



SCC Chartered Accountants

Transparency Report 2023



Contents

Introduction	1
Governance	2
Audit Team	3
Audit Quality	4
Audit Process	5
Building Trust	6
Ethics	7

Introduction

In today's dynamic and complex business environment, transparency and accountability are paramount. At SCC Chartered Accountants, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and transparency. As part of our commitment to maintaining the trust of our clients, stakeholders, and the public, we are pleased to present our Transparency Report for the year 2023.

This report serves as a comprehensive overview of our firm's governance structure, quality control processes, and ethical standards. It provides insights into our firm's operations, highlighting our dedication to upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in all aspects of our business.

Throughout 2023, SCC Chartered Accountants continued to navigate through unprecedented challenges posed by global economic uncertainties, evolving regulatory landscapes, and technological advancements. Despite these challenges, our firm remained steadfast in our mission to deliver exceptional services to our clients while maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and ethical conduct.

In this report, we aim to provide stakeholders with a clear understanding of our firm's governance practices, quality control systems, and risk management processes. We believe that transparency is essential for fostering trust and confidence among our clients, regulators and the wider community.



Seán Cavanagh
SCC Managing Director

Governance

At SCC, we uphold the highest standards of governance to ensure accountability, integrity, and transparency in all our operations. This section provides an overview of our governance structure, practices, and key initiatives aimed at promoting ethical conduct and responsible decision-making.

Governance Structure:

1. **Board of Directors:** Our Board of Directors oversees the overall strategic direction of the firm, risk management, and compliance with regulatory requirements. The board comprises experienced professionals with diverse backgrounds and expertise, ensuring effective oversight and guidance.
2. **Executive Leadership Team:** The Executive Leadership Team is responsible for the day-to-day management of SCC. They execute the strategic objectives set by the Board, manage operational activities, and ensure alignment with our values and goals.
3. **Committees:** Various committees, such as Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee, and Ethics Committee, are established to focus on specific areas of governance. These committees provide specialised oversight, conduct regular assessments, and recommend actions to strengthen governance practices.

Key Governance Practices:

1. **Code of Conduct and Ethics:** We have a comprehensive Code of Conduct and Ethics that outlines the expected standards of behaviour for all employees. This code promotes integrity, honesty, confidentiality, and compliance with laws and regulations.
2. **Compliance and Risk Management:** SCC has robust compliance and risk management frameworks in place to identify, assess, and mitigate risks across all aspects of our operations. Regular audits, internal controls, and training programs are conducted to ensure adherence to regulatory requirements and best practices.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** We believe in open communication and transparency with our stakeholders. Through regular reporting, disclosures, and engagements, we strive to maintain trust and accountability with clients, employees, regulators, and the broader community.
4. **Professional Development:** Continuous learning and development are integral to our governance approach. We invest in training programs, certifications, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to empower our employees with the skills and knowledge needed to uphold high ethical standards and deliver quality services.

Audit Team



Sean Cavanagh Audit Partner

Sean is the managing director of our firm and has more than 20 years' experience working on a vast range of audits. Sean leads the engagement team and is responsible for forming the audit opinion on the financial statements. Sean takes a hands on approach to auditing, involved in every stage of the audit. He also sits on a number of executive and non-executive Boards across Ireland and the UK.



Ronan Lappin Audit Director

Ronan is our Audit & Advisory Director and oversees the audit team. He joined us in 2017 as an audit senior and he has a wealth of experience overseeing the planning and completion of external engagements for a wide range of entities and has successfully led numerous audits.



Matthew Meston Audit Manager

Matthew manages our audit team and specialises in working with large company audits. Matthew and his team lead the audit requirements and would be available for providing support to our clients at all times.

Audit Quality

At SCC Chartered Accountants, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and quality in our auditing services. As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, we present this report to provide insights into our approach to ensuring audit quality throughout the year 2023. Audit quality is at the core of our firm's values. We recognise the critical role that high-quality audits play in maintaining trust and confidence in financial markets. Our commitment to audit quality encompasses every aspect of our auditing processes, from planning and execution to reporting and communication.

Governance and Oversight

Our firm's leadership is dedicated to fostering a culture of quality and continuous improvement. The Audit Quality Committee (AQC) oversees all aspects of audit quality, including monitoring compliance with professional standards, evaluating audit performance, and implementing enhancements to our audit methodologies.

Professional Standards and Compliance

We adhere strictly to professional standards issued by regulatory bodies such as the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB). Our audit professionals receive ongoing training and development to stay abreast of changes in regulations and standards, ensuring compliance and proficiency in their work.

Risk Assessment and Materiality

Effective risk assessment is fundamental to the audit process. We employ robust methodologies to identify and assess risks of material misstatement, allowing us to focus our audit efforts on areas of greatest significance to our clients and stakeholders.

Audit Methodology and Execution

Our audit methodologies are designed to promote consistency, thoroughness, and effectiveness in our audit engagements. We emphasise a risk-based approach, tailoring our procedures to address specific risks and complexities inherent in each client's operations and industry.

Quality Control Procedures

We maintain rigorous quality control procedures to safeguard the integrity and objectivity of our audit opinions. Our quality control framework includes comprehensive review processes, independent technical consultations, and peer reviews conducted by experienced professionals.

