

THE METHODOLOGY · REVEALED IN FULL

The D·ASSURE™ Framework

Seven pillars, one integrated methodology.

A·S·S·U·R·E·Ω

DAWGEN GLOBAL · AUDIT AND ASSURANCE

THE D·ASSURE™ FRAMEWORK

Seven pillars, one integrated methodology.

Whitepaper

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Designation

D·ASSURE™ is a proprietary methodology of Dawgen Global. The framework, its pillar designations, and the architecture documented in this Whitepaper are intellectual property of the firm.

Distribution

This Whitepaper is made available without charge to audit committee chairs, CFOs, directors, and senior management at Caribbean entities. It may be redistributed in its complete and unmodified form. Excerpts may be quoted with attribution to Dawgen Global.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Foreword

The Caribbean audit profession is being reshaped, and the audit committee chairs, CFOs, and directors of the entities the profession serves deserve a clear account of how the work that signs off on their financial statements is actually done.

This Whitepaper sets out the methodology by which Dawgen Global conducts every audit engagement across the Caribbean. It is built on seven pillars — six denoted by the letters of the word ASSURE, and a seventh denoted by the Greek letter Omega — and together those seven pillars form an integrated architecture that organises how the firm accepts engagements, plans them, executes them, reports on them, reviews them, and stewards the relationships they produce.

D·ASSURE™ is not a translated global template. It is not a marketing construct. It is the firm's own methodology, developed and refined across more than fifteen Caribbean territories and across eleven service disciplines. It is the architecture against which the firm holds itself accountable for the quality of every audit engagement it performs.

This document is intended as a permanent reference. For audit committees applying the framework to their own engagement decisions, it sets out the questions to ask and the answers to expect. For CFOs preparing for an audit firm RFP, it sets out the methodology against which proposals can be evaluated. For boards reviewing the work their current auditor performs, it sets out the dimensions on which that work should be assessed. For Dawgen Global engagement partners, it is the firm's own internal methodology reference.

The work continues. The methodology is here. The framework is yours to apply — with Dawgen Global, or with any other firm being evaluated.

— *Dr. Dawkins Brown*

Executive Chairman and Founder, Dawgen Global
New Kingston, Jamaica · August 2026

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AT A GLANCE

Executive Summary

D·ASSURE™ — the Dawgen Assurance Standard for Unified Risk-based Engagements — is the proprietary methodology by which Dawgen Global conducts every audit engagement across the Caribbean. It is built on seven pillars, six denoted by the letters of the word ASSURE and a seventh denoted by the Greek letter Omega.

Acceptance and Independence (A). The first pillar governs how the firm evaluates a prospective engagement against the independence, competence, and capacity considerations of ISQM 1 and the IESBA Code of Ethics. It is the foundation on which everything else stands — the discipline of saying no to engagements outside the firm's competence, to relationships that would compromise independence, to commercial pressures that would undermine quality.

Strategic Risk Mapping (S). The second pillar governs how the engagement team identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement under ISA 315 (Revised). It is a substantive, documented, judgment-rich process that captures the entity's business model, its environment, its controls, and the points at which material misstatement is most likely to arise.

Substantive Intelligence (S). The third pillar governs the execution of the audit — the integration of traditional audit evidence with modern digitised techniques, including full-population analytics, journal entry testing using anomaly detection, and the application of professional scepticism across all of these.

Unified Controls Assurance (U). The fourth pillar governs how the firm engages with the entity's system of internal control — ITGC, application controls, manual controls, entity-level controls, and the cybersecurity controls that protect the integrity of the financial reporting environment — as a single unified framework rather than separate silos.

Reporting and Insight (R). The fifth pillar governs how the firm reports the outputs of the engagement — the audit opinion, the ISA 260 (Revised) communication, the management letter, and, increasingly, the assurance report on sustainability information under ISSA 5000.

Engagement Quality (E). The sixth pillar governs the firm's quality management of the engagement under ISQM 1, ISQM 2, and ISA 220 (Revised) — the engagement partner's direction, supervision, and review, the engagement quality review where required, and the firm's Jamaica Assurance Team standard for engagement leadership designation.

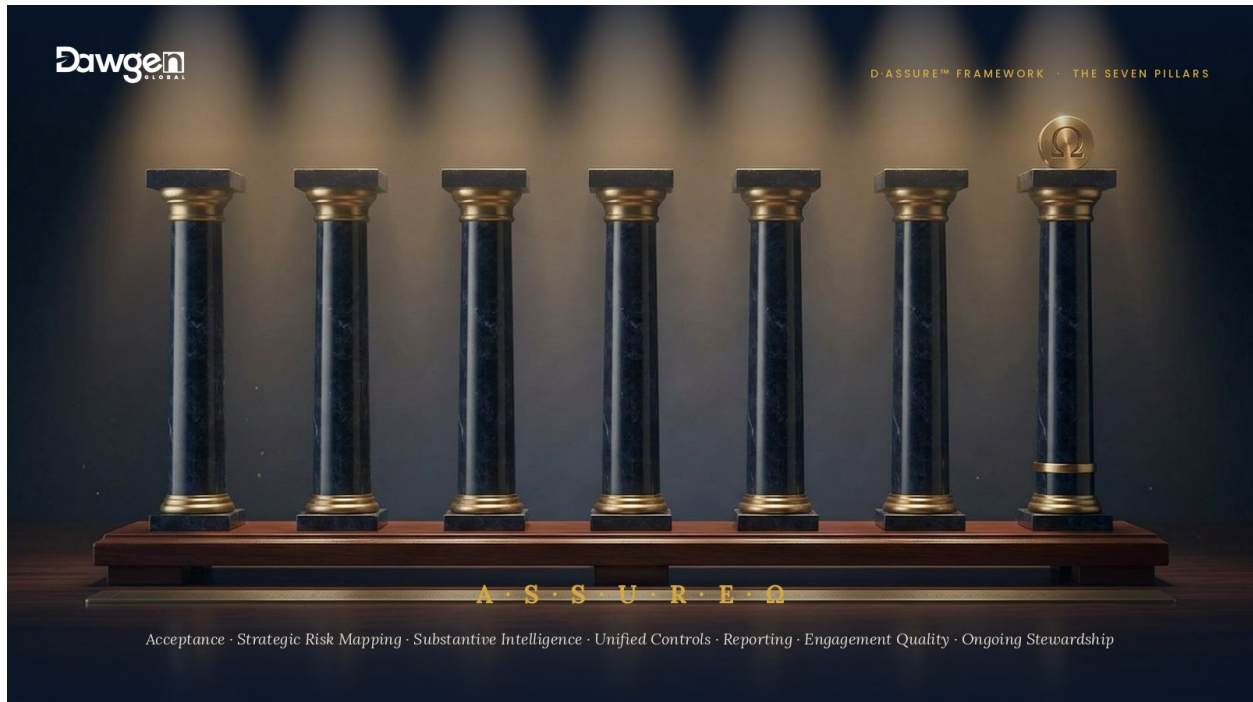
Ongoing Stewardship (Ω). The seventh pillar governs the firm's engagement with the entity beyond the year-end audit — the continuous relationship with the audit committee,

the lead audit partner's accessibility between meeting cycles, and the firm's contribution to the audit committee's annual self-assessment.

Together, the seven pillars form a complete engagement architecture from acceptance to post-audit relationship.

THE METHODOLOGY

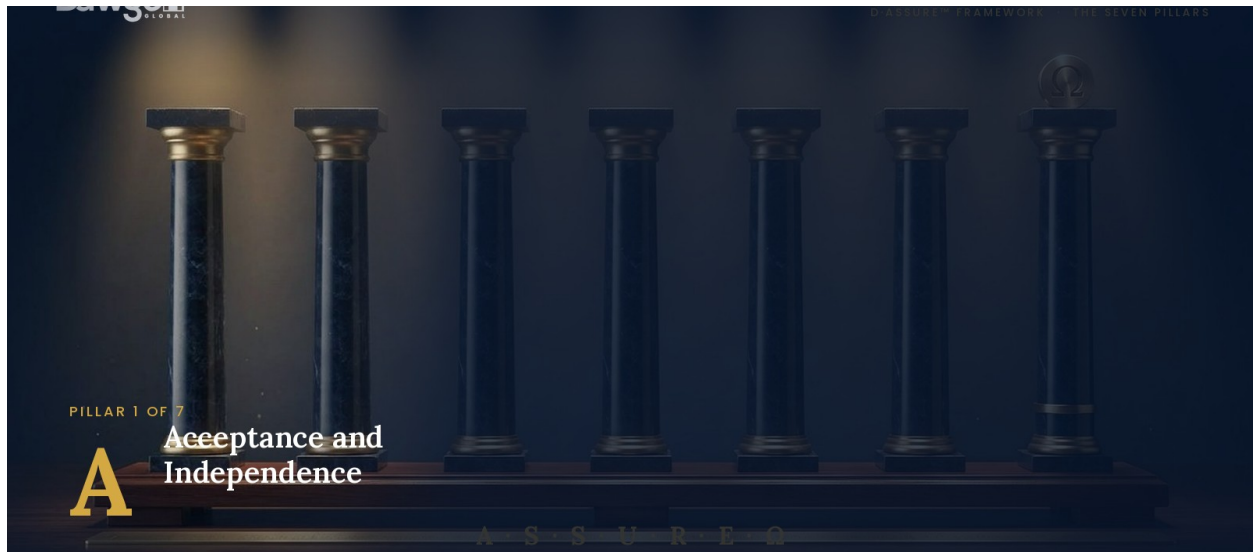
The Framework at a Glance



A · S · S · U · R · E · Ω

Acceptance · Strategic Risk Mapping · Substantive Intelligence · Unified Controls · Reporting · Engagement Quality · Ongoing Stewardship

Each pillar is methodologically rigorous on its own. The integration is what produces an audit that is rigorous, calibrated, and accountable across every dimension on which audit quality is assessed.



