

# Corporate governance

The task of corporate governance is to ensure the company's commitments to all of its stakeholders: shareholders, customers, suppliers, creditors, society and employees. It must be structured in a way that supports the company's long-term strategy, market presence and

competitiveness. Corporate governance shall be reliable, clear, simple and business-oriented. This Corporate governance report forms part of the Board of Directors' Report for Essity's 2023 Annual Report. The report has been reviewed by the company's auditors.

## Corporate governance, pages 96–105

This section describes applicable regulatory rules and regulations for the Group's corporate governance and the company's management structure and organization. It presents the Board of Directors' responsibilities and its work during the year. It also contains a description of Essity's internal control with regard to financial reporting. Essity applies the Swedish Corporate Governance Code without any deviations ([corporategovernanceboard.se](http://corporategovernanceboard.se)).

## Risk management, pages 40–48

Essity's processes to identify and manage risks are part of the Group's strategy work and are pursued at a local and central level. The risk management sections describe the most significant risks and measures taken to eliminate or limit these risks.

## Sustainability, pages 49–91

Essity's sustainability work is an integral part of the company's business model. The company's statutory sustainability report forms part of the Board of Directors' Report. Sustainability work contributes to a sustainable and circular society, reduces risks, strengthens competitiveness, and attracts new employees and investors.

More detailed information about Essity's corporate governance is available on [essity.com](http://essity.com)

- Articles of Association
- Information from the Nomination Committee ahead of the 2024 Annual General Meeting (composition, proposals and work)
- Other information ahead of the 2024 AGM (notice, remuneration report and information about routines for notifying attendance at the AGM, etc.)

## Governance at Essity

### 1. Shares and shareholders

Essity has engaged Euroclear Sweden AB to maintain the company's shareholders' register. On December 31, 2023, Essity had 108,612 shareholders. The five largest shareholders in terms of voting rights on this date were AB Industrivärden (29.6%), Norges Bank Investment Management (7.5%), AMF Försäkring och Fonder (6.3%), MFS Investment Management (2.8%) and Swedbank Robur Funds (2.4%). Essity has two listed classes of shares: Class A and Class B shares. Every Class A share represents ten votes while every Class B share represents one vote. There are no other restrictions to voting rights in respect of shares used by shareholders at the general shareholders meeting. The two share classes carry the same entitlement to the company's assets and profits. Furthermore, according to the Articles of Association, owners of Class A shares are entitled to request conversion of their Class A shares to Class B shares. The 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) authorized the Board of Directors, for the period until the 2024 AGM, to decide on the repurchase of Class B Essity shares. Essity has not utilized this share repurchase mandate and holds no treasury shares.

### 2. General shareholder meeting

The general shareholder meeting is Essity's highest decision-making body, which all of the company's shareholders are entitled to attend, to have a matter considered and to vote for all shares held by the shareholder. The company's Board of Directors and auditor are elected at the AGM. The AGM also resolves on the remuneration of the Board members, determines guidelines for the remuneration of senior executives and approves the Board's annual remuneration report.

### 3. Nomination Committee

Shareholders appoint members of the Nomination Committee at the AGM, or stipulate how the members shall be appointed. The Nomination Committee represents the company's shareholders. A majority of the members shall be independent of the company and corporate management. The President and other members of corporate management may not be a member of the Nomination Committee. The main duty of the Nomination Committee is to prepare and present proposals for the AGM's resolutions with respect to election and remuneration matters.

### 4. External auditors

Essity's auditor is elected at the AGM and is responsible for reviewing the company's Annual Report and consolidated financial statements and the Board's and President's administration. The auditor conducts a limited review of the company's Sustainability report and Corporate governance report as well as the company's half-year report. The auditor submits an audit report from this review. The auditor also submits a statement concerning compliance with the company's guidelines for remuneration of senior executives. The audit is performed in accordance with the Swedish Companies Act, International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally accepted auditing principles in Sweden.

