

# Limited Liability partnership International Audit Company «Russell Bedford A + Partners» - Transparency Report - 2025

## *Introduction*

We are pleased to present our Transparency Report for the year ended 31.12.2024 which aims to provide information on the ownership and governance of our firm and the steps we take to maintain independence and assure high quality standards in the provision of auditing and other services.

## *Legal Structure & Ownership*

LLP International Audit Company «Russell Bedford A+ Partners» is registered in Kazakhstan. The registered office is: Abish Kekilbayuli street, house 34, Almaty, 050000, Republic of Kazakhstan. LLP IAC «Russell Bedford A+ Partners» is a company with 100% local participation. LLP IAC employs over 50 staff and operates from head office in Almaty. The principal services provided by the Firm are Audit, Tax and Advisory and Valuation services. These business streams have dedicated teams of partners and professional staff across Kazakhstan tailoring high quality business solutions for their clients. We have also representatives in cities such as Astana and Aktobe for audit and assurance services and representatives in cities such as Astana, Semey, Ust'-Kamennagorsk, Karaganda and Shymkent for valuation services.

## *International Network*

The firm is a member of Russell Bedford International - a global network of independent firms of accountants, auditors, tax advisers and business consultants. Ranked as one of the world's top accounting networks, Russell Bedford is represented by some 1000 partners, 9900 staff and 375 offices in almost 110 countries throughout Europe, the Americas, Middle East, Africa, Indian Sub-Continent and Asia-Pacific.

## *Legal structure and ownership*

Russell Bedford International is registered in England as a company limited by guarantee, number 3331251. The registered office is: 3rd Floor, Paternoster House, 65 St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8AB. Member firms contribute to the cost of managing and marketing the network and they use the Russell Bedford name under license. All services are provided independently by member firms of Russell Bedford International, and each member is solely responsible for its work on behalf of clients.

## *Quality assurance*

As a global audit network, Russell Bedford International is totally committed to quality, integrity and independence. Following several years of dedicated effort and significant financial investment, Russell Bedford has successfully developed and implemented a globally coordinated system for monitoring the audit quality control standards of its member firms.

The network has policies and procedures, backed by rules and bye laws, which require member firms conducting transnational audits to:

- maintain appropriate quality control standards in accordance with International Standards on Quality Control, issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), in addition to relevant national quality control standards;
- participate in the network's audit quality control review programme;
- have policies and methodologies for the conduct of audits that are based, to the extent practicable, on International Standards on Auditing; and
- have policies and methodologies in place that, as a minimum, conform to the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants and national codes of ethics.

In accordance with the IESBA Code of Ethics, member firms are required to use their best endeavors to ensure that they are independent of the financial statement audit clients of other members. The network maintains a register of transnational audit clients in order to facilitate the independence checking process.

Having confirmed the successful implementation of its globally coordinated quality control system, Russell Bedford International was named among the first 17 full members of the IFAC Forum of Firms - an association of international audit networks, whose goal is to promote consistent and high-quality standards of financial reporting and auditing practices worldwide.

## *Network member firms*

An up-to-date list of member firms of Russell Bedford International, including the countries where they are registered and operate, can be found on the website [www.russellbedford.com](http://www.russellbedford.com).

## *Governance Structure*

We are committed to the highest standards of governance. We continually monitor developments in corporate governance. We adopt best practice in a way that is relevant to our activities, to the risk environment that we face and to the needs of our clients and people. As a partnership, its partners, whose rights, own the firm and obligations are set out in the firm's partnership agreement. They are responsible for developing and implementing the policies and strategies of the Firm and for its direction and management. In addition, they are responsible to the partners of the Firm and provide regular business updates on strategy and development to all partners at monthly meetings.





Sholpanay Khudaybergenova  
CEO  
LLP IAC Russell Bedford A+ Partners,  
Kazakhstan

### *Internal Quality Control*

The system of quality control set out in this Transparency Report consists of internal policies, global Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and National Auditing Regulations to enforce a system of quality controls over our auditing practices.

We comply with the International Standard of Quality Management 1 and 2, which applies to professional service firms that perform audit of financial statements. Based on ISQM 1 and ISQM 2 we have developed our own internal standards. All our auditors and specialists are familiar with these standards and apply them in their professional activities.

LLP "IAC Russell Bedford A+ Partners" applies internal policies, global Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and National Auditing Regulations to enforce a system of quality controls over our auditing practices.

Our quality control system is in full compliance with the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) requirements and the standards set down by the Finance Ministry of Kazakhstan. This quality control system is embedded as part of our day-to-day activities.