A Acceptance and Independence

Every engagement begins with the decision to accept it. The A pillar governs how Dawgen Global evaluates a prospective audit engagement against the firm's independence, competence, and capacity considerations under ISQM 1 and the IESBA International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

PILLAR 1 · A · ACCEPTANCE AND INDEPENDENCE

Methodology

The acceptance assessment takes place before any engagement letter is signed and is documented in the firm's engagement acceptance file. The assessment is conducted by the proposed engagement partner together with the firm's Risk Management Partner, and it is reviewed by a partner independent of the proposed engagement team. The output of the assessment is one of three decisions: accept, accept with scope or terms renegotiated, or decline.

Technical competence and sector knowledge. Before acceptance, the firm assesses whether it has the technical competence and sector knowledge the engagement requires. The assessment considers the entity's industry, the complexity of its accounting estimates, the international financial reporting framework the entity applies, the regulated nature of its operations (if any), and the existence of any subject-matter areas (such as financial instruments, insurance contract liabilities under IFRS 17, or sustainability assurance under ISSA 5000) that require specialist input. Where specialist input is required, the firm confirms availability of the relevant Dawgen Global partner or external expert before accepting the engagement.

Jurisdictional reach. Where the engagement spans multiple Caribbean territories, the firm confirms its capacity to deliver in each jurisdiction. Where component auditors will be involved, the firm assesses its ability to act as group auditor under ISA 600 (Revised), including the planned involvement of the group engagement team in the work performed by component auditors.

Partner availability and capacity. The firm assesses partner and senior manager availability against the engagement's expected timeline, considering the firm's existing portfolio commitments and the engagement quality review requirements that ISQM 2 will trigger.

Independence in fact and appearance. The firm conducts an independence assessment against the IESBA Code, considering financial interests, business relationships, family and personal relationships, employment relationships, and the provision of non-assurance services. Where a threat to independence is identified, the firm evaluates whether safeguards can reduce the threat to an acceptable level. Where they cannot, the engagement is declined or the threatening relationship is terminated. Long association threats — particularly for engagement partners at public-interest entities — are managed through the partner rotation requirements set out in the IESBA Code.

Integrity considerations. The firm conducts an integrity assessment of the prospective client, considering the entity's reputation, the integrity of its principal owners and senior management, the reasons for any change in auditor, and any history of disagreements with

previous auditors over accounting, auditing, or reporting matters. Where integrity concerns are identified, the engagement is declined.

Resource demands and risk profile. The firm assesses the engagement's risk profile and the resource demands it will place on the firm. High-risk engagements — those with significant audit risks, complex group structures, or material accounting estimates — receive heightened acceptance scrutiny.

The discipline of declining. Where any of these dimensions does not align — competence, capacity, independence, integrity, or risk — the engagement is declined or its scope is renegotiated. The acceptance assessment is not a formality. It is the moment at which the firm exercises the discipline that makes everything subsequent possible. The discipline of saying no — to engagements outside the firm's competence, to relationships that compromise independence, to commercial pressure that would undermine quality — is the foundation on which the remaining six pillars rest.

PILLAR 1 · A · ACCEPTANCE AND INDEPENDENCE

Standards Operationalised

This pillar operationalises the following international standards. The cross-references are not exhaustive of every standard relevant to the audit, but they identify the standards under which the pillar's methodology is executed.

ISQM 1 — paragraphs 30–32, engagement acceptance and continuance

IESBA International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants

ISA 210 — Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements

ISA 220 (Revised) — paragraph 22, engagement acceptance and continuance

ANONYMISED CASE EXAMPLE · GROUP AUDIT DECLINED ON INTEGRITY GROUNDS

A regional manufacturing group approached the firm to act as group auditor following a difficult parting from the incumbent. Acceptance assessment identified two issues: a significant disagreement with the prior auditor over the recognition of related-party revenue (integrity concern), and the firm's lack of specialist capacity in a niche component subsidiary's industry (competence concern). The firm declined the group audit but accepted a limited scope engagement on two non-component subsidiaries where competence and integrity considerations were satisfied. The group subsequently engaged a different firm for the group audit. Eighteen months later, the same group returned to Dawgen Global for advisory work where the integrity concerns had been substantively resolved. Acceptance discipline preserved the firm's ability to serve the group on terms that protected both parties.

PILLAR 1 · A · ACCEPTANCE AND INDEPENDENCE

Audit Committee Evaluation Questions

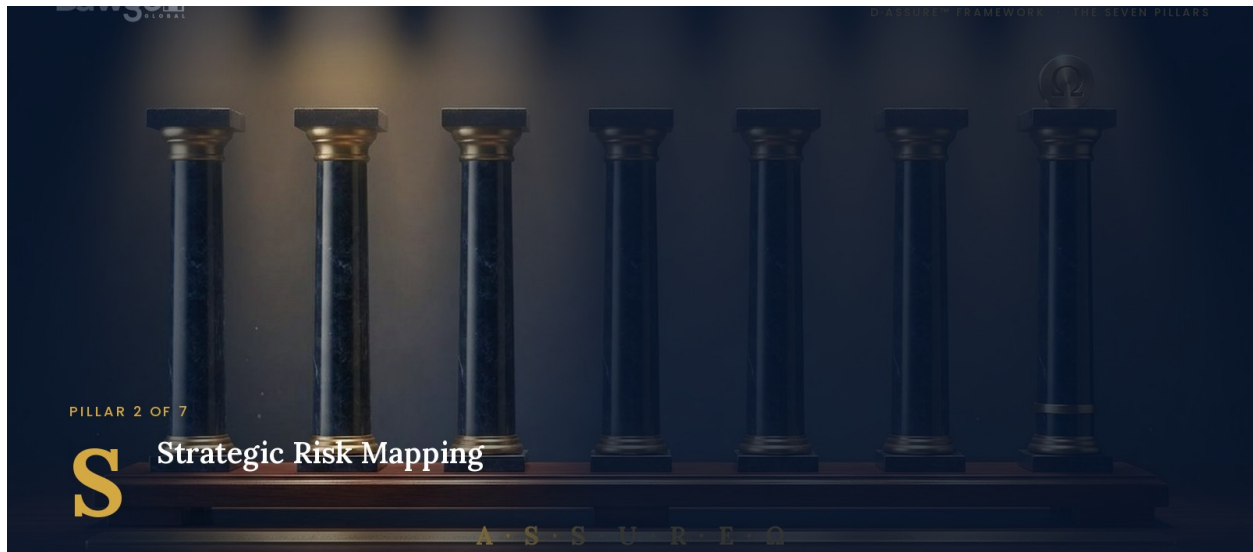
The following questions are the basis on which a firm — Dawgen Global or any other firm under consideration — can be evaluated against this pillar. The questions can be put to the firm at first appointment, at re-tender, or at any moment during the engagement when the audit committee or CFO wishes to test methodology depth.

AUDIT COMMITTEE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

For audit committees and CFOs evaluating a firm's acceptance discipline.

1. How does the firm document its engagement acceptance assessment, and is the documentation reviewed by a partner independent of the proposed engagement team?
2. What independence threats has the firm identified in respect of this engagement, and what safeguards have been put in place to reduce those threats to an acceptable level?
3. Has the proposed engagement partner been confirmed as available for the engagement's full expected timeline?
4. What specialist capabilities (financial instruments, IFRS 17, ISSA 5000, IT audit, cyber, forensic) will the engagement require, and has the firm confirmed availability of those specialists?
5. Where the entity operates across multiple Caribbean territories, has the firm confirmed its capacity to deliver in each jurisdiction?
6. Has the engagement partner served the entity for a sufficient prior period that the IESBA long-association provisions are relevant, and if so, what rotation provisions apply?
7. What integrity assessment has the firm performed on the entity and its principal owners and senior management?
8. Where the engagement involves a change of auditor, what enquiries has the firm made of the predecessor auditor, and what disagreements (if any) were identified?
9. Are there any non-assurance services being provided by the firm to the entity that could create a self-review or advocacy threat to independence, and how have those been addressed?

10. What is the firm's policy for declining engagements, and in the past three years, what proportion of engagements assessed by the firm have been declined or had scope renegotiated?



S Strategic Risk Mapping

The first S pillar governs how the engagement team identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement at the financial-statement and assertion levels, under ISA 315 (Revised). Strategic Risk Mapping is a substantive, documented, judgment-rich process that captures the entity's business model, its external environment, its internal controls, its information systems, and the points at which material misstatement is most likely to arise.

PILLAR 2 · S · STRATEGIC RISK MAPPING

Methodology

The output is a risk map that drives the rest of the engagement. Where Strategic Risk Mapping is shallow, the audit that follows is shallow. Where it is substantive, the audit that follows is calibrated to where the risks actually live.

Understanding the entity and its environment. The firm's Strategic Risk Mapping begins with a substantive understanding of the entity — not a checklist understanding, but the kind of understanding an analyst covering the entity for an investment thesis would form. The engagement team documents the entity's business model (how it generates revenue and where its costs sit), its competitive environment (its market position, its principal competitors, the structural forces shaping its industry), its strategic objectives and the risks that threaten them, its regulatory environment, and its key relationships (with major customers, suppliers, lenders, regulators, and unions).

The information systems landscape. The firm documents the information systems that produce the entity's financial information — the ERP and accounting systems, the subsidiary ledgers and data flows, the consolidation tools, the spreadsheet-based reporting layers, and the access and change-management controls that operate over them. This is the foundation on which the U pillar (Unified Controls Assurance) will subsequently rely.

Risks of material misstatement at the assertion level. For each significant class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure, the engagement team identifies the relevant assertions and the risks of material misstatement against each. The team distinguishes between inherent risk factors (subjectivity, complexity, change, uncertainty, susceptibility to bias or fraud, and the susceptibility of the assertion to other risk factors) and the controls that the entity has put in place to address those factors. The output is a calibrated assessment of inherent risk and control risk for each significant assertion.

