



BANK OF ENGLAND

SONIA Oversight Committee

Terms of Reference

Constitution

The Bank of England's governing body is its board of directors, known as Court. Court delegates to the Governor the day-to-day management of the Bank, including the discharge of statutory functions, while reserving certain key decisions to itself.¹ This delegation includes the administration of the SONIA benchmark – this is a non-statutory function.

In accordance with the powers delegated by Court, the Governor has constituted the SONIA Oversight Committee as a committee of the Bank.

Role and purpose

The SONIA Oversight Committee reviews and provides challenge on all aspects of the benchmark determination process and provides scrutiny of the administration of SONIA. In doing so, it is a key tool in the management of the Bank's conflicts of interest as SONIA administrator.

As the accountable Senior Manager, Deputy Governor for Markets, Banking and Resolution is responsible for the effectiveness of the policies and processes that govern the Bank's administration of SONIA, as well as their day-to-day delivery. The Committee can provide advice to Deputy Governor for Markets, Banking and Resolution with respect to their responsibilities, but the Committee itself does not have executive decision making powers.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Committee include:

- overseeing the periodic reviews of the benchmark methodology with a view to ensuring that it continues adequately to measure the underlying interest, and if necessary oversee any changes to the methodology;
- overseeing the administrator's control framework, management and operation of the benchmark, commissioning audits as necessary;
- overseeing the data quality controls, and the administrative arrangements for addressing breaches of the Reporting Instructions and escalating suspected misconduct; and
- monitoring the frequency of errors and republications and the actions of the administrator in challenging or validating input data.

¹ In the event that a matter falls within the scope of "matters reserved to Court" as set out in Court's publication "Governance of the Bank including Matters Reserved to Court", that matter would be for Court to decide.

Membership

- Chief Operating Officer, Bank of England (Chair)
- Deputy Governor, Markets, Banking and Resolution, Bank of England
- Executive Director, International Banks Supervision, Bank of England
- Executive Director, Financial Market Infrastructure, Bank of England
- Two members external to the Bank of England, appointed by the Chair

Members from the Bank of England are *ex-officio*.

External members attend in a personal capacity, and are selected by an open application process with due regard to the necessity to avoid conflicts of interest and the need for independent scrutiny based on experience at a senior level in industry. External members are appointed for two or three year terms, with the possibility of renewal for a further three year term.

There are no alternates for Members.

The following, or their alternates, attend meetings but are not Members of the Committee: the Executive Director of Markets; the Deputy General Counsel, Central Banking; the Head of Sterling Markets Division, Markets & Banking Chief Operating Officer; Head of Bankwide Risk Division; Head of Digital Service and Senior Managers from Sterling Markets Division, and Data and Statistics Division.

The Committee's secretariat is provided by the Bank's Sterling Markets Division.

Quorum

The quorum shall be three members, present, by telephone or by audio-visual device, including at least one external member.

If the Chief Operating Officer is not present, the meeting will be chaired by the Executive Director, International Banks Supervision. In their absence, it would be chaired by the Executive Director, Financial Market Infrastructure.

Meetings

The Committee will meet at least three times a year; additional meetings may be called as required.

Relevant papers and materials to be considered at a meeting will be circulated at least four working days before the meeting. This timeframe may be reduced with the consent of the Chair.

Comments on agenda items can be sought by written procedure if the need arises.

Draft minutes will be circulated within ten working days of the meeting, and finalised by written procedure.

The Committee will be informed of any material incident affecting the administration of SONIA as soon as practicable. A fuller update will be provided within two working days. Unless otherwise stated these will be for information only.

Making recommendations

The Committee does not make executive decisions for the Bank. The minutes will reflect recommendations made to the Bank on the administration of SONIA. Where consensus cannot be reached on such recommendations, members' different views will be reflected within the minutes.

All recommendations from the Oversight Committee to the Bank will be recorded and tracked by the Secretariat, with the Bank's response reported back to the Committee.

Conflicts of interest

Committee members must abide by the SONIA Oversight Committee "Conflicts of Interest Code of Practice" to ensure conflicts are managed appropriately.²

Confidentiality

Any non-public information disclosed or opinions expressed during committee meetings will be treated as confidential unless and until the Chair has authorised their public release. Committee members may be exposed to highly sensitive information and to material non-public information in the course of their work.

Reporting

Meeting minutes will not be made public.

Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an at least annual basis and amended as required.

Last updated: April 2020

² www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/markets/benchmarks/sonia-oversight-committee-conflict-of-interest-code-of-practice

Annex – Members

- Jo Place Chief Operating Officer, Bank of England (Chair)
- Dave Ramsden Deputy Governor, Markets, Banking and Resolution, Bank of England
- David Bailey Executive Director, International Banks Supervision, Bank of England
- Christina Segal-Knowles Executive Director, Financial Market Infrastructure, Bank of England
- Julia Black External

As at April 2020