

ANNEX Pt 8.1

17 November 2021, Antwerp (BEL)

Committee name	AUDIT & COMPLIANCE
Chair	Janice Shardlow (GBR)

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
1.	INTRODUCTION
	<p>Due to Covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions the Committee was unable to meet in person this year. However, we engaged with Headquarters by video conference, over two days at the end of June/beginning of July and for two days in October. We focused specifically on the FEI’s response to the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 and Covid’s effect on all operations, the EHV Virus, and the staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.</p>
2.	WORK CARRIED OUT
	<p>At our first meeting we reviewed the 2020 Financial Statements, the comments to the Financial Results and the Profit and Loss Statement with the support of the Chief Financial Officer and met with the external auditors, PWC, to hear a verbal report on the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020. During the October meeting, again with the support of the Chief Financial Officer, we reviewed the 2022 FEI Budget incorporated in the most recent Profit & Loss Statement.</p> <p>During our first meeting we met individually with the Secretary General and Education, Legal, Veterinary, Human Resources and Governance departments and also with the leadership of Eventing, and Games and Championships. In our October meeting we met with the disciplines of Dressage, Endurance, Driving and Jumping, the IT and Veterinary Directors and the Chief Financial Officer.</p>
3.	FINDINGS
	<p>It is clear that 2020-21 was once more an extremely challenging year, and the Committee was very pleased to learn how Headquarters had dealt with the challenges which it faced and how departmental teams had been prepared to step in and support their colleagues through particularly busy periods. Whether it was tackling immediate issues (for example the competition Calendar, Covid emergency measures, EHV outbreak controls, Tokyo Games preparation and administration) or seeking out new solutions for the future (for example new EHV rules, the harnessing of technology to underpin activities across the organisation, further developing the approach to education) the commitment of the staff was impressive.</p> <p>The Committee was also impressed with the financially prudent strategy which the FEI has continued to adopt. The Committee noted that the External Auditors once again highlighted their satisfaction with the quality of the information supplied to them. They reiterated that the FEI set the standard of how an international federation should be run financially. They also commented very favourably on the financial strength of the FEI in relation to the current situation. We were pleased to see that the FEI continues</p>



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	<p>to perform at the very top levels of Governance as evidenced by the ASOIF governance review and that all activities are underpinned by our highly competent legal team. Directors, in reflecting on the future, demonstrated a keen awareness of the challenges to FEI activities and to the equestrian sporting sphere in general as the world adjusts to a situation where Covid 19 remains prevalent but is hopefully receding, and EHV is a continuing concern. They showed in all contexts that attention to horse welfare continues to be of prime importance. The FEI’s organisational culture of service provider to the national federations remains strong and the commitment to compliance with its statutes, regulations and the law has continued to be maintained during yet another difficult year.</p>
4.	CONCLUSIONS
	<p>The Committee would like to specifically highlight the outstanding contribution which staff have made over the year and to thank them for their diligence and enthusiasm.</p> <p>There is no doubt that we are operating in difficult times and that the future may bring further challenges. However we are confident that the strengths we identified during our review should give the organisation the best possible chance of meeting these challenges.</p>