

# Higher Education Governance Forum

## HIGHER EDUCATION RISK BRIEFING

**RISK MANAGEMENT AND  
GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

**2PM - 4PM**



A virtual session for senior university staff and non-executives covering risks in the HE sector, cyber threats, the regulatory environment, and best practice suggestions

Join speakers discussing the sector's current status, challenges and opportunities facing audit and risk committees and thoughts on effective governance practices

This session will be relevant to:

- Governing body and audit committee members who have key oversight and governance roles within institutions
- Senior university management and staff with responsibility for governance, compliance, risk, academic quality, and student experience.

To book your place please [use this link](#).



# AGENDA



Introduction: 2 – 2.10pm

*Anthony Carey – Chair, Uniac Board*

Sector assessment and regulatory update: 2.10 – 2.40pm

*Nolan Smith OBE, Director of Resources and Finance, Office for Students*

Nolan will cover his assessment of the HE sector, government policy and how it might evolve, sector financial context, current risks and opportunities - including expectations on institutional governing bodies and the role of the OfS within the context of the regulatory environment (with a particular focus on audit committees and the auditing environment). Nolan's session will aid institutional risk register development and consideration of the role of audit committees in gaining assurance on management approaches.

Risks across and beyond the sector & 'Top ten' good practice questions and suggestions: 2.40 – 3.10pm

*Helen Thorne, Uniac - Senior Audit and Assurance Consultant*

*Richard Young, Uniac - Executive Director*

Helen leads Uniac's annual risk register benchmarking exercise. This reports on, firstly, the main risks drawn from institutions across the sector, including updates on gross and net risks, assurances and significant movements since last year and suggestions for audit committee focus. Secondly, we also undertake a similar exercise for sectors beyond HE and across Europe using analysis compiled by the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors. Helen will give an overview of both reports.

Richard will then outline, from his experience, his 'Top ten' good practice questions and suggestions. Aiming to assist audit committees in fulfilling their role it will include the relevance of sector guidance on the role of audit committees, internal audit strategies, planning and scoping plus 'red' and 'green' flags in relation to audit reports and audit committee papers.

# AGENDA

Cyber risks – attack patterns from the sector and elsewhere: 3.10 – 3.40pm

*Tim Rawlins, Director and Senior Advisor - NCC Group*

NCC Group is a global cyber and software resilience business operating across multiple sectors, geographies and technologies. The Group assesses, develops and manages cyber threats across an increasingly connected society. It advises global technology, manufacturers, financial institutions, critical national infrastructure providers, retailers and governments on the best way to keep businesses, software and personal data safe.

Uniac's analysis of HE risk registers confirms the continued prevalence of IT and cyber risks – indeed it is ranked as the most significant strategic risk facing the sector.

Tim, who provides risk management, resilience and strategic advice to the Board of NCC Group will use his presentation to reflect on cyber risk and attack patterns including types of attack and weaknesses in :

- IT and data management
- institutional readiness
- institutional response

The session will also explore post-incident maturity.

Closing Remarks: 3.40-3.50pm

*Anthony Carey – Chair, Uniac Board*