Significant risks. Risks assessed at or close to the upper end of the inherent risk spectrum, or which require significant auditor attention for other reasons, are designated as significant risks under ISA 315 (Revised). For each significant risk, the engagement team documents the risk, the rationale for designation, the affected assertions, the controls (if any) that address the risk, and the planned audit response. Significant risks are subject to specific procedural requirements under ISA 330 — they are addressed by tailored audit procedures rather than reliance on internal control alone.

Fraud risk. Strategic Risk Mapping includes a substantive fraud risk assessment under ISA 240. The engagement team holds a documented engagement-team discussion of how fraud might occur, identifies fraud risk factors, evaluates the entity's controls over fraud risks, and designs audit responses that include the mandatory journal entry testing, retrospective review of estimates, and consideration of management override controls.

Going concern. Where appropriate, Strategic Risk Mapping includes a going-concern risk assessment under ISA 570 (Revised). The team evaluates management's going-concern assessment, performs its own assessment of the entity's solvency and liquidity, and identifies any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The risk map as a living document. Strategic Risk Mapping is not completed at planning and filed away. The risk map is revisited at the interim, at the year-end, and at the conclusion of the audit. New information identified during the audit — new transactions, control deficiencies, management estimates that prove materially different from the audit estimates — feeds back into the risk map and may trigger reassessment of audit responses already designed.

Calibration over time. For recurring engagements, the prior year's risk map is the starting point but never the ending point. The engagement partner and Risk Management Partner are responsible for ensuring that the current-year risk map reflects the current year's reality, not the prior year's heuristics.

PILLAR 2 · S · STRATEGIC RISK MAPPING

Standards Operationalised

This pillar operationalises the following international standards. The cross-references are not exhaustive of every standard relevant to the audit, but they identify the standards under which the pillar's methodology is executed.

ISA 315 (Revised) — Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

ISA 240 — The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud

ISA 570 (Revised) — Going Concern

ISA 320 — Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit

ISA 330 — The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks (planning interface)

ANONYMISED CASE EXAMPLE · ECL MODEL RISK AT A REGULATED ENTITY

A regulated financial services entity engaged the firm following a regulatory observation that the previous audit had not adequately addressed model risk in the entity's expected credit loss estimation. Strategic Risk Mapping for the new engagement identified the ECL model as a significant risk, with sub-risks against the model's assumptions on macroeconomic scenarios, the segmentation of the loan book for staging purposes, and the manual overlays applied by management on top of the model output. The audit response designed against this risk profile included a model walkthrough led by the firm's financial instruments specialist, independent re-performance of the staging logic on a sample of facilities, and management challenge sessions on the macroeconomic scenarios and overlays. The audit identified two material adjustments — one to the staging of a significant facility cluster and one to the macroeconomic scenario weightings — that had not been identified in the prior audit. Strategic Risk Mapping was the discipline that made those identifications possible.

PILLAR 2 · S · STRATEGIC RISK MAPPING

Audit Committee Evaluation Questions

The following questions are the basis on which a firm — Dawgen Global or any other firm under consideration — can be evaluated against this pillar. The questions can be put to the firm at first appointment, at re-tender, or at any moment during the engagement when the audit committee or CFO wishes to test methodology depth.

AUDIT COMMITTEE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

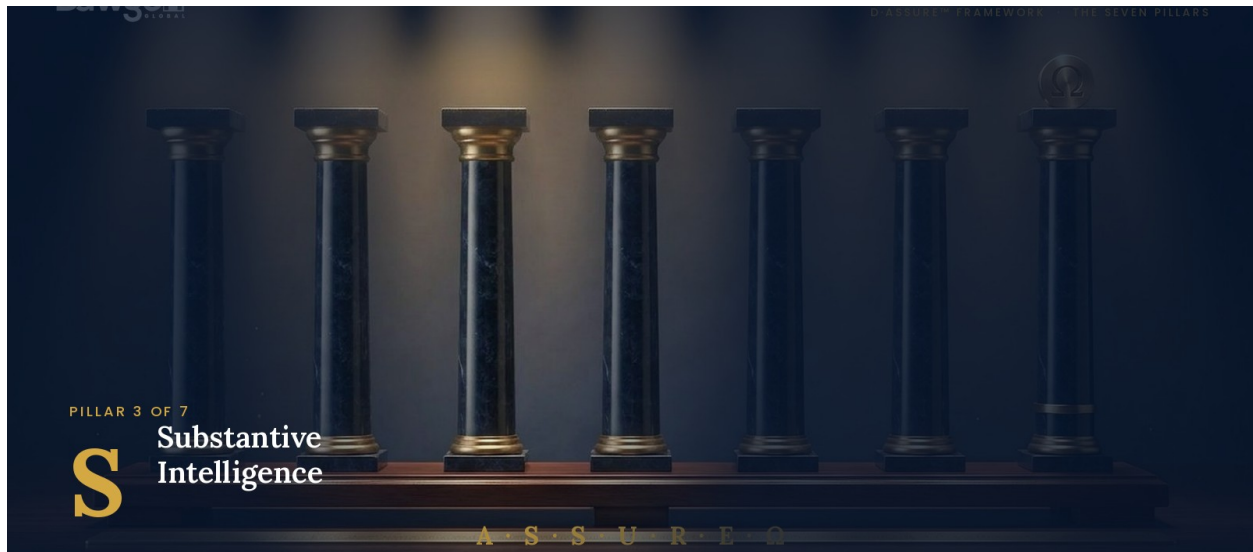
For audit committees and CFOs evaluating a firm's risk assessment discipline.

1. How does the firm document its understanding of the entity's business model, competitive environment, and strategic objectives, and how is that understanding refreshed annually?
2. What significant risks has the firm identified for the current engagement, and how do they compare with the significant risks identified in the prior year?
3. For each significant risk, what is the firm's planned audit response, and how does that response differ from the response to non-significant risks?
4. How does the firm assess fraud risk on this engagement, and what specific procedures are designed to address the risk of management override of controls?
5. How does the firm assess going-concern risk, and what is its current view on whether material uncertainty exists?
6. What is the firm's planning materiality for this engagement, and what is the basis for that calibration?
7. How does the firm distinguish between inherent risk and control risk in its assessment, and how does that distinction influence the audit response?
8. Where the entity uses complex accounting estimates (impairment, financial instruments, insurance liabilities, sustainability data), how does the firm test the methodology, data, and assumptions underlying those estimates?
9. Has the firm reassessed any of its initial risk conclusions during the

course of the audit, and if so, on what basis?

- 10.** How does the firm document the engagement-team discussion required by ISA 240, and who participates in that discussion?

PILLAR 3 OF 7 · S



S Substantive Intelligence

The second S pillar governs the execution of the audit — the substantive procedures, the tests of controls, the use of audit data analytics, the application of professional scepticism. Substantive Intelligence is the firm's integration of traditional audit evidence with modern digitised audit techniques.

PILLAR 3 · S · SUBSTANTIVE INTELLIGENCE

Methodology

The pillar is built on the recognition that audit evidence in 2026 is multi-modal — documentary, transactional, analytical, observational, and confirmatory — and that competent execution requires fluency across all of these.

Designing audit responses. For each significant assertion identified during Strategic Risk Mapping, the engagement team designs the further audit procedures that will address the risk. Under ISA 330, those procedures may include tests of operating effectiveness of controls (where reliance on controls is planned), substantive analytical procedures (where the relationship between the data points being analysed is predictable and the disaggregation is appropriate), and tests of details. The engagement team documents the linkage between the assertion, the risk, and the audit response, so that any reviewer can trace from a financial statement assertion to the evidence the firm obtained.

Full-population analytics. Where the entity's transactional data is available in a usable format, the firm performs full-population analytics rather than sample testing. The Dawgen Global Audit Data Analytics platform extracts transaction data from the entity's ERP, validates the data's completeness against the trial balance, and runs the firm's standard analytics suite — three-way match testing on procure-to-pay transactions, revenue cut-off testing across the period boundary, journal entry analytics under ISA 240 paragraph 33, and account-specific anomaly detection. The output of the analytics drives where targeted substantive procedures are then deployed.

Journal entry testing. Journal entries are tested under ISA 240 paragraph 33 through algorithmic anomaly detection across the full population. The firm's standard anomaly tests include: entries posted by users outside the normal accounting cycle, entries posted at unusual times (weekends, outside business hours, immediately before close), entries with round-number amounts at materiality thresholds, entries with weak narrations, entries that net to zero across the period, entries posted by senior management directly, and entries to seldom-used accounts. Flagged entries are inspected for supporting documentation and approval evidence. Where supporting documentation is absent or weak, the matter is escalated to the engagement partner and Risk Management Partner.

Substantive analytical procedures. Where the firm performs substantive analytical procedures, it develops independent expectations of recorded amounts using data that is independent of the data being tested. Expectations are documented before the comparison to the recorded amount is performed, and the precision of the expectation is calibrated to materiality. Differences from expectation that exceed the calibrated threshold are investigated until satisfactorily explained.

Tests of details. Sample-based tests of details continue to be appropriate where the engagement risk profile and the available evidence make sampling the proportionate

response. Sample sizes are calibrated under the firm's sampling methodology, which is grounded in ISA 530 and tested for adequacy under the engagement risk profile. Sampling is never used as a substitute for full-population analytics where the latter is available.

Third-party confirmations. The firm performs third-party confirmations under ISA 505 for material balances and transactions where direct evidence is appropriate — bank confirmations, customer and supplier balance confirmations, legal counsel confirmations, and confirmations from specialist counterparties (custodians, transfer agents, third-party administrators). Confirmations are controlled by the engagement team throughout the process, with the responses returned to the engagement team directly.

