

City of Brampton Internal Audit

Summary of GAP Assessment Results

Re Global Internal Audit Standards

August 26, 2024

BACKGROUND

- The Institute of Internal Auditors Quality Services performed a Gap Assessment against the 2024 Global Internal Audit Standards which become effective in 2025.
- Assessment was conducted as part of Internal Audit's periodic internal assessment process, aimed at proactively aligning with the new 2024 Standards, which will take effect on January 9, 2025.
- Assessment considered four domains of the Standards:

Domain II
Ethics &
Professionalism

Domain III
Governing the
Internal Audit
Function

Domain IV
Managing the
Internal Audit
Function

Domain V
Performing
Internal Audit
Services

The independent assessor, selected by the institute's Quality Services, reviewed the policies and procedures implemented by Internal Audit as of July 30, 2024. These policies and procedures were established based on the 2017 Standards and have not yet incorporated the additional requirements and 'Essential Conditions' introduced in the updated 2024 Standards.

Objectives

- Assess level of risk to not achieving conformance with the Standards
- Review implementation plans for the Standards including the existence of a quality assurance process
- Offer insight into opportunities to enhance overall quality of the internal audit function

Scope

- Included the operation of Internal Audit as set forth in the Internal Audit Charter, which defines its purpose, authority, responsibilities, and accountabilities.
- Used the Standards which become effective January 9, 2025, as the criteria for the assessment.

Methodology

- Reviewed information prepared by Internal Audit at the independent assessor's request
- Reviewed at a high level a sample of completed audit engagements and the associated audit reports
- Reviewed Internal Audit's Manual and specific Internal Audit policies and procedures
- Conducted interviews with members of Internal Audit and key stakeholders
- Used evaluation tools derived from the IIA Quality Assessment Manual aligned with the Standards.

DEFINITIONS USED TO EVALUATE RISKS TO CONFORMANCE WITH THE GLOBAL INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS

Low Risk of Non-Conformance

- For individual *Standards*, the internal audit (IA) activity conforms to the requirements of the *Standard* in all material respects.
- For each Principle, the IA activity achieves general conformity to a majority of the associated *Standards*, and at least partial conformity to others.

Medium Risk of Non-Conformance

- For individual *Standards*, the IA activity is making good faith efforts to conform to the requirements of the *Standard* but falls short of achieving some major objectives.
- For each Principle, the IA activity partially achieves conformance with a majority of the associated *Standards*.

High Risk of Non-Conformance

- For individual *Standards*, the IA activity is not aware of, is not making good faith efforts to conform to, or is failing to achieve many/all of the objectives of the *Standards*.
- For each Principle, the IA activity does not achieve conformance with a majority of the associated *Standards*.

- IA is set firmly on the path to improving its effectiveness and is actively striving for a high level of quality and professionalism, as evidenced by this gap assessment.
- Results of this assessment, identifying the risks to conformance to the new *Standards*, should provide additional information and insight, that when acted upon will contribute to this goal, and ensure the IA's conformance to the new *Standards*.

Ethics & Professionalism		
Principle	Risk	
Demonstrate Integrity	Low	
Maintain Objectivity	Low	
Demonstrate Competency	Low	
Exercise Due Professional Care	Low	
Maintain Confidentiality	Low	

Governing the Internal Audit Function		
Principle	Risk	
Authorized by Board	Low	
Positioned Independently	Low	
Overseen by Board	Medium	

Managing the Internal Audit Function		
Principle	Risk	
Plan Strategically	Low	
Manage Resources	Low	
Communicate Effectively	Low	
Enhance Quality	Low	

Performing Audit Services		
Principle	Risk	
Plan Engagements Effectively	Low	
Conduct Engagement Work	Low	
Communicate Engagement Results and Monitor Action Plans	Medium	





Key successful practices of Internal Audit

- Internal auditors demonstrate integrity in their work and behaviours and maintain an impartial and unbiased attitude when performing IA services and making decisions. IA staff apply the knowledge, skills, and abilities to fulfill their roles and responsibilities and apply due professional care in planning and performing IA services.
- The Audit Committee establishes, approves, and supports the mandate of the IA Function and its independence.
- The CAE is highly regarded for her strategic focus, leadership, and management skills.
- Internal auditors are well qualified with appropriate certifications and are focused on continuous professional development.
- Internal Audit reports are of high-quality, written at the right level, and with sufficient detail for the readers. IA recommendations are useful and provide value add to the City's governance, risk management, and control processes.

Areas of risk to conformance to the new Standards

- Establishing a new IA Mandate and Charter consistent with the new Standards.
- Revising the annual attestation of the IIA Code of Ethics to align with Domain II
 Ethics and Professionalism of the new Standards.
- Updating, documenting, executing and reporting on a Quality Assurance and Improvement Program, including both internal and external assessments.
- Confirming the implementation of recommendations or management actions by having IA perform follow-up assessments using a risk-based approach.
- Updating the IA Manual generally to align with new Standards and specifically to incorporate required areas of infrastructure and methodology such as: communicating errors or omissions, if ever any, in internal audit reports; communicating the acceptance of risk to senior management and the Audit Committee, if necessary.

Areas of risk to conformance to the new Standards

<u>To note</u> - The ratings provided in the risk-to-conformance assessments have considered the Audit Committee's past approvals of identified Internal Audit resource needs as well as the current resource proposals to support:

- Internal Audit's Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan (both internal and external assessments and their follow up actions)
- Internal Audit verification of follow up on Management Action Plans
- Strengthening Internal Audit's fraud risk assessments.

Internal Audit Response and Action Plans

Internal Audit has reviewed the results of the GAP assessment and developed an action plan with timelines to address areas of risk to conformance.



Thank you

... for the privilege of carrying out this GAP assessment and for your time, assistance, and sharing of ideas.

Keltie