Introduction to the Investor & Issuer Forum (I&IF)

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Inaugural Chair of the Steering Committee I&IF

"We encourage stakeholders across the investment ecosystem to join us in open, constructive dialogue to build trust, transparency and accountability. By working together, we can ensure that long-term value creation remains the guiding principle that unites us all."

Q What is the origin of the Investor and Issuer Forum?

A The genesis of the I&IF lies in the roots of the Investor Forum, which was established in 2014. Its creation was driven by the need to improve the mechanisms for engagement between corporates and investors. John Kay identified shortcomings in the effectiveness of traditional engagement practices in the London market, which the Investor Forum sought to address.

Q How has engagement evolved since the creation of the Investor Forum?

A Over the years, the appetite for what might be considered traditional engagement has declined. This trend is partly linked to factors such as redemptions in the UK equity markets. The Investor Forum has focused on micro-level engagement—connecting individual corporates with groups of shareholders to improve dialogue and alignment. And it seemed logical that we should also be working to improve engagement at the macro level.

Q What is the purpose of the I&IF?

A The I&IF was created to address this gap at the macro level. Its aim is to bring together representatives from the corporate sector and the investor base and crucially represent the asset owner base to discuss and address systemic issues that impact the quality of the listing experience in London. Historically, no such body has existed to facilitate these conversations, making this a unique and necessary initiative.

Q Why was the I&IF deemed necessary?

A There has been significant frustration and concern about the challenges of being a listed corporate in London. The I&IF aims to create a forum where all relevant stakeholders can talk about issues in a focused way, exchange views, explore and bring fresh perspectives to critical topics. This includes identifying and addressing the issues that are hampering dialogue between quoted companies and their owners. dispelling myths, pinpointing serious challenges, and proposing actionable solutions.

Q Who is on the Steering Committee and what is their role?

A The I&IF is guided by a Steering Committee comprised of 12 senior leaders from across the investment chain, including asset managers, asset owners, and Chairs of listed companies. They are responsible for setting the agenda, prioritising key issues, encouraging cooperation between investors and companies, and championing initiatives that strengthen UK equity markets. The LSE and FRC are observers to the Steering Committee and the Investor Forum team provide a secretariat function to ensure that the agreed actions are delivered.

Q What is the focus of the I&IF in its first year?

A The I&IF be focusing on foundational projects to analyse systemic influences on the investment chain and addressing topics like the implications of index investing and pass-through voting. These issues are not only highly topical but also pivotal to building alignment across stakeholders. The team, led by Chris and Sallie, will delve into these issues to stimulate reflection and action. By the end of the year, the goal is to emerge with meaningful insights and recommendations that can serve as a stimulus for reflection or a catalyst for change and further dialogue.

This Q&A content is part of a series based on the panel discussion titled "Building Trust, Alignment, and Accountability Across the Investment Chain," *where members of the Investor & Issuer Forum Steering Committee shared their motivations for joining, reflections on the Forum's priorities, and practical insights for 2025. The discussion took place during the Investor Forum Annual Review on 21 January 2025.*

For more information about the I&IF or the Steering Committee's perspectives, please visit www.investorandissuerforum.org.uk