### 5. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is elected by the shareholders at the AGM and has overall responsibility for the Company's organization and administration. This responsibility is fulfilled, inter alia, through regular monitoring of the business and by ensuring the appropriateness of the organization and the management team, and by issuing guidelines and reporting

from the internal audit. The Board approves strategies and targets, and decides on major investments, acquisitions and divestments of operations, among other matters. Furthermore, the Board annually prepares a report on the remuneration that has been paid or is outstanding in accordance with the remuneration guidelines decided by the AGM. The Board of Directors comprises nine members with no deputies. According to the Articles of Association, the Board of Directors is to consist of not less than three and not more than twelve members elected by the AGM. The Board of Directors also includes three employee representatives with deputies, who are appointed by the respective employee organizations under Swedish law.

Essity's Articles of Association contain no provisions regarding appointment or dismissal of Board members or amendments to the Articles.

### Chairman of the Board

The Chairman of the Board is elected by the shareholders at the AGM. The Chairman of the Board leads the work of the Board and is responsible for ensuring that it is effectively organized and that work is efficiently conducted. This includes continuous monitoring by the Chairman of the company's operations in close dialogue with the President and ensuring that other Board members receive information and decision data that will enable high-quality discussion and decisions by the Board. The Chairman leads the assessment of the Board's and the President's work. The Chairman also represents the company in ownership matters.

### 6. Audit Committee

The role of the Audit Committee is to monitor the company's financial reporting and provide recommendations and proposals to ensure

the reliability of reporting. With regard to the financial reporting, the Committee oversees the effectiveness of the company's internal control, internal audit and risk management. The Audit Committee keeps itself continuously informed about the audit of the Annual Report and consolidated financial statements and about the conclusions of the quality control by the Swedish Inspectorate of Auditors concerning the company's external auditor. The Committee receives and addresses the supplementary report to the audit report concerning the conducted audit that the auditor submits in accordance with the EU Audit Regulation. The Audit Committee informs the Board of its observations and the results of the audit. The Audit Committee also examines and monitors the impartiality and independence of the auditor. In respect to this, particular attention is paid to whether the auditor is providing the company with services other than auditing services. The Committee also assesses the work of the auditor and provides proposals to the company's Nomination Committee concerning the appointment of auditor for the following mandate period. Members of the Audit Committee are not employed by the company and at least one member has accounting or auditing expertise.

### 7. Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee prepares the Board's decisions on issues relating to remuneration principles, remuneration and other terms and conditions of employment for the President and is authorized to make decisions in these matters for the company's other senior executives. The Committee monitors and assesses programs for variable remuneration, the application of the AGM's resolution on guidelines for remuneration of senior executives and evaluates the applicable remuneration structure and remuneration levels in the

Group. The Remuneration Committee also prepares the annual remuneration report.

### 8. Portfolio Development Committee

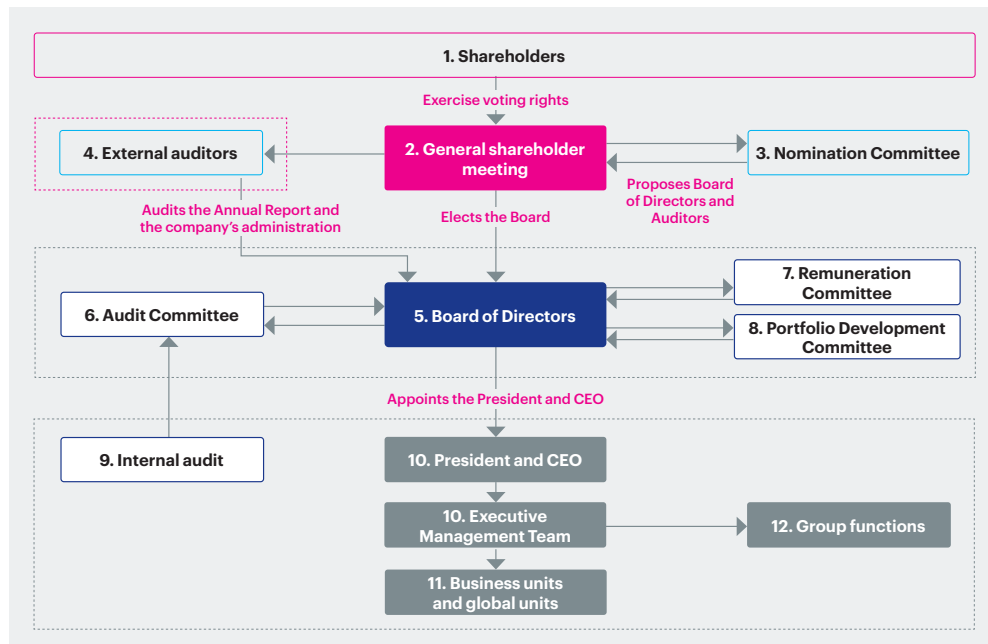
The Portfolio Development Committee is tasked with preparing the Board's deliberations and resolutions in relation to general portfolio and acquisition issues and to prepare and propose strategies relating to such issues. When deemed appropriate, the Board may, to a certain extent, delegate decision-making power in these matters to the committee.

