



IFIAR 2017 Member Profile – DFSA

1. Jurisdiction	<p>1.1 Insert the name of the jurisdiction in English:</p> <p>Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)</p>
2. Member¹	<p>2.1 Insert the name of the Member, both in the local language and in English:</p> <p>Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) سلطة دبي للخدمات المالية</p>
	<p>2.2 Include relevant contact information, including postal address, telephone numbers, a link to the website and other relevant information:</p> <p>Telephone: +971 (0) 4 362 1500 Facsimile: +971 (0) 4 362 0801 Physical Address Level 13, West Wing, The Gate, DIFC , Dubai Postal Address PO Box 75850, Dubai, UAE Website: www.dfsa.ae</p>
	<p>2.3 Include the basis for establishment of the Member, as well as the legislation or regulations which provide the Member the authority/mandate with respect to audit regulation. Please describe with an appropriate level of detail the mission and responsibilities of the Member with respect to audit regulation:</p> <p>The DFSA was established in 2004, in accordance with Article 7 of the Dubai Law No 9 of 2004, as the independent regulator of financial and designated non-financial business and professional services conducted in or from the DIFC, a purpose-built financial free-zone in Dubai.</p> <p>The DFSA regulates a broad range of firms based in the DIFC, including banks, insurers, fund managers, advisory firms and brokers, exchanges and clearing houses, together with credit rating agencies, Auditors and designated non-financial business and professionals (DNFBPs). These firms provide a wide range of services to their clients, including Islamic finance.</p>

¹ In the case where there are two or more regulators from the same jurisdiction that have been approved according to Section 2.3 of the IFIAR Charter, they together are considered as one Member. In that case, regulators are requested to include information for both organizations in the Member Profile.



	<p>In addition to regulating financial and DNFBP services, the DFSA is responsible for supervising and enforcing AML and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) requirements applicable in the DIFC. The DFSA has also accepted a delegation of powers from the DIFC Registrar of Companies (Registrar) to investigate the affairs of DIFC companies and partnerships where a material breach of DIFC Companies Law is suspected and to pursue enforcement remedies that are available to the Registrar.</p> <p>With respect to Auditors, the DFSA is responsible for the registration, oversight and suspension / removal of Auditors and Audit Principals in the DIFC in respect of Public Listed Companies (PLCs), Authorised Firms (AFs), Authorised Market Institutions (AMIs) and Domestic Funds (DFs).</p> <p><u>Vision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be an internationally respected regulator, leading the development of financial services through strong and fair regulation. <p><u>Mission</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop, administer and enforce world-class regulation of financial services within the DIFC. <p><u>Regulatory Approach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be risk-based and to avoid unnecessary regulatory burden. <p><u>Values</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To expect high standards of ethical conduct and integrity from the DFSA and its people.• To demonstrate professionalism, independence, efficiency, leadership and resolve in the discharge of our responsibilities.• To ensure administrative fairness, consultative process, accessibility, impartiality and accountability in the performance of our functions. <p>2.4 Have there been any major changes to the Member's organization or to the governing legislation since completing last year's Member Profile?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe these changes with an appropriate level of detail:</p> <p>N/A</p>
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<p>3. Governing Body Composition and members</p>	<p>3.1 Describe with an appropriate level of detail the current composition of the Member’s governing body, including the ratio between Board members who are independent from the audit profession and those who are not. The audit profession includes, for example: audit firms, professional accountancy bodies and bodies or entities associated with the audit profession.²</p>
	<p>The Board currently consists of 9 Directors and all but the Chief Executive are independent non-Executive Directors. The Members of the Board are leading industry, legal and regulatory experts drawn from major international financial jurisdictions. There are currently no former auditors / practitioners on the Board. The Directors are as follows:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saeb Eigner (Chairman) • Ian Johnston (Chief Executive) • Fadel Abdulbaqi Al Ali • Abdul Wahid Al Ulama • The Hon Apurv Bagri • Charles Flint QC • Lord Currie of Marylebone • Robert Owen • Dr J Andrew Spindler
	<p>3.2 What are the eligibility criteria / requirements and composition requirements for the members of the governing body?</p>
	<p>The DFSA Board oversees the DFSA Chief Executive and staff and are appointed by His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the DIFC, for a three year term. The structure has been designed to ensure a transparent separation of day-to-day regulatory activities from the oversight of the DFSA’s regulatory performance.</p>
	<p>Directors are governed by a Code of Values and Ethics that sets out procedures for reporting and managing any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest.</p>

² For the purpose of this Member Profile, the audit profession does not include an individual who is a CPA, Chartered Accountant, or holder of another equivalent qualification, as long as this individual is not employed by or affiliated to a registered audit firm, nor employed by or affiliated to of a professional accountancy body, nor employed by or affiliated to bodies or entities associated with the audit profession.



