1.1 Activities delegated by the manager of collective assets to a third party

Supplement to audit field 6.2.5 Delegation of tasks/outsourcing

Are there any activities delegated to a third party? O Yes O No

10.2 Documents to be submitted

The following documents are to be submitted with the audit report:

- □ a) Group structure (organisational chart)
- □ b) Organisational chart of the manager of collective assets
- □ c) Additional documents deemed relevant by the audit firm