### 9. Internal audit

The internal audit assists the Group in improving and protecting the organization's value through a risk-based, independent and objective assurance and consultancy services. The internal audit also reports to the Audit Committee and to the Board in relation to internal audit issues. The audit field encompasses both financial and operational aspects across all of Essity. The internal audit also provides investigations and consultancy services in connection with internal control matters and risk management.

### 10. President and Executive Management Team

Essity's President and CEO is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Group and follows the Board's guidelines and instructions. The President is supported by the Executive Management Team, see pages 104–105, the work of which is led by the President. The Executive Management Team comprises the President, five Group Function Senior Vice Presidents, four Business Unit Presidents and the Presidents of the three global units. The Executive Management Team holds regular meetings during the year to discuss and coordinate matters such as the business areas' economic development and budgets, important projects, strategy issues, sustainability



## Rules and regulations

### *Certain internal rules and regulations*

- Articles of Association
- Working procedures of the Board of Directors, including instructions for the Board's committees.
- Terms of reference issued by the Board to the President
- Code of Conduct
- Policy documents and instructions (in areas such as finance, HR, sustainability, internal control, communication, pension and risk management as well as for specific issues, such as the processing of personal data, insider issues, conflicts of interest, competition law, corruption and diversity).

### *Certain external rules and regulations*

- The Swedish Companies Act
- The Swedish Annual Accounts Act
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- EU Market Abuse Regulation (MAR)
- Nasdaq Stockholm's rulebook for issuers
- Swedish Corporate Governance Code

### *Compliance with stock market regulations*

Essity complies with rules that apply in Sweden for listed companies and was not sanctioned by Finansinspektionen, the stock exchange's disciplinary committee or any other authority or self-regulating body for violations of the rules concerning the stock market. Essity has not made any deviations to the Swedish Corporate Governance Code.

issues and corporate culture. The Executive Management Team also has an advisory role for the President.

The working procedures for the Board of Directors and terms of reference issued by the Board of Directors to the President detail, for example, the division of work between the Board and President. In consultation with the Chairman and Secretary of the Board, the President prepares documentation and decision data for the Board's work.

### **11. Business units and global units**

Essity has four business units:

- Consumer Goods Americas
- Consumer Goods EMEA
- Professional Hygiene
- Health & Medical

Furthermore, Essity has three global units:

- Global Brand, Innovation & Sustainability
- Global Supply Chain
- Global Digital & Business Services

These units are described in more detail on page 33.

Essity's business units and global units adhere to the principle of distinct decentralization of responsibility and authority. The business units and the global units have a delegated responsibility for managing and developing their respective operations through established objectives and strategies, a process that is also centrally coordinated. The business units are responsible for their operating results, capital and cash flow. The business and earnings position is followed up by the entire Executive Management Team on a monthly basis. Each quarter, business review meetings are conducted during which the management of each business unit personally meets with the President and the CFO. These meetings function as a complement to

the daily monitoring of operations. Through working procedures and terms of reference, a number of issues of material significance are placed under the control of the President and the company's Board of Directors.

### **12. Group functions**

Essity has five Group functions:

- Communications
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Legal Affairs & Compliance
- Strategy & Business Development

These have Group-wide responsibility for matters within their respective fields of responsibility, and coordinate with the corresponding functions in the respective business area or global unit.

