



Summary of feedback to CS 54 and ASIC's response

In our consultation *Proposed consolidation of financial reporting and auditing instruments* ([CS 54](#)), we sought feedback on our proposal to:

- consolidate 14 legislative instruments about annual and half-year reporting relief into a single instrument; and
- consolidate 3 legislative instruments about audit relief into a single instrument.

This is part of our ongoing commitment to regulatory simplification.

We received 7 submissions. We have summarised key feedback received and our responses regarding [ASIC Corporations \(Annual and Half-year Reporting\) Instrument 2026/XXX](#) (PDF 542 KB) (draft Reporting Instrument) and [ASIC Corporations \(Auditing\) Instrument 2026/XXX](#) (PDF 386 KB) (draft Auditing Instrument) in the tables on the following pages. This document is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of all feedback or all changes to the final legislative instruments.

Note: Non-confidential submissions are published on the landing page for [CS 54](#).

General feedback

Feedback	ASIC's response
Most respondents expressed support for the consolidations in the draft Reporting Instrument and the draft Auditing Instrument.	We have proceeded with our proposal to: • consolidate the annual and half-year reporting instruments into ASIC Corporations (Annual and Half-year Reporting) Instrument 2026/468; and • consolidate the audit relief instruments into ASIC Corporations (Auditing) Instrument 2026/469. Consistent with our commitment to regulatory simplification, we have removed duplicative stapled entity relief in ASIC Instrument 2026/478. As a result, stapled entities seeking to present their financial reports and directors' reports in a single report are subject to one set of conditions in section 31 of ASIC Instrument 2026/468. These conditions largely reflect those in <i>ASIC Corporations (Stapled Group Reports) Instrument 2025/43</i>, with minor changes to accommodate their consolidation into ASIC Instrument 2026/498.

Feedback	ASIC's response
Some respondents noted concern around the ongoing navigability of the instruments, including a respondent that submitted it would be optimal to have requirements directly incorporated into legislation. There were also suggestions that ASIC should: • specify which reporting and audit instruments are excluded from the consolidated instruments; and • improve cross-referencing within and between instruments.	To assist with ongoing navigability of the relief in the instruments, we have published a new ASIC webpage, Consolidated reporting and audit instruments, which outlines: • the relief that has been consolidated into ASIC Instrument 2026/468 and ASIC Instrument 2026/469; and • other reporting and audit-related relief considered but not included in the final instruments. We have also updated the final instruments to improve the cross-referencing across the instruments. We note industry feedback that it would be preferable to have the reporting and audit relief incorporated into the legislation. However, this is a matter for the Australian Government and for Parliament.

Draft Reporting Instrument

Feedback	ASIC's response
One respondent queried the use of '<i>relevant entity</i>' to refer to different entity types in the draft Reporting Instrument, as the term has different meanings in different provisions (e.g. subsections 12(1), 15(1) and 26). The respondent considered that using the same label may cause confusion and suggested explaining this in the simplified outline for the instrument or at the start of each part.	We have added a note to section 6 of ASIC Instrument 2026/468 to explain that the 'relevant entity' label has different meanings between parts in the instrument. We have also re-labelled the 'relevant entity' definitions in Pt 3 and Pt 8 to reduce the incidence of the 'relevant entity' label being used.
One respondent queried why section 41 on the application for review by the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) had been added to the draft Reporting Instrument.	We have retained this section in ASIC Instrument 2026/468 because the ART review rights apply to ASIC decisions under paragraph 35(2)(e) and subsection 36(3) to notify a small foreign-controlled proprietary company or foreign company that Pt 8 relief may not apply, and to vary or revoke such a notification: see section 38 in ASIC Instrument 2026/468.

Feedback	ASIC's response
Two respondents suggested that the relief for wholly-owned companies in ASIC Corporations (Wholly-owned Companies) Instrument 2016/785 should be included in the consolidated reporting instrument.	We have consulted separately on the proposed remake of ASIC Instrument 2016/785: see CS 61. Consultation closed on 28 August 2026, and we are considering feedback from the submissions received. The Australian Government separately announced it will progress law reform to simplify reporting relief for group entities as part of the 2026–27 Budget: see Whole-of-Government Regulatory Reform Agenda (PDF 1 MB)). We do not intend to incorporate the wholly-owned companies relief into ASIC Instrument 2026/468 while this law reform is being considered.

Draft Auditing Instrument

Feedback	ASIC's response
One respondent submitted that the draft Auditing Instrument should not remove existing audit relief safeguards relating to modified audit opinions, unresolved accounting disputes or auditor concerns.	We have reinstated a condition which provides that the audit relief is only available if no auditor has indicated that the company's financial report may receive a modified audit opinion, and there are no material unresolved disputes with an auditor about the report's accounting treatment or amounts: see paragraph 14(s) of ASIC Instrument 2026/469 .
One respondent recommended that audit relief in subsection 13(1) of the draft Auditing Instrument should be extended to sustainability reports. This would be consistent with the relief for financial reports and avoids: • having increased modified audit opinions on sustainability reports; and • auditors not having access to the information necessary to complete the audit due to the audit relief.	We are giving further consideration to this suggestion. We will also continue to monitor developments regarding Treasury's consultation paper on improving the efficiency of climate-related financial disclosures. If we decide to extend the audit relief obligations to sustainability reports, we will consult separately on proposals before making any amendments to ASIC Instrument 2026/469 .
One respondent suggested the draft Auditing Instrument should restore the condition that was previously in paragraph 6(s) of ASIC Corporations (Audit Relief) Instrument 2016/784 .	We have not amended the instrument as the effect of the condition remains in the new paragraph 14(p) in ASIC Instrument 2026/469 . To simplify the drafting, paragraphs 6(r) and (s) from ASIC Instrument 2016/784 were consolidated into the new single paragraph.