Professional scepticism as discipline. Substantive Intelligence is not just a procedural choice; it is a disciplined application of professional scepticism. The engagement team approaches management representations as evidence to be evaluated rather than positions to be accepted. Inconsistencies between management's explanations and the evidence the firm has obtained are pursued until they are resolved. The presumption of management integrity is not abandoned, but it does not displace the requirement for corroborating evidence on matters that are material.

Documentation. Audit evidence is documented to the standard required by ISA 230. The audit file is structured so that an experienced auditor having no previous connection to the audit can understand the nature, timing, and extent of the procedures performed, the results of those procedures and the evidence obtained, the significant matters arising and the conclusions reached, and the basis for the auditor's report.

PILLAR 3 · S · SUBSTANTIVE INTELLIGENCE

Standards Operationalised

This pillar operationalises the following international standards. The cross-references are not exhaustive of every standard relevant to the audit, but they identify the standards under which the pillar's methodology is executed.

ISA 330 — The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks

ISA 500 — Audit Evidence

ISA 505 — External Confirmations

ISA 520 — Analytical Procedures

ISA 530 — Audit Sampling

ISA 540 (Revised) — Auditing Accounting Estimates

ISA 240, paragraph 33 — Journal Entry Testing

ISA 230 — Audit Documentation

ANONYMISED CASE EXAMPLE · FULL-POPULATION ANALYTICS IDENTIFIES DUPLICATE PAYMENTS

A distribution group operating across three Caribbean territories presented an audit risk profile in which traditional sampling would have been inefficient given the volume and dispersion of transactions. Substantive Intelligence on the engagement deployed full-population analytics across the group's procure-to-pay and order-to-cash cycles, including three-way match testing on the full purchase ledger, duplicate payment detection, and cut-off testing on revenue across the period boundary. The analytics identified a pattern of duplicate payments to a single supplier across the three territories — a control deficiency that had escaped the entity's own detective controls. The matter was reported to management and the audit committee. Recovery from the supplier was subsequently effected for the amount of \$187,000. Full-population analytics produced the finding that a sample-based test would, by mathematical expectation, have missed.

PILLAR 3 · S · SUBSTANTIVE INTELLIGENCE

Audit Committee Evaluation Questions

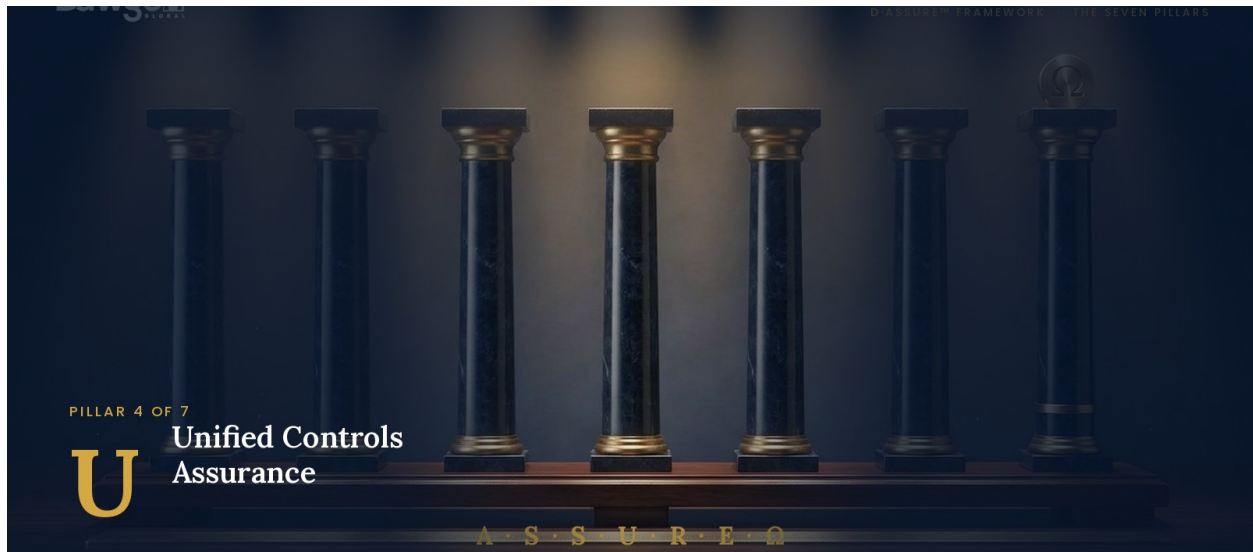
The following questions are the basis on which a firm — Dawgen Global or any other firm under consideration — can be evaluated against this pillar. The questions can be put to the firm at first appointment, at re-tender, or at any moment during the engagement when the audit committee or CFO wishes to test methodology depth.

AUDIT COMMITTEE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

For audit committees and CFOs evaluating a firm's execution discipline.

1. What proportion of the firm's substantive testing on this engagement is performed using full-population analytics rather than sampling?
2. For the firm's full-population analytics on journal entries, what tests are run, and how is the population validated for completeness?
3. Where sampling is used, how does the firm calibrate sample sizes against the engagement risk profile?
4. How does the firm perform substantive analytical procedures, and how is the precision of the expectation calibrated to materiality?
5. How does the firm test the methodology, data, and assumptions underlying management's accounting estimates?
6. What use does the firm make of third-party confirmations on this engagement, and how is the confirmation process controlled?
7. How does the firm evidence professional scepticism in its documentation — beyond using the word — particularly in relation to management representations and assumptions?
8. What is the firm's approach to identifying and addressing inconsistencies between management's explanations and the audit evidence the firm has obtained?
9. How does the firm document its audit work to meet the ISA 230 standard, and how would a reviewer with no prior connection to the audit reach the same conclusions from the file?
10. Where the firm uses specialist staff (data analytics, IT audit, financial instruments, sustainability), how is their work directed, reviewed, and integrated into the engagement team's conclusions?

PILLAR 4 OF 7 · U



U Unified Controls Assurance

The U pillar governs how the firm engages with the entity's system of internal control — not as a separate IT audit silo and a separate financial controls silo, but as a unified controls framework that addresses the full ICFR perimeter.

PILLAR 4 · U · UNIFIED CONTROLS ASSURANCE

Methodology

Unified Controls Assurance integrates ITGC, application controls, manual controls, entity-level controls, and — increasingly — the cybersecurity controls that protect the integrity of the financial reporting environment. Where the engagement is performed at a regulated entity, the pillar also engages with the operational and prudential controls that regulators expect the auditor to have considered. The unification is methodological, not just procedural: a single risk taxonomy, a single deficiency framework, a single set of management letter outputs.

The integrated controls perimeter. For each significant business process — typically including revenue, procurement, payroll, treasury and cash management, financial close and reporting, and any industry-specific processes — the firm identifies the controls relevant to the financial statement assertions affected by the process. The controls are mapped across five categories: entity-level controls (governance, ethics, IT strategy, risk assessment, monitoring), ITGC (access management, change management, computer operations, system development), application controls (automated controls embedded in the entity's information systems), manual controls (reconciliations, reviews, approvals performed by people), and cybersecurity controls relevant to the integrity of financial reporting (privileged access, segregation between production and test environments, logging and monitoring of financial system access).

ITGC as foundation. ITGCs are tested before any reliance is placed on application controls or on automated data extracts. Where ITGCs are not effective, the firm cannot place reliance on the application controls that operate above them, and the audit response on the affected processes shifts to substantive testing. The firm's IT audit specialists are integrated into the engagement team from planning, not introduced at execution.

Application controls. Where ITGCs are effective and application controls are properly designed and operating, the firm tests application controls through inspection of system configurations, observation of the control in operation, and re-performance of the control on a sample of transactions. The firm tests the system configuration in a controlled environment where management cannot alter the configuration for the duration of the test, and the firm documents the configuration evidence (screen captures or system reports) in the audit file.

Manual controls. Manual controls are tested through inquiry, observation, inspection of evidence (sign-offs, supporting documentation, reviewer comments), and re-performance on a sample of operations. Manual controls are particularly susceptible to deficiencies in segregation of duties, in the rigour of reviewer scrutiny (the 'rubber stamp' problem), and in the timeliness of the control's operation relative to the risk it addresses.

Cybersecurity controls and the financial reporting interface. The firm tests cybersecurity controls to the extent they are relevant to the integrity of the financial reporting environment. These typically include privileged access management over the ERP and consolidation systems, change management over the financial reporting environment, segregation between production and test or development environments, logging and monitoring of administrative access, and incident response capability for events that could affect the integrity of the financial records. Where the entity has experienced a material cybersecurity incident during the period under audit, the firm performs additional procedures to assess whether the integrity of the financial records was preserved.

The deficiency framework. Control deficiencies identified during the audit are evaluated under a single framework against the criteria of significant deficiency and material weakness. The evaluation considers the magnitude of the potential misstatement, the likelihood of misstatement, the indicators of material weakness, and the existence of compensating controls. Deficiencies are reported to management and the audit committee in a single integrated management letter rather than across separate IT and financial deliverables.

The management letter as integrated output. The firm's management letter integrates all deficiencies and observations across the controls perimeter — entity-level, ITGC, application, manual, and cybersecurity. Each deficiency is rated, accompanied by an explanation of the root cause, and paired with a recommendation that is specific, actionable, and proportionate. Management's response is documented, including target remediation dates, and prior-year deficiencies are tracked through to closure.

Regulated-entity engagements. For regulated entities — banks, insurance companies, securities firms, credit unions, pension funds, and other supervised entities — the U pillar engages with the operational and prudential controls that regulators expect the auditor to have considered. The firm coordinates with the entity's regulator where regulatory expectations require auditor engagement on specific control areas. Coordination is conducted with the entity's knowledge and consent and does not displace the firm's primary duty to the entity's shareholders.

PILLAR 4 · U · UNIFIED CONTROLS ASSURANCE

Standards Operationalised

This pillar operationalises the following international standards. The cross-references are not exhaustive of every standard relevant to the audit, but they identify the standards under which the pillar's methodology is executed.