## Activities during the year

### **Annual General Meeting**

Essity held its AGM in Stockholm on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

The AGM elected the company's Board of Directors. Furthermore, the Board was authorized, for the period until the 2024 AGM, to decide on the repurchase of Class B Essity shares. The Meeting also approved the Board's remuneration report for 2022. The minutes from the AGM 2023 are available on [essity.com](https://www.essity.com).

### **Nomination Committee**

The Nomination Committee of Essity is tasked with making proposals to the AGM in respect of the election of the Chairman of the Meeting, Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board and auditor, remuneration of each Board Member (divided between the Chairman of the Board and other Board Members), remuneration of the auditor and, where applicable, proposals for

amendments to the instruction for the Nomination Committee. At the 2020 AGM, the following instructions to the Nomination Committee were adopted to apply until further notice:

"The Nomination Committee is to comprise representatives of the four largest shareholders, who express a wish to take part in the Nomination Committee, in terms of voting rights as per the shareholders' register maintained by the company on the final banking day of August, as well as the Chairman of the Board, who also convenes the first meeting of the Nomination Committee.

The member representing the largest shareholder in terms of votes is to be appointed as Chairman of the Nomination Committee. The Chairman of the Board shall not be Chairman of the Nomination Committee. If necessary, due to subsequent ownership changes, the Nomination Committee is entitled to call on one or two additional members from among the next largest shareholders in terms of voting rights. The total number of members shall be not more than seven. In the event that a member steps down from the Nomination Committee before the task is completed and the Nomination Committee decides it would be beneficial for a replacement to be appointed, such a replacement is to be appointed by the same shareholder or, if this shareholder is no longer among the largest shareholders in terms of voting rights, by the next largest shareholder in terms of voting rights. Changes to the composition of the Nomination Committee are to be disclosed immediately.

The composition of the Nomination Committee is to be announced by Essity no later than six months prior to the AGM. No remuneration is to be paid to the members of the Nomination Committee. Any expenses incurred during the work of the Nomination Committee are to be paid by Essity. The mandate period of the Nomination Committee extends until the com-

position of the next Nomination Committee is disclosed. The Nomination Committee is to submit proposals relating to the Chairman of the Meeting, the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board, Board fees for the Chairman of the Board and each of the other Board members, including remuneration for committee work, the company's auditor and auditor's fees and, to the extent deemed necessary, proposals for amendments to this instruction."

In its work, the Nomination Committee is to consider the rules that apply to the independence of Board members, as well as the requirement of diversity and breadth with the endeavor to achieve an even gender distribution and that the selection shall be based on expertise and experience relevant to Essity.

All shareholders have had an opportunity to submit proposals to the Nomination Committee. The Nomination Committee's proposal for the 2024 AGM is presented in the notice convening the AGM available on Essity's website [essity.com](http://essity.com). The 2024 AGM will be held on Thursday, March 21, see page 11.

The Nomination Committee was convened on seven occasions prior to the 2024 AGM. The Chairman of the Board presented the Board evaluation and provided the Nomination Committee with information regarding Board and committee work during the year. When preparing proposals for the Board for the 2024 AGM, particular attention has been paid to the issues of diversity and an even gender distribution,

and the Nomination Committee thus applied Item 4.1 of the Swedish Corporate Governance Code as its diversity policy. When preparing its proposal for the election of auditors, the Nomination Committee also gave consideration to the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

#### **Board of Directors and composition of the Board of Directors**

Essity's Board of Directors comprises nine members elected by the AGM. Ewa Björling, Pär Boman, Maria Carell, Annemarie Gardshol, Magnus Groth, Jan Gurander, Torbjörn Lööf, Bert Nordberg and Barbara Milian Thoralfsson were elected as Board members in 2023. Pär Boman was elected as the Chairman of the Board.

The independence of Board members is presented in the table on page 100. Essity complies with the requirements of the Swedish Corporate Governance Code that stipulate that not more than one member elected by the AGM shall be a member of corporate management, that the majority of the members elected by the AGM shall be independent of the company and company management, and that not fewer than two of these shall also be independent of the company's major shareholders. All of the AGM-elected Board members have experience and a good understanding of the requirements incumbent upon a listed company. Four of the Board members are women, corresponding to approximately

40% of the total number of AGM-elected Board members. The employees have appointed Susanna Lind, Örjan Svensson and Niclas Thulin as representatives to the Board for the period until and including the 2024 AGM, and their deputies Niklas Engdahl, Martin Ericsson and Andreas Larsson.