Continuous Improvement Initiatives

We are committed to ongoing improvement in audit quality. Throughout 2023, we implemented various initiatives aimed at enhancing our audit methodologies, leveraging technology to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and development among our audit professionals.

Audit Process

Introduction to the Audit Process

At SCC Chartered Accountants, we recognise the importance of the audit process in maintaining trust and confidence in financial reporting. Our audit process is designed to assess the fairness and reliability of our clients' financial statements, providing assurance to stakeholders.

Planning

Before commencing an audit, we conduct thorough planning to understand the client's business, risks, and internal controls. This involves:

- Understanding the client's industry, operations, and regulatory environment.
- Assessing risks of material misstatement in the financial statements.
- Developing an audit strategy tailored to the client's specific circumstances.

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is a crucial step in the audit process. We identify and evaluate risks that may impact the accuracy of financial reporting, including:

- Financial risks such as fraud, errors, and compliance issues.
- Operational risks related to internal controls and business processes.
- External risks arising from economic, regulatory, or market factors.

Testing and Evidence Gathering

During the audit, we perform substantive testing and gather evidence to support our conclusions. This may involve:

- Testing of transactions, balances, and disclosures to verify accuracy and completeness.
- Analytical procedures to identify unusual trends or discrepancies.
- Inquiry and observation to assess the effectiveness of internal controls.

Documentation

We maintain comprehensive documentation of our audit procedures, findings, and conclusions. This documentation serves as a record of our work and provides support for our opinions and judgments.

Communication and Reporting

Throughout the audit process, we maintain open communication with management and stakeholders. We provide timely updates on our progress and discuss any significant findings or issues that arise. At the conclusion of the audit, we issue a report summarising our findings and providing assurance on the fairness of the financial statements.

Quality Control

Quality control is integral to our audit process. We adhere to professional standards and regulatory requirements, ensuring the highest level of quality and integrity in our work. Our firm is committed to continuous improvement, regularly reviewing and enhancing our audit methodologies and practices.

Building Trust

At SCC Chartered Accountants, trust is the cornerstone of our relationships; with clients, employees, and the community. Our commitment to transparency is not just a value; it's a practice ingrained in every aspect of our operations. In this report, we delve into the strategies and initiatives that underpin our efforts to build and maintain trust throughout the year 2023.

1. Ethical Standards

- We adhere to the highest ethical standards set forth by regulatory bodies, ensuring compliance with industry regulations and laws.
- Our team undergoes regular training and education on ethical conduct, reinforcing our commitment to integrity in all client engagements.

2. Client Communication

- Transparent communication is key to fostering trust with our clients. We maintain open lines of communication, providing regular updates on project progress, financial insights, and any relevant changes in regulations or policies.
- Client feedback is actively sought and valued, allowing us to continuously improve our services and address any concerns promptly.

3. Confidentiality and Data Security

- Protecting client confidentiality is paramount. We employ robust data security measures to safeguard sensitive information, including encryption protocols, access controls, and regular security audits.
- Our staff undergo rigorous training on data handling best practices and are bound by strict confidentiality agreements.

4. Quality Assurance

- We uphold rigorous quality assurance processes to ensure the accuracy and reliability of our work. This includes thorough reviews of financial statements, audits, and advisory services.
- Continuous improvement is embedded in our culture, with regular internal audits and performance evaluations to identify areas for enhancement.

5. Community Engagement

- Building trust extends beyond our client relationships to the communities we serve. SCC Chartered Accountants actively engages in community outreach programs, volunteer initiatives, and educational workshops.
- By giving back to the community, we demonstrate our commitment to social responsibility and contribute to building trust beyond the confines of our business.

Ethics

At SCC Chartered Accountants, ethics stand at the core of our operations, guiding every decision and action we undertake. Our commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards is not just a corporate obligation but a deeply ingrained aspect of our organisational culture.

Core Ethical Principles

1. **Integrity:** Integrity is non-negotiable at SCC Chartered Accountants. We adhere steadfastly to honesty, truthfulness, and sincerity in all our dealings, both internal and external. Our professionals maintain the highest standards of integrity, ensuring that our clients, stakeholders, and the public can trust in the accuracy and reliability of our work.
2. **Professional Competence and Due Care:** We recognise the importance of maintaining professional competence and exercising due care in all engagements. Our team undergoes continuous training and development to stay abreast of the latest regulations, standards, and best practices in the accounting profession. By upholding a commitment to excellence, we deliver quality services that meet the needs and expectations of our clients.
3. **Confidentiality:** Confidentiality is paramount in our relationships with clients. We respect the privacy of sensitive information entrusted to us and take all necessary measures to safeguard it from unauthorised access or disclosure. Our professionals understand the importance of maintaining confidentiality and adhere to strict protocols to ensure the protection of client data.
4. **Objectivity:** Objectivity underpins our decision-making process. We remain impartial and independent, free from any conflicts of interest that may compromise our judgement. Our focus is solely on providing objective advice and solutions that serve the best interests of our clients and the public.
5. **Professional Behaviour:** Professional behaviour is the hallmark of our interactions within the firm and with external stakeholders. We treat everyone with respect, fairness, and courtesy, fostering a culture of inclusivity and collaboration. Our professionals conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the reputation and dignity of the accounting profession.