ISA 315 (Revised) — Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement (controls component)

ISA 330 — The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks (tests of controls)

ISA 265 — Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control

ISAE 3402 — Assurance Reports on Controls at a Service Organisation

ISA 402 — Audit Considerations Relating to an Entity Using a Service Organisation

ANONYMISED CASE EXAMPLE · MATERIAL WEAKNESS AT A CREDIT UNION

A regional credit union engagement identified during ITGC testing that the entity's core banking system was operating with privileged access granted to seventeen individuals across IT and finance, with no segregation between production and test environments. The configuration was such that finance personnel could amend posted transactions without independent review. Unified Controls Assurance escalated the finding as a material weakness, with implications for the firm's audit response on the entire loans and deposits population. The audit response on those balances shifted from controls reliance to full substantive testing, including a recalculation of accrued interest across the loan and deposit portfolios. The substantive testing identified an interest accrual variance of \$340,000 that was adjusted in the financial statements. The control deficiency was reported to the audit committee and to the supervisor with the entity's consent, and a six-month remediation plan was agreed.

PILLAR 4 · U · UNIFIED CONTROLS ASSURANCE

Audit Committee Evaluation Questions

The following questions are the basis on which a firm — Dawgen Global or any other firm under consideration — can be evaluated against this pillar. The questions can be put to the firm at first appointment, at re-tender, or at any moment during the engagement when the audit committee or CFO wishes to test methodology depth.

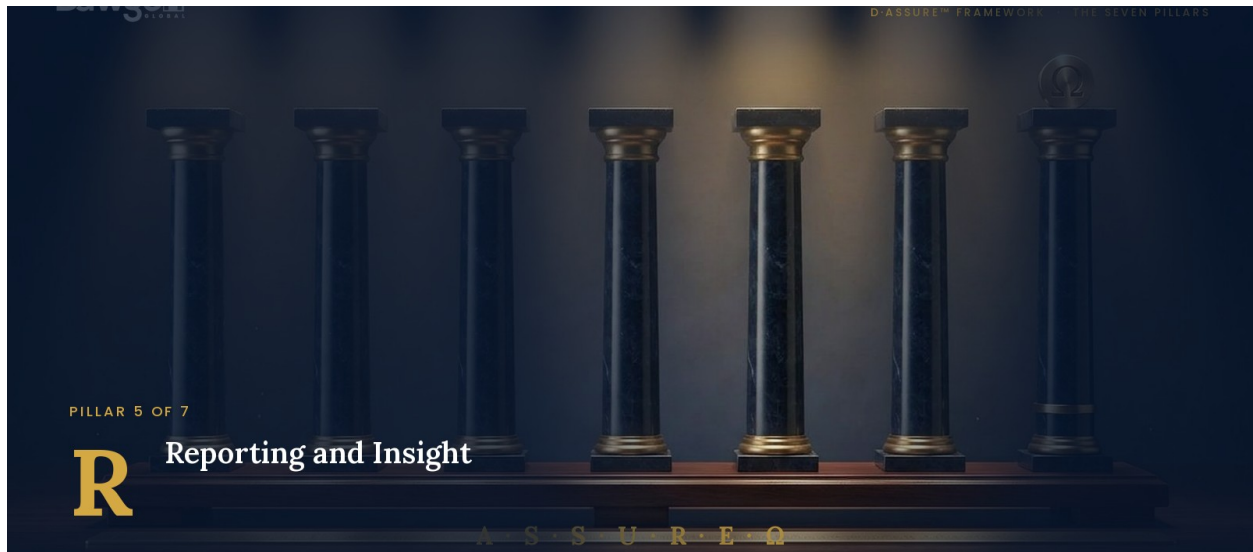
AUDIT COMMITTEE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

For audit committees and CFOs evaluating a firm's controls assurance discipline.

1. How does the firm integrate IT audit, financial controls testing, and cybersecurity assessment into a single unified controls perimeter on this engagement?
2. Has the firm placed reliance on the entity's ITGCs in designing its audit response, and on what evidence is that reliance based?
3. Where the entity uses a service organisation for material processes (payroll, custody, hosting), what assurance is the firm relying on, and is that assurance reflected in an ISAE 3402 report?
4. What cybersecurity controls has the firm tested in relation to the integrity of the financial reporting environment, and what was the result of that testing?
5. Where the entity has experienced a cybersecurity incident during the period, what additional procedures has the firm performed?
6. What significant deficiencies and material weaknesses (if any) has the firm identified, and how do those compare with the prior year?
7. How does the firm distinguish in its evaluation framework between a deficiency, a significant deficiency, and a material weakness?
8. How does the firm track the remediation of prior-year deficiencies, and what proportion remain unremediated at the date of the current-year management letter?
9. Where the entity is regulated, how does the firm coordinate with the entity's regulator on control areas where regulatory engagement is expected?

10. How does the firm rate the entity's overall control environment relative to peer entities in the same sector?

PILLAR 5 OF 7 · R



R Reporting and Insight

The R pillar governs how the firm reports the outputs of the engagement — the audit opinion, the ISA 260 (Revised) communication, the management letter, the engagement summary to the audit committee, and, increasingly, the assurance report on sustainability information under ISSA 5000.

Methodology

Reporting and Insight is the pillar that has expanded most in recent years, as the auditor's reporting obligations have grown to cover dimensions of the entity that the previous generation's audit did not address. The pillar holds the assurance, financial and non-financial, that the firm produces — and the discipline of producing reports that are useful to their users, not just compliant with their applicable standard.

The audit opinion. The audit opinion is issued under ISA 700 (Revised). The firm's opinion forms are calibrated to the relevant regulatory environment — Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Cayman, the Eastern Caribbean states — and reflect the requirements of the financial reporting framework the entity applies. Where the firm forms a modified opinion — qualified, adverse, or disclaimer — the basis for modification is set out clearly under ISA 705 (Revised). Where the firm includes Key Audit Matters under ISA 701 (relevant to listed entities and to entities choosing to include KAMs voluntarily), each KAM is drafted to communicate the auditor's response and conclusions, not merely to describe the area of focus.

The ISA 260 (Revised) communication. The firm communicates with those charged with governance under ISA 260 (Revised) at the planning, interim, and conclusion stages of the audit. The communication includes: the firm's responsibilities under the auditing standards, the planned scope and timing of the audit, the significant findings of the audit (including significant difficulties, significant matters discussed with management, and uncorrected misstatements), the firm's view on the quality of the entity's financial reporting, and the firm's independence position. The ISA 260 (Revised) communication is a substantive document drafted by the engagement partner, not a templated formality.

The management letter. The management letter is the firm's communication of control deficiencies, process observations, and improvement recommendations to management and (in extract or summary form) to the audit committee. The letter is integrated under the U pillar's framework and is structured to be actionable — each deficiency paired with a root cause and a specific recommendation, each recommendation paired with management's response and a target remediation date.

Engagement summary to the audit committee. Beyond the formal ISA 260 (Revised) communication, the firm provides the audit committee with an engagement summary that synthesises the firm's view of the year's audit in the language of governance rather than the language of audit. The engagement summary covers the firm's assessment of management's tone at the top, the maturity of the entity's control environment, the quality of the entity's financial reporting, and the principal risks the firm sees facing the entity in the period ahead. The summary is a substantive contribution to the audit committee's own annual reflection on the entity's assurance posture.

Sustainability assurance under ISSA 5000. Where the entity is reporting sustainability information under IFRS S1 and S2, the European ESRS, or another sustainability framework, and where the firm has been engaged to provide assurance over that information, Reporting and Insight extends to the production of the sustainability assurance report under ISSA 5000. The sustainability assurance is performed by the firm's sustainability assurance team, working alongside the financial audit team to ensure that the integrity of the entity's financial and non-financial reporting is assessed coherently rather than as separate silos.

Reporting to regulators. Where the entity is regulated and the firm has obligations to report directly to the supervisor — under specific banking, securities, or insurance legislation — the firm fulfils those obligations on a timely basis. The firm's reporting obligations to regulators are documented in the engagement file, including any whistleblower-style reporting required where the firm has identified a matter that the entity has not appropriately addressed.

The discipline of useful reporting. Useful reporting is the discipline that holds Reporting and Insight together. The firm's reports — audit opinion, ISA 260 (Revised) communication, management letter, engagement summary, sustainability assurance report — are drafted to be read and acted upon. They use specific facts rather than generic language, they identify implications and not only findings, and they distinguish what management already knew from what management needed to be told.

PILLAR 5 · R · REPORTING AND INSIGHT

Standards Operationalised

This pillar operationalises the following international standards. The cross-references are not exhaustive of every standard relevant to the audit, but they identify the standards under which the pillar's methodology is executed.

ISA 700 (Revised) — Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements

ISA 701 — Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report

ISA 705 (Revised) — Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report

ISA 706 (Revised) — Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs

ISA 260 (Revised) — Communication with Those Charged with Governance

ISA 265 — Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control

ISSA 5000 — General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements

ANONYMISED CASE EXAMPLE · FIRST-TIME KEY AUDIT MATTERS AT A LISTED GROUP

A listed hospitality group required the firm to communicate Key Audit Matters under ISA 701 for the first time, having previously not been required to include KAMs. The engagement team identified three KAMs: impairment of property, plant and equipment in a subsidiary that had experienced sustained losses; the recoverability of a significant intercompany loan due from a related party; and the revenue recognition treatment for a non-refundable advance deposit programme introduced during the period. Each KAM was drafted to communicate the auditor's response — not just the area of focus — including specifically what work the firm performed and the conclusions reached. The audit committee chair subsequently commented that the KAMs disclosure had been the single most useful piece of information in the year's audit file for the committee's own governance reporting to the board.

PILLAR 5 · R · REPORTING AND INSIGHT

Audit Committee Evaluation Questions

The following questions are the basis on which a firm — Dawgen Global or any other firm under consideration — can be evaluated against this pillar. The questions can be put to the firm at first appointment, at re-tender, or at any moment during the engagement when the audit committee or CFO wishes to test methodology depth.