The AGM-elected Board members have broad international experience from various cultural and geographic areas and wide-reaching expertise and experience of relevance to Essity's areas of business and products. Accordingly, the Board has – with reference to the company's business, stage of development and general situation – a suitable composition. In addition, the Board of Directors and its Audit Committee and Remuneration Committee have an even gender distribution.

#### **Board activities**

The Board was convened ten times during the year. The Board has fixed working procedures that describe in detail which ordinary agenda items are to be addressed at the various Board meetings of the year. Recurring agenda items are finances, the market situation, sustainability issues, investments and adoption of the financial reports. The Board also establishes and evaluates the company's overall targets and strategy and decides on significant internal rules. Another key task is to continuously monitor the internal control of the compliance of the company and its employees with relevant internal and external rules, and that the company has well-functioning procedures for market disclosures. On a regular basis throughout the year, the Board has also dealt with reports from the Audit and Remuneration Committees and reports on strategy, market, internal audit, internal control and financial operations. The company's auditor regularly presents a report on its audit work and these issues are discussed by the Board. The Business Unit

Presidents present their respective operations and current issues affecting them.

In 2023, in addition to customary Board work, the Board of Directors continued to maintain a strong focus on digitalization, strategy, portfolio-related issues and sustainability, and closely monitored developments in view of the geopolitical situation in the world.

#### **Evaluation of the Board's work**

The work of the Board, like that of the President and the Chairman, is evaluated annually using a systematic and structured process. The purpose of this work is to obtain a sound basis for the Board's own development work and to provide the Nomination Committee with decision data for its nomination work. External expertise were used and the evaluation took the form of an anonymous questionnaire and interviews as well as group and individual discussions. The evaluation covers such areas as the Board's methods of work, effectiveness, expertise and the year's work. The Board was provided with feedback after the results were compiled. The Nomination Committee was informed of the results of the evaluation.

#### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee comprises Barbara Milian Thoralfsson (Chairman), Pär Boman, Ewa Björling and Jan Gurander. In 2023, the Audit Committee held six meetings. In addition, members have also held meetings with internal audit, the auditors and the CFO. In its monitoring of the financial reporting, the Committee dealt with relevant accounting issues, internal auditors' reviews, auditing work, risk management, a review of various valuation matters, such as testing of impairment requirements for goodwill, and the preconditions for the year's pension liability calculations. In addition, the Committee addressed issues relating to sustainability reporting. The Audit Committee

#### **Nomination Committee for the 2024 AGM**

Member	Representative of	Votes as of August 31, 2023 (%)
Helena Stjernholm, Chairman	AB Industrivärden	29.6
Amy Wilson	Norges Bank Investment Management	7.2
Anders Oscarsson	AMF and AMF Funds	6.3
Marianne Nilsson	Swedbank Robur Funds	2.3
Pär Boman	Chairman of the Board	

also prepared a recommendation to be used by the Nomination Committee when deciding on its proposal to the AGM regarding the election of auditors.

#### Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee comprises Pär Boman (Chairman), Bert Nordberg and Barbara Milian Thoralfsson. The Remuneration Committee held six meetings in 2023. Activities mainly concerned remuneration and other employment terms and conditions for senior executives, and current remuneration structures and remuneration levels in the Group. In addition, the Committee prepared the Board's remuneration report relating to remuneration of senior executives.

#### Portfolio Development Committee

The Portfolio Development Committee consists of Bert Nordberg (Chairman), Pär Boman, Jan Gurander and Torbjörn Lööf. The Committee held nine meetings in 2023. During

2023, the Committee held discussions with the President and parts of corporate management in relation to such issues as the company's portfolio and acquisition strategy.

#### Internal audit

The basis of the work of the internal audit is a risk analysis based on external and internal information carried out in close dialogue with management teams at Essity. The risk evaluation forms the basis of an audit plan, which is presented to the Audit Committee together with the risk analysis. In 2023, 132 audit projects were performed and reported at meetings with the Audit Committee.

