

## **Meeting of the Corporate Governance Expert Group**



QUOTED  
COMPANIES  
ALLIANCE

**To be held on:** Tuesday 16 July 2019, 9.00am – 10.30am

**Venue:** Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, 3 More London Riverside, London, SE1 2AQ

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome to Sanu De Lima, Chris Thresh and Sana Mirza-Awan, Deputy Directors of Corporate Governance Reform at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, as guest speakers to give an update on the priorities of BEIS that are of relevance to smaller companies.**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting (14 May 2019)**
- 4. Issues for discussion**
  - a) Corporate Governance Expert Group 2019/20 look ahead
  - b) Future meetings and speaker priorities for 2019.
- 5. Communications (information only)**
  - a. The results of the biannual QCA/YouGov *Small & Mid-Cap Sentiment Index* has been published. The latest edition reveals that small and mid-cap companies remain positive about their own prospects, despite this optimism being at its lowest point since 2012. Many companies cite Brexit and political uncertainty as continuing to contribute to the neutral outlook on the economy. The key findings are as follows:
    - i. 76% of small & mid-caps are expecting to increase jobs, but 19% anticipate decreasing employment – up from 10% six months earlier.
    - ii. 37% of surveyed companies are planning to raise capital - down from 47% when asked six months earlier.
    - iii. Companies predict average sales growth of 17%, down from 19.2% a year earlier.
  - b. The project for updating the QCA Audit Committee Audit Guide is progressing and is on course for release over the summer.

- c. YouGov are surveying companies that adopted the QCA Corporate Governance Code to identify any ways in which we might be able to improve the Code and see if we can find evidence that following the QCA Code has helped companies. This will be published over the summer.
- d. Henley Business School have been commissioned by the QCA and Downing LLP to undertake a research project to understand the role that NEDs play in smaller growth companies. The results are planned to be released in September.

## **6. Any other business**

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 12 September 2019, 9.00am – 10.30am. Venue: Wedlake Bell LLP, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4AY