AUDIT COMMITTEE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

For audit committees and CFOs evaluating a firm's reporting discipline.

1. How does the firm draft its audit opinion, and where the engagement is for a listed entity, how are Key Audit Matters identified and drafted?
2. What is the firm's view on the quality of the entity's financial reporting, and on what evidence is that view based?
3. How does the firm communicate uncorrected misstatements to the audit committee, and what is the cumulative effect of such uncorrected misstatements on the financial statements as a whole?
4. Where the entity reports sustainability information, has the firm been engaged to provide assurance over that information, and under what standard?
5. How does the firm coordinate the financial audit and the sustainability assurance to ensure coherent treatment of issues that span both?
6. What is the firm's view on the maturity of the entity's control environment, and what are the principal areas where the entity has fallen behind peer benchmarks?
7. What significant difficulties did the firm encounter during the audit, and how were they resolved?
8. How does the firm engage with the audit committee outside the formal ISA 260 (Revised) communication — informal updates, accessibility of the engagement partner, response time to ad-hoc queries?
9. Where the entity is regulated, what reporting obligations does the firm have to the supervisor, and have any reports to the supervisor

been made during the period?

- 10.** How does the firm draft its management letter to be actionable rather than aspirational, and how is management's response tracked through to closure?



E Engagement Quality

The E pillar governs the firm's quality management of the engagement under ISQM 1, ISQM 2, and ISA 220 (Revised). Engagement Quality includes the engagement partner's direction, supervision, and review of the engagement team's work; the engagement quality review where required by ISQM 2; the firm's monitoring and remediation of engagement-level quality matters; and the Jamaica Assurance Team standard that governs engagement leadership designation on every audit deliverable the firm produces.

PILLAR 6 · E · ENGAGEMENT QUALITY

Methodology

The pillar is what distinguishes a competently-delivered engagement from a substantively-led one. Quality at the engagement level is the firm's most visible commitment to the work — and the dimension that, when neglected, fails the audit regardless of the methodology applied elsewhere.

The engagement partner's leadership. Under ISA 220 (Revised), the engagement partner takes overall responsibility for the engagement's quality. That responsibility is not a paragraph in an engagement letter — it is the partner's substantive direction of the engagement, ongoing supervision of the engagement team, and review of the work performed at the level of detail necessary to satisfy the partner that the audit evidence obtained supports the auditor's conclusions and that the auditor's report issued is appropriate. The engagement partner is identified in the engagement letter and in the auditor's report, and is the named individual to whom the audit committee and the entity's senior management direct their substantive enquiries.

Direction, supervision, and review. The engagement partner's direction sets the tone, the standards, and the expectations for the engagement team at the outset. Supervision is continuous through the engagement, with the engagement partner and engagement manager actively engaged in the team's work — present at fieldwork, present at the audit committee meetings, present at the resolution of significant findings. Review is the formal sign-off process by which the engagement partner reviews each working paper area and concludes on its sufficiency.

Engagement Quality Review (EQR). Under ISQM 2, certain engagements require an Engagement Quality Review performed by an EQR Reviewer independent of the engagement team. EQR is required for audits of listed entities and for other engagements that the firm has designated as requiring EQR — typically high-public-interest engagements, engagements involving significant judgment, and engagements where prior-year quality observations indicate elevated risk. The EQR Reviewer's role is to provide an objective evaluation of the significant judgments made by the engagement team and the conclusions reached. The EQR is completed before the auditor's report is dated, and the EQR Reviewer's documentation includes the matters considered, the discussions held with the engagement partner, and the conclusion reached.

The Jamaica Assurance Team standard. Dawgen Global's engagement leadership designation on audit deliverables is the 'Jamaica Assurance Team' — the firm's standing designation for the engagement leadership of every audit deliverable the firm produces. The Jamaica Assurance Team designation signals that the engagement has been led by the firm's senior audit leadership in Jamaica, working with the engagement partner allocated to the specific engagement. The designation provides continuity of engagement leadership

across the firm's audit practice and is the engagement-level expression of the firm's quality commitment.

Monitoring and remediation. ISQM 1 requires the firm to monitor its quality management system, including engagement-level quality, and to remediate deficiencies identified through monitoring. The firm's internal inspection programme reviews a sample of completed engagements each year, with findings reported to the firm's Quality Committee and to the audit Engagement Leader of each inspected engagement. Where findings indicate systemic issues, the firm's quality management policies and procedures are revised. Where findings indicate engagement-specific issues, those are addressed with the engagement team and reflected in engagement leader development plans.

Quality as continuous discipline. Engagement Quality is not a final-stage activity. It is the continuous discipline that runs alongside every other pillar — informing the acceptance assessment under the A pillar, framing the risk assessment under the S1 pillar, shaping the audit responses under the S2 pillar, integrating the controls work under the U pillar, refining the reports under the R pillar, and extending into the post-audit relationship under the Ω pillar.

PILLAR 6 · E · ENGAGEMENT QUALITY

Standards Operationalised

This pillar operationalises the following international standards. The cross-references are not exhaustive of every standard relevant to the audit, but they identify the standards under which the pillar's methodology is executed.

ISQM 1 — Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews

ISQM 2 — Engagement Quality Reviews

ISA 220 (Revised) — Quality Management for an Audit of Financial Statements

ANONYMISED CASE EXAMPLE · EQR DRIVES REVISION OF SIGNIFICANT JUDGMENTS

A complex group audit engagement involving fifteen reporting components across five Caribbean jurisdictions was designated by the firm as requiring Engagement Quality Review under ISQM 2 given the complexity, the public-interest profile of the group, and the involvement of multiple component auditors. The EQR Reviewer, a senior partner with extensive group audit experience, engaged with the engagement partner at planning, at the interim, and at the conclusion. The EQR identified two areas where the EQR Reviewer disagreed with the engagement partner's initial conclusions — the treatment of a significant accounting estimate at one component, and the consultation that should be held with the firm's technical team over an emerging standards interpretation. Both matters were re-examined, the engagement partner's conclusions were revised in light of the EQR Reviewer's observations, and the resulting audit conclusions were stronger than they would have been without the EQR. Engagement Quality is the discipline that produces those refinements.

PILLAR 6 · E · ENGAGEMENT QUALITY

Audit Committee Evaluation Questions

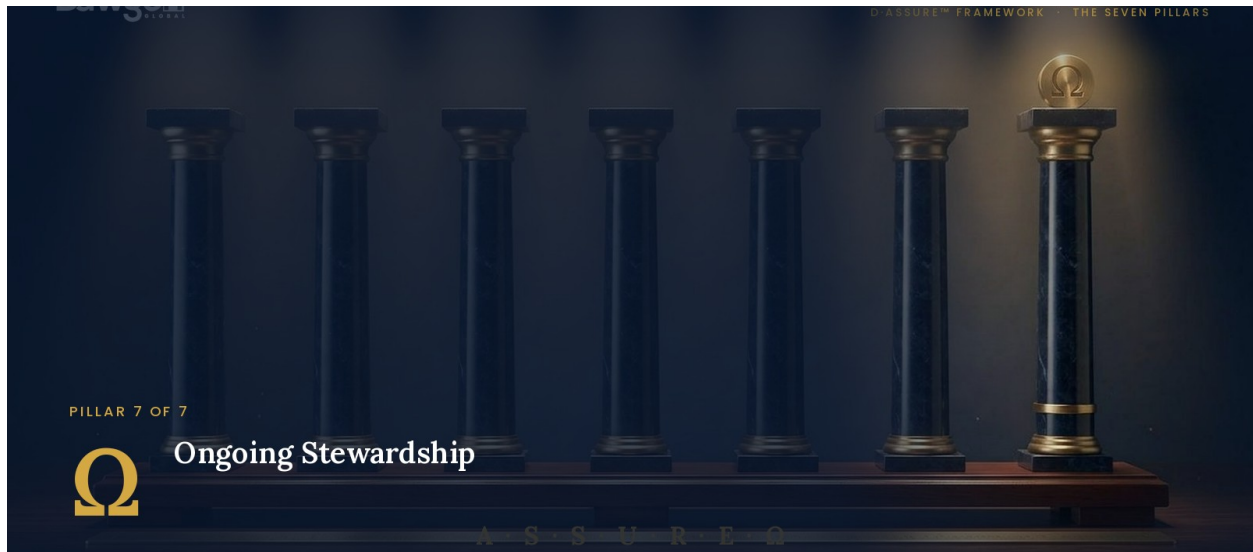
The following questions are the basis on which a firm — Dawgen Global or any other firm under consideration — can be evaluated against this pillar. The questions can be put to the firm at first appointment, at re-tender, or at any moment during the engagement when the audit committee or CFO wishes to test methodology depth.

AUDIT COMMITTEE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

For audit committees and CFOs evaluating a firm's quality discipline.

1. Who is the engagement partner for this engagement, and what is the partner's substantive experience in the entity's industry and jurisdictional context?
2. Does this engagement require Engagement Quality Review under ISQM 2, and if so, who is the EQR Reviewer and what is the reviewer's experience?
3. How does the firm's engagement partner exercise direction, supervision, and review on this engagement, and how is that evidenced in the audit file?
4. What time does the engagement partner spend on this engagement, and how does that compare with the partner's overall portfolio?
5. Has the engagement been the subject of internal quality inspection within the firm, and if so, what were the findings?
6. Where the engagement team includes specialist staff (data analytics, IT audit, financial instruments, sustainability), how is their work directed and reviewed by the engagement partner?
7. What is the firm's Engagement Leadership designation on this engagement's deliverables, and what does that designation signify?
8. How does the firm respond to quality findings from inspections (internal or external), and what evidence is there that those findings have led to changes in engagement-level practice?
9. Where significant judgments have been made during the audit, how have those judgments been documented, and what consultation (if any) has been held with the firm's technical or other specialist teams?