International Standard on Quality Management 1, issued by IAASB applies to all audit firms carrying out audits and reviews of historic financial information in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. These standards set out the required elements of the quality control system, which should operate in an audit firm.

The requirements cover:

- Leadership responsibilities for quality within the firm
- Ethical Requirements
- Procedures for acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements
- Human Resources
- Engagement Performance
- Monitoring.

For a firm to be able to place reliance upon the work of another network member firm, it is necessary, for member firms to have quality controls that comply with the requirements of International Audit Standards, specifically ISQM 1 - Quality Management of Firms that Perform Audit or Reviews of Financial statements, or other Assurance or Related services Engagements, ISA 220 (revised) - Quality Management for an Audit of Financial Statements. This is already a requirement of many national standards. It is also a requirement for maintaining membership within the international network.

### *Quality Assurance Review*

IAC "Russell Bedford A+ Partners" LLP is a member of the "Chamber of Auditors" of Kazakhstan, a professional audit organization that in accordance with the Kazakhstan legislation performs quality assurance reviews of its members. The most recent review of IAC "Russell Bedford A+ Partners" LLP took place in September 2023 by the Professional Board of Auditors. Based on the results of the inspection, the rating was "5" - excellent.

The last quality assurance review by our international network Russell Bedford International was carried out in October 2024 online.

### *Audit Independence*

IAC "Russell Bedford A+ Partners" LLP professionals are expected to act with high ethical standards. The ethical requirements for audit and related assurance services provided by the firm incorporate the national ethical requirements. The firm also complies with Russell Bedford International policies and procedures, which are aligned with the requirements and guidance set out in the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the "Code") issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants. In cases where the national requirements are more restrictive than the RBI policies and procedures, the firm applies national standards. The firm provides communication channels through which partners, professional staff and support staff can consult on and report ethical issues and situations. The firm reinforces its commitment to ethics and integrity through communication tools, learning programs, compliance processes and measurement systems.

Global regulators focus on ensuring that audit firms are truly independent from their clients. Our processes and procedures ensure that firm and our people maintain independence from our clients.

### *Continuing Professional Education*

Our resources - people, which is the most important resource of any process, including business. We focus on ensuring that our employees feel comfortable and worthy. We welcome and support our employees in their efforts to improve their qualifications, deepen and consolidate their knowledge, and apply them in practice. For this reason, we have opened a training center and obtained accreditation with the Professional Organization of Accountants (PAO) "Chamber of Professional Accountants of Kazakhstan". We strongly encourage our employees to improve their qualifications and create conditions for their professional development. Professional development means constant improvement of the quality of the work performed and results orientation. Employees of our company strive to improve their skills, knowledge, and abilities constantly, which is useful in the performance of their duties. The company has developed a program that contains targets and requirements for training and work experience. Our employees annually take a variety of courses and trainings.

### *Partner Remuneration*

Partners receive remuneration from the profits of our company LLP IAC «Russell Bedford A+ Partners» and are personally responsible for funding pensions and other benefits, such as medical care. They receive an additional variable element to their salary, which is established after determining the profit for the year. The final distribution of the variable element of partner remuneration is proposed by the Director General of LLP IAC «Russell Bedford A+ Partners» after evaluating each partner's contribution over the year. This takes into account a number of factors, including quality of work, excellence in customer service, revenue growth and profitability, leadership, and firm values such as honesty and independence.

### *Partner and Staff Rotation*

Our company has taken precautions to reduce the threat of close acquaintance, to an acceptably low level in cases where the same senior employees of an audit organization are involved in carrying out assignments that provide confidence. In this regard, key audit partners and project managers responsible for conducting statutory audits cease their participation in the audit of the audited entity no later than seven years from the date of their appointment. They should not again participate in the audit of the audited entity before the expiration of three years after this termination.

### *Turnover*

<u>2024</u>	<u>Fees in Tenge</u>
Revenues from the statutory audit of annual and consolidated financial statements of public-interest entities and entities belonging to a group of undertakings whose parent undertaking is a public-interest entity;	573 575 784
Revenues from the statutory audit of annual and consolidated financial statements of other entities;	519 276 794
Revenues from permitted non-audit services to entities that are audited by the statutory auditor or the audit firm; and	68 756 865
Revenues from non-audit services to other entities.	69 236 218
The total turnover achieved, resulting from the statutory audit of annual and consolidated financial statements and non-audit services;	1 230 845 661

Director General

Sholpanay Khudaybergenova