	<p>3.3. Is each member of the governing body independent from the audit profession? The audit profession includes, for example: audit firms, professional accountancy bodies and bodies or entities associated with the audit profession.³</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <hr/> <p>3.4 If the answer to question 3.3 is “No”, is the majority of the members of the governing body non-practitioner? N/A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <hr/> <p>3.5 If the answer to question 3.3 is “No”, which safeguards are in place to provide for the Member’s overall independence from the audit profession?</p> <p>N/A. There are currently no former auditors / practitioners on the Board.</p> <hr/> <p>3.6 Is there a restriction or recusal process that is applicable to members of the governing body of the Member who are current or former auditors/practitioners?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Does this include a “cooling-off” period for former auditors?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes to either of the above, please describe: N/A</p>
	<p>3.7 Other than the governing body, are members of the profession involved in the Member’s organization (e.g., in a management or inspection function)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe their role with an appropriate level of detail:</p> <p>The DFSA is directly responsible for the inspection of the Auditors and has the responsibility of writing both the preliminary and final review reports. The inspections are run by at least one professionally qualified member of DFSA staff having carriage and control of the inspection. The DFSA employees conducting inspections have sufficient audit monitoring training.</p>

³ Ibid.



	<p>The DFSA has an agreement with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and the UK Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) to provide technical assistance to the DFSA. ICAEW and ACCA are contracted directly to the DFSA to provide technical assistance on certain inspections*. Where such bodies (ICAEW or ACCA) provide the technical assistance to the DFSA, the DFSA is responsible for the inspection and retains the carriage and control of the inspection.</p> <p>* ICAEW and/or ACCA are used on high risk and inspections of the 'Big4' auditing firms.</p>
4. Funding Arrangements	
4. Funding Arrangements	<p>4.1 Describe the main funding arrangements of the Member, including the setting and approval of the budget and the fees, if any:</p> <p>Article 7(4) of the Dubai Decree ensures that the Government of Dubai will provide the DFSA with the necessary funds to discharge its powers and perform its functions. This is reinforced by an obligation under Article 16(2) of the Regulatory Law for the President to provide adequate financial resources to the DFSA.</p>
	<p>4.2 Is the funding free from undue influence by the profession?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Please describe with an appropriate level of detail the safeguards in place to prevent undue influence by the profession:</p> <p>Article 7(4) of the Dubai Decree ensures that the Government of Dubai will provide the DFSA with the necessary funds to discharge its powers and perform its functions. This is reinforced by an obligation under Article 16(2) of the Regulatory Law for the President to provide adequate financial resources to the DFSA.</p>
5. Inspection System	
5. Inspection System	<p>5.1 Does the Member have the responsibility for recurring inspections of audit firms undertaking audits of public interest entities (PIEs)?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
	<p>5.2 Is this responsibility undertaken directly or through oversight of inspection conducted by another organization?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directly <input type="checkbox"/> Through Oversight</p> <p>If through oversight of another organization, please describe with an appropriate level of detail the other organization, its relation to the Member, its role, and the arrangements for oversight:</p>



	<p>N/A</p> <p>5.3 Please describe with an appropriate level of detail the requirements and practices regarding the frequency of inspections:</p> <p>Auditors are subject to the following inspection cycles:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Auditor</th> <th>Inspection cycle</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Auditors of PLCs</td> <td>Annual</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Big4 Auditors</td> <td>Once in 2 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All others</td> <td>Once in 4 years</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The inspection results in the Auditors being given a risk rating. The frequency of visits may be increased if the Auditor is determined to be of a higher risk.</p>	Type of Auditor	Inspection cycle	Auditors of PLCs	Annual	Big4 Auditors	Once in 2 years	All others	Once in 4 years										
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6. Audit and Financial Market	<p>6.1 Provide the number of audit firms subject to inspections. Include an indication of the number of public interest audits (PIEs) and other audits that fall under the Member's oversight or mandate.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2016, the following number of Auditors were subject to an inspection:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Auditor</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Auditor of PLCs</td> <td>04*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auditors of AFs, AMIs and DFs</td> <td>16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Auditors of PLCs are also registered to audit AFs, DFs and AMIs.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2016, the following entities were subject to an independent audit by a DFSA Registered Auditor:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Entity</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PLCs</td> <td>04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AFs</td> <td>276</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AMIs</td> <td>02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DFs</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>299</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of Auditor	Number	Auditor of PLCs	04*	Auditors of AFs, AMIs and DFs	16	Type of Entity	Number	PLCs	04	AFs	276	AMIs	02	DFs	17	Total	299
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	<p>6.2 What are the sizes and market shares of each of the largest audit firms in the Member’s jurisdiction?</p> <p>This data is not public and cannot be released under the DIFC Data Protection Act.</p>
<p>7. Main Other Responsibilities of the Member <u>within</u> the area of Audit Oversight</p>	<p>7.1 Please indicate whether the Member has responsibility for tasks other than Inspections within the area of Audit Oversight:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registration/Licensing <input type="checkbox"/> Audit and/or Ethics Standard Setting <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Education of Auditors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>
	<p>7.2 If the Member has the responsibility for <u>Registration/Licensing</u>, please indicate whether this responsibility is undertaken directly or through oversight of Registration/Licensing conducted by another organization?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directly <input type="checkbox"/> Through Oversight</p> <p>If directly, please describe the responsibility with an appropriate level of detail. If through oversight, please indicate the name of the other organization and its composition (i.e. whether practitioners from the audit profession⁴ are involved in decision-making). Also give a description of the powers of the other organization and procedure applied, as well as the role of the Member in these procedures.</p> <p>The DFSA is directly responsible for the approval and suspension/removal of Auditors and Audit Principals and for their ongoing oversight in the DIFC in respect of PLCs, AFs, AMLs and DFs.</p>
	<p>7.3 If the Member has the responsibility for <u>Audit and/or Ethics Standard Setting</u>, please indicate whether this responsibility is undertaken directly or through oversight of Audit and/or Ethics Standard Setting conducted by another organization?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directly <input type="checkbox"/> Through Oversight</p> <p>If directly, please describe the responsibility with an appropriate level of detail. If through oversight, please indicate the name of the other organization and its composition (i.e. whether practitioners from the</p>