10. How does the firm assess whether engagement-level quality is being maintained over the course of a long engagement relationship, and what triggers a refresh of engagement leadership?



Ω Ongoing Stewardship

The seventh pillar — denoted by Omega, the closing letter — governs the firm's engagement with the entity beyond the year-end audit. Ongoing Stewardship is the firm's continuous relationship with the audit committee, the lead audit partner's accessibility between meeting cycles, the firm's engagement with the entity's emerging risks and significant transactions, and the firm's contribution to the audit committee's annual self-assessment.

PILLAR 7 · Ω · ONGOING STEWARDSHIP

Methodology

The pillar recognises that the firm's value to the entity is not contained within the four scheduled audit committee meetings of the year. It extends across the year, through cycles, and across the relationship.

Continuous accessibility of the engagement partner. The engagement partner is the audit committee's substantive point of contact across the year — not only at the four scheduled meetings, but at any moment when the chair, the committee, or the CFO requires the firm's perspective. Accessibility is documented in the engagement letter and reaffirmed annually in the firm's introductory communication to the committee. The expectation is concrete: the engagement partner responds to substantive enquiries from the chair or CFO within twenty-four hours during business periods and within forty-eight hours otherwise.

Engagement with emerging risks. The firm engages with the entity's emerging risks as they arise, not only as they appear in the next year's risk map. Where the entity faces a regulatory change, a significant transaction, an accounting standard interpretation question, or an operational disruption with potential financial reporting implications, the firm makes its perspective available to the committee — promptly, substantively, and without conflating the assurance role with an advisory role.

Significant transactions. Where the entity is contemplating a significant transaction — acquisition, divestiture, major refinancing, equity issuance, listing or de-listing, restructuring — the firm engages with the audit committee on the financial reporting implications. The firm's involvement is calibrated to preserve independence: the firm does not advise on the commercial terms of the transaction, but it does engage with the accounting, audit, and assurance implications, and it ensures that the audit committee has timely access to the firm's perspective on those dimensions.

Audit committee annual self-assessment. The firm contributes to the audit committee's annual self-assessment process, where the committee assesses its own effectiveness and the effectiveness of its principal external relationships — including the relationship with the external auditor. The firm's contribution is candid and substantive, identifying what is working and what could work better from the firm's perspective. The Caribbean Audit Committee Effectiveness Scorecard, introduced in Article 11 of The Caribbean Audit Imperative series, is the firm's standard instrument for supporting audit committees through that process.

Year-end transition for retiring partners. Where the engagement partner is approaching the rotation threshold under the IESBA Code, the firm manages the transition to the incoming partner across the final year of the outgoing partner's engagement and the first year of the incoming partner's engagement. The transition is documented in the

engagement file and discussed with the audit committee well in advance of the change. Continuity of institutional knowledge is preserved, while the independence imperative behind partner rotation is respected.

The standing relationship. Ongoing Stewardship is the recognition that the firm-entity relationship is a standing professional relationship, not a series of discrete annual transactions. Where the relationship is healthy, both parties are better served. Where it has deteriorated, both parties are entitled to a frank conversation about what has changed, and — if necessary — about whether continuation is in either party's interest. The stewardship pillar gives that conversation a structure and a vocabulary.

Beyond the engagement letter. The firm's value extends beyond the engagement letter. The firm's thought leadership programme through Caribbean Boardroom Perspectives, The Caribbean Advisory Brief, and BATV editorial features is available to the audit committee as a continuing source of perspective on Caribbean assurance and governance matters. Audit committees are encouraged to engage with the firm's publications and to bring their questions back into the standing engagement conversation.

PILLAR 7 · Ω · ONGOING STEWARDSHIP

Standards Operationalised

This pillar operationalises the following international standards. The cross-references are not exhaustive of every standard relevant to the audit, but they identify the standards under which the pillar's methodology is executed.

Firm methodology — This pillar reflects Dawgen Global's own methodology rather than codifying a specific international standard.

IESBA Code, Part 1 — The pillar operationalises the principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, and professional behaviour as they apply to the standing audit relationship.

ANONYMISED CASE EXAMPLE · REAL-TIME ENGAGEMENT ON A CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT

A regional manufacturing group experienced a significant cybersecurity incident eight months after the conclusion of its annual audit. The incident affected the group's ERP and consolidation environment. The audit committee chair contacted the engagement partner within hours of becoming aware of the incident, and the engagement partner convened a same-day call with the chair, the CFO, and the firm's cybersecurity and assurance leadership to discuss the financial reporting implications. The firm's perspective shaped the audit committee's communication to the board, the group's external disclosures, and the design of the additional audit procedures that would be performed at the subsequent year-end audit. Ongoing Stewardship made the firm's perspective available in real time, at the moment it was most useful, rather than eight months later when the next audit cycle began.

PILLAR 7 · Ω · ONGOING STEWARDSHIP

Audit Committee Evaluation Questions

The following questions are the basis on which a firm — Dawgen Global or any other firm under consideration — can be evaluated against this pillar. The questions can be put to the firm at first appointment, at re-tender, or at any moment during the engagement when the audit committee or CFO wishes to test methodology depth.

AUDIT COMMITTEE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

For audit committees and CFOs evaluating a firm's stewardship discipline.

1. How is the engagement partner's accessibility documented, and what is the firm's response time commitment for substantive enquiries from the audit committee or CFO?
2. How does the firm engage with emerging risks and significant transactions during the year, outside the four scheduled audit committee meetings?
3. Has the firm contributed to the audit committee's annual self-assessment, and how was that contribution structured?
4. What thought leadership and professional publications does the firm produce, and how are they made available to the audit committee?
5. Where the engagement partner is approaching the rotation threshold, how is the transition to the incoming partner being managed?
6. How does the firm communicate with the audit committee chair between scheduled committee meetings, and what is the cadence of that communication?
7. What standing instruments (such as the Caribbean Audit Committee Effectiveness Scorecard) does the firm make available to support the audit committee's own governance discipline?
8. Where the entity has experienced a significant event (cybersecurity, regulatory, operational, financial) between audit cycles, how has the firm engaged with the audit committee on the implications of that event?
9. How does the firm preserve continuity of institutional knowledge across changes in engagement partner or engagement team

composition?

- 10.** How does the firm signal to the audit committee that the standing relationship is healthy, or that aspects of the relationship require attention?

APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK

How the Seven Pillars Connect

The seven pillars are not a checklist. They are an integrated architecture, with each pillar supporting and being supported by the others.

The A pillar (Acceptance and Independence) sets the conditions under which the engagement is undertaken. Where the A pillar is exercised with discipline, the firm enters the engagement on terms that allow the remaining six pillars to operate cleanly. Where it is exercised without discipline, the rest of the framework is compromised before the first risk has been mapped.

The first S pillar (Strategic Risk Mapping) determines where the audit work is concentrated. The risk map drives the second S pillar (Substantive Intelligence), which executes the audit response calibrated to that risk profile. Risk mapping without substantive execution is theory; substantive execution without risk mapping is volume without judgment.

The U pillar (Unified Controls Assurance) provides the controls foundation on which substantive procedures rely. Where the entity's controls are effective and the firm has tested them, audit responses can be calibrated to rely on those controls. Where they are not, the audit response shifts to substantive testing — and the U pillar's testing produces the evidence base for that calibration decision.

The R pillar (Reporting and Insight) produces the engagement outputs. Where the preceding four pillars have been exercised substantively, the R pillar has something substantive to report. Where they have not, the R pillar can only describe deliverables — not produce insight.

The E pillar (Engagement Quality) governs how each of the preceding five pillars is performed. The engagement partner's direction, supervision, and review run through every working paper area of every pillar. The Engagement Quality Reviewer (where ISQM 2 applies) provides an additional layer of objective evaluation. The firm's internal monitoring under ISQM 1 closes the loop across engagements and across years.

The Ω pillar (Ongoing Stewardship) extends the engagement's value beyond the year-end cycle into the continuing relationship with the entity. The five preceding execution pillars do their work in the year; the seventh holds the relationship across the years.

The framework's integration is what makes it more than the sum of its parts. Each pillar is rigorous on its own. The integration is what produces an audit that is rigorous, calibrated, and accountable across every dimension on which audit quality is assessed.

APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK

Reading the Framework Back Across the Series

Read backward from the framework to the articles, each of the twelve articles of The Caribbean Audit Imperative finds its place inside one or more pillars.

Articles 1 and 2 → Strategic Risk Mapping — the substantive understanding of the entity, the inherent risk continuum, and the discipline of designing audit responses calibrated to where risks actually live.

Article 3 → Engagement Quality through the ISQM 1 transition — the firm's quality management system, the engagement partner's responsibilities under ISA 220 (Revised), and the Engagement Quality Review framework under ISQM 2.

Articles 4 and 5 → Substantive Intelligence expanded into digitised audit techniques and the cybersecurity interface — full-population analytics, journal entry testing using anomaly detection, and the cybersecurity controls that protect the integrity of the financial reporting environment.

Article 6 → Strategic Risk Mapping in the specific contexts of fraud and going concern — the ISA 240 fraud risk assessment, the ISA 570 (Revised) going-concern assessment, and the audit responses each demands.

Article 7 → Reporting and Insight in regulated-entity engagements — the auditor's reporting obligations to supervisors, the calibration of the audit opinion to the regulated context, and the coordination with regulators on control areas where regulatory engagement is expected.

Article 8 → Engagement Quality in group audits under ISA 600 (Revised) — the group engagement team's involvement in component auditors' work, and the quality oversight that group audit complexity demands.

Article 9 → Reporting and Insight under the new sustainability-assurance regime — the IFRS S1 and S2 framework, the European ESRS, ISSA 5000, and the coordination of financial audit and sustainability assurance.

