

What makes our approach different?

The process for a board review varies little between providers. What makes the difference is the way we go about it.

Our reviews are all about looking at your board in your own context: your governance goals, strategy, stakeholders, business model, culture, risks, challenges, people... So our first steps are about **working with you to understand you better**:

Scoping

We spend time with you to

- understand your priorities
- explore your governance objectives
- identify any sensitivities.

Document Review

We look across a year's worth of board and committee papers to

- see what the board has been tackling
- inform our interview questions
- assess how information is structured.

The main components of our work:

A quick questionnaire (optional)

- The option to gather some quick feedback via our online review platform, Thinking Board®.

We'll then use this picture to have **discussions which are about you** and to understand better what we see of the Board in action.

One-to-one discussions

- Individual interviews in person or virtually
- Engaging discussions that pick up on what your board is tackling, not a standard list
- Analysis of meeting notes using AI but certainly not losing the value of our experience and "human" insight.

Meeting observation

- We sit quietly and are usually almost invisible!
- We look for practical changes that could have a rapid impact
- Ideally before the interviews but that depends on the schedule.

The combination of all the sources of insight then come together in our report. Clients often tell us that they particularly value **"a report which is clearly about us"**.

Reporting

- We write a report in plain English that highlights strengths and prioritises a realistic number of development areas.
- Our rigorous internal QA process challenges assumptions and tests our thinking.
- We discuss the draft with the Chair to check our understanding and ensure we position our findings for the best reception.
- We attend a board meeting to explain our thinking and answer any questions.
- We provide ongoing support as required with any actions coming out of the review.



Let us create the right solution for your board. For more information, contact:

Remneek Sangar, Client Relationship Director | +44 (0)7549 032722 | remneek.sangar@independentaudit.com

The three-year board review cycle

With our expert tool Thinking Board® we can continue to support you in Years 2 and 3 of the review cycle. Saving you time but most importantly helping you make sure your internal review adds value.

- You can use Thinking Board® Evaluator®, our fully-automated self-assessment tool and get a board-ready automated report.
- Or go a bit more in-depth with our original Thinking Board®. Either way, you can compare responses and track progress across the full 3-year cycle.
- Add on further support as required, including question adjustment and consultant support.

"We wanted a review process that was going to provide real value to the Board rather than being a box-ticking exercise and Independent Audit delivered. The final report was very user-friendly and provided a sound basis for an action plan. Rather than being just something we had to do, it's a report that provides practical support for the Board's ongoing development."

Ronnie Bonner, Chair ORE Catapult

The power of highly-experienced people

Over years, we've been working with boards across many sectors and with different governance objectives and structures :

- FTSE 100 and 250 listed companies
- Global banks and insurance companies
- Subsidiary regulated entities
- AIM and SmallCap companies
- Regulatory bodies
- Pension trusts
- Small, privately-owned companies
- Public Sector and Arms-Length Bodies
- Housing associations, charities and Not-for-profit organisations... and more

A lot of our clients are in the UK and Ireland but we work globally.



Why choose Independent Audit?

We're a small firm (about 20 in total) but we punch above our weight in the governance arena, offering the professional rigour of a large firm and the flexibility, pragmatism and relatability of a small one.

We're likely to be the board reviewer you're looking for if:

- You want a board review that, above all, really helps your board work better together.
- You're looking for highly-experienced reviewers who understand the governance systems the board relies on.
- You need people who understand that boards are sensitive social structures that exist in the real world, not textbooks.
- You value a longer-term relationship with trustworthy advisors who always offer a listening ear.
- You appreciate the combination of genuine professionalism, straightforward communication and empathetic understanding.

Clients often tell us: "We felt you understood us. And made the review about us".

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