⁴ For the purpose of this Member Profile, the audit profession does not include an individual who is a CPA, Chartered Accountant, or holder of another equivalent qualification, as long as this individual is not employed by or affiliated to a registered audit firm, nor employed by or affiliated to of a professional accountancy body, nor employed by or affiliated to bodies or entities associated with the audit profession.



	<p>audit profession⁵ are involved in decision-making). Also give a description of the powers of the other organization and procedures applied, as well as the role of the Member in these procedures.</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>7.4 If the Member has the responsibility for <u>Permanent Education of Auditors</u>, please indicate whether this responsibility is undertaken directly or through oversight of Permanent Education of Auditors conducted by another organization?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directly <input type="checkbox"/> Through Oversight</p> <p>If directly, please describe the responsibility with an appropriate level of detail. If through oversight, please indicate the name of the other organization and its composition (i.e. whether practitioners from the audit profession⁶ are involved in decision-making). Also give a description of the powers of the other organization and procedures applied, as well as the role of the Member in these procedures.</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>7.5 If the Member has the responsibility for <u>Enforcement</u>, please indicate whether this responsibility is undertaken directly or through referral to other organization(s)?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directly <input type="checkbox"/> Through Referral</p> <p>If through referral, please indicate the name of the other organization and its composition (i.e. whether practitioners from the audit profession⁷ are involved in decision-making). Also give a description of the enforcement powers of the other organization and procedures applied, as well as the role of the Member in these procedures.</p> <p>The DFSA has the power to withdraw the registration of Auditors and Audit Principals as well as the power to suspend registration. To date the DFSA has taken various supervisory actions against Auditors who have not met their obligations under the rules.</p> <p>If an investigation were necessary, the DFSA's Chief Executive would approve a formal investigation.</p>

⁵ Ibid.

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⁷ Ibid.



	<p>7.6 If the Member has the responsibility for other tasks within the area of Audit Oversight, please describe with an appropriate level of detail:</p> <p>For PLCs and AF's, the DFSA audit inspection team also reviews the annual audited financial statements to ensure compliance with applicable financial reporting standards. The DFSA has adopted the following international standards related to accounting and audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by International Accounting Standards Board. • International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as issued by International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board • International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC1) as issued by International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board • Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants as issued by International Ethics Standards Board of Accountants.
<p>8. Main Other Responsibilities of the Member <u>outside</u> the area of Audit Oversight</p>	<p>8.1 Please describe with an appropriate level of detail whether the Member has responsibility for tasks outside the area of audit oversight such as Supervision of Financial Reporting or Securities Regulation:</p> <p>In addition to Auditors, the DFSA regulates a broad range of firms based in the DIFC, including banks, insurers, fund managers, advisory firms and brokers, exchanges and clearing houses, together with credit rating agencies and DNFBNs. The DFSA is also responsible for supervising and enforcing AML and CFT requirements applicable in the DIFC. The DFSA has also accepted a delegation of powers from the Registrar to investigate the affairs of DIFC companies and partnerships where a material breach of DIFC Companies Law is suspected and to pursue enforcement remedies that are available to the Registrar.</p>
<p>9. Major Events and Activities</p>	<p>9.1 Describe any recent major events and activities:</p> <p>During 2016, Sixteen (16) Auditors were registered with the DFSA from which the DFSA conducted seven (7) audit inspections, assessed fifteen (15) Audit Principals and reviewed twenty six (26) audit engagement files focusing on the substance of an Auditors' work and assessing whether sufficient and appropriate evidence was obtained and documented to support the conclusions reached in relation to key audit judgements.</p> <p>Our fourth audit monitoring report was issued in August 2016 covering audit inspections conducted by the DFSA in 2015. This report also presented a comparison with the results of 2014.</p>



	<p>In March 2016, the DFSA hosted its seventh Annual Audit Outreach for its Auditors. Over 80 Audit Principals, Money Laundering Reporting Officers and key audit staff participated. The DFSA presented key findings of audit inspections conducted by the DFSA in 2015.</p> <p>In May 2016, the DFSA, in association with the ICAEW, organised a Breakfast Briefing on Extended Audit Reports.</p>
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