Article 10 → The structural case for the firm able to operate the framework — the integrated practice, the specialist depth, and the Caribbean territorial reach that the modern audit demands.

Article 11 → Ongoing Stewardship through the audit committee's discipline of self-assessment — the Caribbean Audit Committee Effectiveness Scorecard, the standing

relationship between firm and committee, and the operational instruments by which that relationship is maintained.

D·ASSURE™ is the methodology that holds all of those threads together. Read forward from the articles to the framework, the framework reveals itself as the architecture the series has been pointing toward all along.

APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK · FOR AUDIT COMMITTEES

Applying D·ASSURE™ to Firm Selection

When an audit committee is selecting an audit firm — at first appointment, at rotation, or at periodic re-tender — the D·ASSURE™ framework provides a structure for the assessment that goes beyond fee comparison and brand recognition.

The questions appended to each pillar in this Whitepaper are the basis on which a firm — Dawgen Global or any other firm under consideration — can be evaluated. The committee can put the seventy questions, or the subset most relevant to its entity, to each candidate firm during the RFP process and compare the substantive answers received.

What the committee is testing is not whether the firm can describe its methodology, but whether the firm can describe its methodology in terms specific to the committee's entity. A firm that answers the framework questions in generic terms has either not engaged with the entity's profile or does not have the methodological depth to answer specifically. A firm that answers the questions with reference to the entity's industry, jurisdictional context, complexity, and risk profile is the firm that is methodologically prepared to do the work.

The committee should put the same questions to the incumbent firm at re-tender. The contrast between answers given at first appointment and answers given at re-tender is itself a useful piece of information about how the firm-entity relationship has evolved.

The framework also gives the committee a vocabulary to discuss methodology questions with the firm during the engagement, not only during the firm-selection process. Where the committee asks 'how is the firm exercising the A pillar on our acceptance for the upcoming year,' 'how has the firm's Strategic Risk Mapping changed in light of the new regulatory environment,' or 'what is the EQR Reviewer's role on this year's engagement,' the committee is engaging substantively with the firm's quality management system rather than passively receiving its outputs.

The framework belongs to the committee as much as it belongs to the firm. Both parties are better served by a conversation conducted in its terms.

APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK · FOR CFOS

Applying D·ASSURE™ to RFP Preparation

A CFO preparing an audit firm RFP can use D·ASSURE™ as the methodology spine of the RFP itself.

The seven pillars provide the section structure of the RFP. Each pillar's audit committee evaluation questions provide the question set for that section. Candidate firms are asked to respond to each pillar's questions in terms specific to the entity, and their answers form the basis of the methodology comparison.

A well-structured RFP does not ask candidate firms to describe themselves in their own terms. It asks them to respond, in the entity's terms, to the methodology questions the entity's governance considers material. D·ASSURE™ provides those questions ready-formed.

The CFO can supplement the framework questions with entity-specific questions — sector-specific accounting matters, jurisdictional considerations, group structure complexity, specific transactions or events on which the entity needs the firm's perspective — but the seven pillars and seventy questions provide the structural anchor.

Where the entity's audit committee will participate in the firm-selection decision (as good practice requires), the audit committee chair receives the candidate firms' framework responses and forms an independent view. The CFO and the audit committee chair then meet to compare assessments, and disagreements between them on candidate firms become useful surfaces of discussion rather than positions to be reconciled.

The framework can also be used at engagement letter renewal to refresh the methodology conversation without going to a full RFP. The CFO and audit committee chair can put a subset of the framework questions to the incumbent firm — the same questions year after year, or rotated questions across years — and the firm's responses provide a continuous record of how the engagement is being conducted.

The framework is the methodology infrastructure that makes the firm-CFO-audit committee conversation portable across firms and across years.

ABOUT

About Dawgen Global

Dawgen Global is an independent, integrated multidisciplinary professional services firm headquartered at 47 Trinidad Terrace, New Kingston, Jamaica, with operations across more than fifteen Caribbean territories.

The firm's practice spans eleven service disciplines: Audit and Assurance, Tax Advisory, IT and Digital Transformation, Risk Management, Cybersecurity, Human Resources Advisory, Mergers and Acquisitions, Corporate Recovery, Business Advisory, Accounting Business Process Outsourcing and Virtual CFO, and Legal Process Outsourcing.

The firm's audit and assurance practice serves regulated entities — banks, insurance companies, securities firms, credit unions, pension funds, and other supervised entities — alongside listed entities, large privately-held enterprises, regional groups operating across multiple Caribbean jurisdictions, and not-for-profit organisations whose assurance needs reflect the public interest in their operations.

The firm's integrated structure is the operational answer to the structural pressures the modern audit faces. Audit engagements draw on the firm's IT audit, cybersecurity, financial instruments, sustainability assurance, and forensic specialists from within the firm rather than from external consultants. The integration is methodological as well as operational, with D·ASSURE™ providing the architectural anchor across engagements and across service lines.

The firm's thought leadership is published through Caribbean Boardroom Perspectives (Dr. Brown's personal LinkedIn newsletter, published Thursdays), The Caribbean Advisory Brief (the firm's LinkedIn newsletter, published Saturdays), and BATV editorial features (the firm's Caribbean business media affiliate). The Caribbean Audit Imperative — the twelve-article series that closed with the introduction of this framework — is one of the firm's flagship thought leadership programmes.

The firm holds itself accountable for the quality of its work. The D·ASSURE™ framework set out in this Whitepaper is the architecture against which that accountability is exercised — internally, with audit committees, with regulators, and with the broader Caribbean professional community the firm serves.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Dawkins Brown

Executive Chairman and Founder, Dawgen Global

Dr. Dawkins Brown is the Executive Chairman and Founder of Dawgen Global. He holds a Ph.D. and carries the institutional heritage of his early career at Ernst & Young, one of the Big Four global firms, from which he founded Dawgen Global to build an independent Caribbean firm capable of operating at the methodological standard the global frameworks require while remaining rooted in the Caribbean territories the firm serves.

Dr. Brown leads the firm's audit and assurance practice alongside the firm's broader integrated practice. He is the author of the firm's principal proprietary methodologies — D·ASSURE™ for audit and assurance, CARISK™ for risk management, DAGAF™ for digital asset governance and assurance, and the broader Dawgen Global framework library that organises the firm's intellectual capital across service disciplines.

He writes weekly on Caribbean governance, audit, and assurance matters through Caribbean Boardroom Perspectives and The Caribbean Advisory Brief, with a combined subscriber community that has grown across the firm's thought leadership programme. He is also the founder of Business Access Television (BATV), the firm's Caribbean business media affiliate, which carries the firm's editorial features into the broader regional conversation about commerce, governance, and assurance in the Caribbean.

The work continues. The methodology is here. The framework is yours to apply.

CONTEXT

The Caribbean Audit Imperative

Series Index · Twelve articles, May-August 2026

The Caribbean Audit Imperative is the twelve-article series concluded August 2026 through which The D·ASSURE™ Framework was progressively developed and revealed. Each article remains available at dawgen.global.

1. Caribbean audit foundations — substantive understanding of the entity
2. The inherent risk continuum under ISA 315 (Revised)
3. ISQM 1 and the new quality management architecture
4. Digitised audit techniques and full-population analytics
5. Cybersecurity and the integrity of the financial reporting environment
6. Fraud risk and going concern under modern audit conditions
7. Auditing the regulated entity — supervisory engagement and reporting
8. Group audits under ISA 600 (Revised) — Caribbean complexity
9. Sustainability assurance under ISSA 5000 and IFRS S1/S2
10. The structural firm — integrated practice for the modern audit
11. The Caribbean Audit Committee Effectiveness Scorecard
12. The D·ASSURE™ Framework — the methodology revealed

STANDING REFERENCES

Companion Assets

This Whitepaper is one of several standing references that Dawgen Global makes available to audit committees, CFOs, and directors across the Caribbean.

The Caribbean Audit Committee Effectiveness Scorecard

The companion instrument to Article 11 of The Caribbean Audit Imperative, the Scorecard provides audit committees with a structured self-assessment instrument across the dimensions on which committee effectiveness is assessed. It is the operational counterpart to the Ω pillar of D·ASSURE™ — the instrument by which the standing firm-committee relationship is calibrated. Available at dawgen.global/scorecard.

Caribbean Boardroom Perspectives

Dr. Brown's personal LinkedIn newsletter, published Thursdays. The newsletter community spans audit committee chairs, board chairs, CFOs, group CFOs, directors, regulators, and senior professional advisors across the Caribbean. Caribbean Boardroom Perspectives was the channel through which The Caribbean Audit Imperative series was published.

The Caribbean Advisory Brief

The firm's LinkedIn newsletter, published Saturdays. The Brief carries the firm's editorial perspective on Caribbean assurance, governance, and advisory matters, including the firm's commentary on emerging international standards and their Caribbean application.

BATV Editorial Features

Business Access Television — the firm's Caribbean business media affiliate — publishes editorial features on Caribbean commerce, governance, and assurance through its editorial team. BATV is available at www.batvja.com.

CONTACT

Engage with Dawgen Global

For audit committee chairs, CFOs, and directors who wish to apply the framework to their current engagement decisions, to request the firm's perspective on a specific assurance matter, or to engage in a confidential conversation about audit and assurance services across the Caribbean.

DAWGEN GLOBAL

Email

info@dawgen.global

Web

dawgen.global

Office

47 Trinidad Terrace, New Kingston, Jamaica

To request the firm's perspective specifically on the D·ASSURE™ framework, write to info@dawgen.global with the subject line 'D·ASSURE™ — Framework Conversation.'

The firm is available to be evaluated against the framework, alongside any other firm under consideration. The framework is yours to apply.

CLOSING THE SERIES · AUGUST 2026

*The methodology has been named.
The framework has been revealed.
The series has done what it set out to do.*

TWELVE WEEKS · TWELVE ARTICLES · ONE FRAMEWORK

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