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20 March 2014

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**UK corporate governance advisory firm, Independent Audit, has joined forces with Audit Review to provide FTSE companies with assistance in dealing with increasing corporate governance scrutiny**

Audit Review was established two years ago to specialise in tender support and external audit effectiveness review.

The new company, launched under the trading name Independent Audit & Risk Review, will offer a service aimed at evaluating the effectiveness and independence of boards and their advisers.

The merger has been born out of a greater demand for independent professional advice in managing audit relationships, said Jonathan Hayward, partner at Independent Audit Ltd and former audit partner at PwC.

Hayward, who is also a member of ICAEW's financial services risk and regulation committee said, "Bringing Audit Review's services into the Independent Audit fold is a very natural extension of our existing offer to help our clients demonstrate their commitment to superior corporate governance."

"We expect to see a real shift in the landscape as more FTSE 350 firms want to demonstrate that their audit relationships are being managed transparently and in the best interest of shareholders."

David Young, co-founder of Audit Review, said "Our job is to support both audit committee and financial management in a truly independent way. Our tightly focused resource and proven methodology means a more insightful review and always ensures objectivity.

"We believe that audit committees will value our expert and independent resources to assist them in this challenging and changing environment."

*Ellie Clayton*