

**Minutes of the meeting of the Group Audit and Risk Committee
held at 11.00am on Thursday, 6 May 2021
via MS Teams**

Present

Duncan Brown (Chair)
John Cole
Mark Lemmon
Rob Orr

In attendance

David Phoenix
Alison Chojna
Natalie Ferer
Richard Flatman
Nicole Louis
Kerry Johnson
Stuart Johnston
James Stevenson

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared in any item on the agenda.

3. IT restoration update

The committee discussed in detail the progress made against the restoration and recovery plan following the cyber incident that occurred on 11 December 2020.

The committee noted that almost all systems were now restored, with the remainder due to be restored within the next week. Rather than restoring services and applications to their previous conditions, improvements to security were made wherever possible.

The committee noted that one key issue during the restoration process had been the dependency on third party suppliers. A reliance on legacy systems had also created delays to the recovery process.

The committee noted business continuity and governance/oversight would be examined during the 'lessons learned' process, which would be overseen by the new IT Security and Resilience Board.

The committee noted that the recent mid-module review had reported a slight drop in student satisfaction, although it was not known if the IT outage

played a significant role in the results. There was significant staff frustration due to a combination of the IT outage, the need for manual workarounds, the pandemic, and other changes within LSBU such as portfolio review.

The committee requested that a further progress report be brought to the next meeting on 15 June 2021.

The committee thanked Alison Chojna and team for continued progress in business recovery.

Finance systems recovery update

The committee discussed a separate update on the recovery of finance systems. Agresso had been restored, with most functionality available, and good progress had been made on bringing accounting records up to date.

The committee noted that payroll was up to date, with all year-end processes having been completed.

The committee noted that March 2021 management accounts had been produced. Some uncertainty remained on opex costs due to the backlog of approximately 3,000 invoices that were still to be processed. The committee received assurance that processes were in place to properly investigate and approve the outstanding invoices, and that these controls were not being compromised in order to speed up the recovery process.

The committee noted that BDO were due to report on the finance recovery process. When complete, the report would come to a future meeting of the committee for review.

**Date of next meeting
4:00, Thursday 15 June 2021**

Confirmed as a true record

..... (Chair)