Work in 2023 involved follow-up of the units' progress with process-based control, efficiency in internal governance and control, major investments, information security, sustainability and compliance with Essity's policies.

#### External auditor

The 2023 AGM appointed the accounting firm of Ernst & Young AB as the company's auditor for a mandate period of one year. The accounting firm notified the company that Erik Sandström, Authorized Public Accountant, would be the auditor in charge. Erik Sandström is also the auditor and has major assignments for Atlas Copco, Epiroc and Ratos. He owns no shares in the company.

In accordance with its formal work plan, the Board met with the auditor at three scheduled Board meetings in 2023. The auditor also attended each meeting of the Audit Committee. At these meetings, the auditor presented and received opinions on the focus and scope of the planned audit and delivered verbal audit and review reports. Furthermore, at the Board's third scheduled autumn meeting, the auditor delivered an in-depth verbal report on the audit for the year. The working procedures specify a number of mandatory issues that must be addressed. These include matters of importance that have been a cause of discussion or concern during the audit, business routines and transactions where differences of opinion may exist regarding the choice of accounting methods. The auditor shall also disclose consultancy work conducted for Essity as well as other dependencies in relation to the company and its management. On each occasion, Board members have had an opportunity to ask the auditors questions. Certain parts of the discussion on the accounts take place without representatives of corporate management being present.

## Remuneration, Management and Board of Directors

### Guidelines

The 2022 AGM adopted new guidelines for remuneration of senior executives that are based on a total remuneration package comprising a

fixed salary, variable compensation and other benefits, and pension, see Note C2 on pages 137–139.

### Remuneration of the President and other senior executives

Remuneration of the President and other senior executives is presented in a separate remuneration report, which is available on [essity.com](https://www.essity.com) and on pages 185–186. Furthermore, remuneration of the President and other senior executives is described in Note C2 on pages 137–139.

### Remuneration of the Board

The total remuneration of the AGM-elected Board members amounted to SEK 11,815,000 in accordance with the AGM's resolution. See Note C3 on page 139 for further information.

## Internal control and financial reporting

The Board's responsibility for internal governance and control is regulated in the Swedish Companies Act, the Annual Accounts Act and the Swedish Corporate Governance Code. The Annual Accounts Act requires that the company, each year, describes its system for internal control and risk management with respect to financial reporting. The purpose of these requirements is to create an internal framework for governance and control to reduce the risk of error in the financial reporting. Essity's processes for internal control of financial reporting is based on the model and principles developed by the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

### Control environment

A good control environment requires clarity in relation to decision-making paths, powers and accountability, in addition to a corporate culture characterized by strong values and

Board of Directors	Committees					Attendance <sup>1)</sup>			
	Elected	Depen- dence	Audit Committee	Remuneration Committee	Portfolio Development Committee	Board of Directors (10)	Audit Committee (6)	Remuneration Committee (6)	Portfolio Development Committee (9)
Ewa Björling	2016		x			10/10	6/6		
Pär Boman	2016	■	x	Chairman	x	10/10	6/6	6/6	9/9
Maria Carell (from March 29)	2023					8/8			
Annemarie Gardshol	2016					10/10			
Magnus Groth	2016	■				10/10			
Björn Gulden (until March 29)	2022					0/2			
Jan Gurander (from March 29)	2023		x		x	8/8	5/5		6/6
Torbjörn Lööf	2021				x	10/10			9/9
Bert Nordberg	2016			x	Chairman	9/10		6/6	9/9
Louise Svanberg (until March 29)	2016			x		2/2		2/2	
Lars Rebieen Sørensen (until March 29)	2017				x	2/2			2/3
Barbara Milian Thoralfsson	2016		Chairman	x		10/10	6/6	4/4	

1) Board meetings January 1–December 31, 2023.  
■ = Dependent in relation to the company's major shareholder, AB Industrivärden.  
■ = President of Essity, dependent in relation to the company and corporate management.

awareness among employees of their role in maintaining good internal control. The Board of Directors has the overall responsibility for ensuring effective internal control and has, inter alia, adopted Group-wide internal rules for the purpose of establishing a foundation for a good corporate culture and to assure the quality of the financial reporting. In this context, Essity's Code of Conduct is an important steering document in issues concerning ethics, morality and regulatory compliance, and employees regularly receive information and training regarding the Code. Other significant steering documents for the control environment include the Finance Policy, Internal Control Policy, Communications Policy and Information Security Policy. Essity's Financial Reporting Manual is particularly important for the Group's financial reporting procedures as it contains a number of specific instructions and guidelines that are specially designed to ensure the quality of the financial reporting. Important steering documents are published in a separate database (Global Management System, GMS) that also contains a process for annual updates to the documents.

