

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS ('RICS')
INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW IN RESPECT OF THE ISSUES RAISED
AT RICS
IN 2018 AND 2019 FOLLOWING THE COMMISSIONING BY
THE RICS AUDIT COMMITTEE OF A TREASURY MANAGEMENT AUDIT

Call for Evidence

The Independent Review

1. Articles have appeared in the Press suggesting that RICS tried to suppress a critical internal report into its finances and then wrongly censured those who sought to explore the issue.
2. In response to these allegations RICS has committed to examining its actions, governance, obligations and duties in relation to these issues.
3. RICS has commissioned an Independent Review and appointed Alison Levitt QC to lead it.
4. There are three core objectives for the Independent Review:
 - (i) To consider the way in which the internal report was commissioned and dealt with and to determine whether there were any shortcomings in this respect;
 - (ii) If there were, to consider the extent to which this represents a failure of governance;
 - (iii) To make recommendations for the future.

The full Terms of Reference can be found at <https://www.rics.org/uk/about-rics/corporate-governance/independent-external-review-information-centre/>

About this Call for Evidence

This call for evidence seeks to generate a range of written responses from as wide a range of respondents as possible. Attached is a questionnaire which shows the areas in which we are particularly interested, but individuals and organisations can also provide their own statement if they wish.

We encourage you to provide evidence, where possible, to support your comments so that we can better understand the issue.

To whom is the Call for Evidence directed?

We want to hear a range of opinions, expertise and experience from those who can offer an insight into the issues which form the subject of this Review

This includes:

- *Current and former members of RICS*
- *Current and former Directors and Officers of RICS*
- *Journalists*
- *Others with an interest in the governance of RICS*

Confidentiality and consent

The Independent Review Team consists of two independent barristers instructed by Kingsley Napley LLP. They have set up a digital platform where all material is stored safely and confidentially and to which RICS has no access.

If you wish to give evidence on a confidential basis then RICS will not be able to find out that you have contacted the Independent Review team nor what you have said.

You can provide evidence and / or answer the questionnaire anonymously, but you should be aware that that might affect how much weight can be given to your answers. The Independent Review Team would much prefer it if you would tell them who you are but ask for your identity to be kept confidential.

The Independent Review will act in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

A privacy notice can be found at <https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/governance/privacy-information.pdf>

All information collected through the call for evidence will be kept in the strictest confidence. Analysis of the evidence submitted may be used as part of the report of the Independent Review, which will be published, but information identifying individuals will be removed, unless express permission to include an individual or group's name or identity is given by that individual or group. There may be some reference to broader defining characteristics, such as gender or sector, but this will not identify individuals.

By submitting a response to this call for evidence you are consenting to the use of your data as set out above.

How to submit your response

Please send the Independent Review Team an email at contact@LevittQCIndependentReview.co.uk. This is an email address to which RICS has no access.

Please provide your response by Wednesday 19th May 2021.

Alison Levitt QC

Christopher Foulkes

The Independent Review Team

April 2021