

Corporate governance

The Board of The Heavitree Brewery PLC is collectively accountable to the Company's shareholders for good corporate governance. As an AIM-listed company, The Heavitree Brewery PLC is not required to comply with the UK Corporate Governance Code, but complies as far as is practicable and appropriate for a public company of its size and nature.

Board of Directors

At 31 October 2016, the Board consisted of an Executive Chairman, two Executive Directors and three Non-Executive Directors. The Directors periodically re-consider the structure of the Board and believe the current structure remains appropriate.

N H P Tucker is the Executive Chairman; G J Crocker is the Managing Director and is also responsible for the finance function; T Wheatley is the Estates Director and is responsible for the Group's estate. W P Tucker, T P Duncan and K Pease-Watkin are Non-Executive Directors and are considered to be independent of management.

The business and management of the Group is the collective responsibility of the Board. At each meeting the Board considers and reviews the Group's financial and trading performance. It has a formal written schedule of matters reserved for its review and approval. The Board meets every month with additional meetings arranged as required. Formal agendas and reports are provided to the Board on a timely basis, along with other information to enable it to discharge its duties.

Audit Committee

Given the size of the Group, the Board does not consider it appropriate to have a separate audit committee. The Board considers matters relating to the reporting of results, financial controls, and the cost and effectiveness of the audit process at the monthly board meetings, and meets at least once a year with the auditors in attendance.

The Board is satisfied that the group's auditors, PKF Francis Clark, have been objective and independent of the Group. The Group's auditors performed non-audit services for the Group as outlined in Note 7 but the Board is satisfied that their objectivity and independence were not impaired by such work.

Remuneration Committee

Given the size of the Group, the Board does not consider it appropriate to have a separate remuneration committee. The Board considers and determines the remuneration of the Executive and Non-Executive Directors. No Director is involved in setting his or her own remuneration.

Details of Directors Remuneration can be found in Note 10 to the financial statements.

Summary of Directors' Attendance

	Board Meetings	
	Entitled to attend	Attended
N H P Tucker	12	12
G J Crocker	12	12
T Wheatley	12	11
W P Tucker	12	11
T P Duncan	12	11
K Pease-Watkins	12	7

Corporate governance (*continued*)

Shareholder Communication

The Company believes in good communication with shareholders and encourages shareholders to attend its Annual General Meeting.

Internal Financial Control

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the group maintains a system of internal financial controls. The objective of the system is to safeguard Group assets, ensure proper accounting records are maintained and that the financial information used within the business and for publication is timely and reliable. Any such system can only provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement.

Given the size of the Group, the Board does not consider it appropriate to have its own internal audit function.

All the day to day operational decisions are taken initially by the Executive Directors, in accordance with the Group's strategy. The Executive Directors are also responsible for initiating commercial transactions and approving payments, save for those relating to their own employment.

The key internal controls include specific levels of delegated authority and the segregation of duties; the review of pertinent commercial, financial and other information by the Board on a regular basis; the prior approval of all significant strategic decisions; and maintaining a formal strategy for business activities.