#### **Risk assessment**

Risks relate to material errors in the financial reporting that may arise, such as incomplete disclosures, valuation issues, the reporting process and correctness. Risks also include loss of assets, unduly favoring a third party and misappropriation.

Risks related to the financial reporting are evaluated and monitored by the Board via the Audit Committee, where an annual risk assessment is conducted. The risks that are identified and may result in material errors also form the basis for internal control activities that proactively manage these risks. Clear guidelines for accountability and the division of work also

form a component of risk prevention efforts. Furthermore, measures are continuously taken to improve business processes and thus reduce risks.

#### **Control activities**

Significant instructions and guidelines related to financial reporting are prepared and updated regularly by the Group Function Finance and are easily accessible on the Group's intranet. The Group Function Finance is responsible for ensuring compliance with instructions and guidelines. Process managers at various levels within Essity are responsible for carrying out the necessary control measures with respect to financial reporting. An important role is played by the business unit's controller organizations, which are responsible for ensuring that financial reporting from each unit is correct and complete, and is conducted within the specified time. In addition, each business unit has a Finance Manager with responsibility for the individual business unit's financial reporting. The company's control activities are supported by the budgets prepared by each business unit and updated during the year through continuous forecasts. Essity has a standardized system of control measures involving processes that are significant to the company's financial reporting. These measures include company-wide controls related to the Code of Conduct, process controls and IT controls. Self-assessments are carried out based on a selection of critical controls for the respective operations in order to assess the effectiveness of the internal control and governance.

#### **Information and communication**

##### ***Financial reporting to the Board***

The Board's working procedures stipulate which reports and information of a financial

nature are to be submitted to the Board at each scheduled meeting. The President, together with the Chairman, ensures that the Board receives the reports required to enable the Board to continuously assess the company's and Group's financial position. Detailed instructions specifically outline the types of reports that the Board is to receive at each meeting.

##### ***Internal reporting***

Ahead of each interim report, the company's finance department prepares detailed instructions regarding deadlines, changes to accounting principles and other circumstances of significance for reporting to ensure the quality of the financial statements. Furthermore, the company has a process and technical system support to limit the risk of price-sensitive information being leaked in conjunction with the submission of financial information ahead of the issue of interim reports.

Accounting and reporting for the majority of units is carried out by Essity's Shared Service Center, which ensures efficient and uniform reporting.

##### ***External financial reporting***

The quality of external financial reporting is guaranteed via a number of actions and procedures. The President is responsible for ensuring that all information communicated, such as press releases with financial content, presentation material for meetings with the media, owners and financial institutions, is correct and of a high quality. The responsibilities of the company's auditors include reviewing accounting issues that are critical for the financial reporting and reporting their observations to the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors. In addition to the audit of the annual accounts, a review of the half-year

report and of the company's administration and internal control is carried out.

#### **Monitoring activities**

Essity's Board of Directors, through the Audit Committee, as well as the corporate management continuously assesses the effectiveness of the processes applied by the company with respect to the internal control of the financial reporting. Of particular importance to this assessment are the reports submitted by the internal audit and feedback from the company's external auditor.

The company has a structured process within the scope of its day-to-day operations for monitoring significant observations from internal control or internal audit. Such observations and the status of measures taken to address these are regularly reported to corporate management and to the Audit Committee.

The results of the self-assessment in control activities are compiled in a list of activities that require resolution. The internal control and governance department lead these monitoring activities. To ensure the quality of the self-assessment, internal control conducts its own testing of control activities and reports the results to the units, the internal control and governance department, corporate management and the Audit Committee.

The external auditor also carries out testing of internal control and governance within the scope of its audit. The results are shared with corporate management, the internal control and governance department and the Audit Committee.