

CRIS: ASIC INDUSTRY FUNDING MODEL (2024-25)

This document is part of <u>ASIC's 2024–25 CRIS</u>. It should be read in conjunction with the other documents that make up the CRIS, including the key terms.

B Corporate sector

Key points

This document outlines:

- our work during 2024–25 to regulate the corporate sector—for our ongoing regulatory activities, see paragraphs 3–8, and for our strategic work, see Table 1;
- the estimated levies to recover our costs—for a summary of the estimated levies for each subsector, see Table 2; and
- more detailed breakdowns of estimated costs for each subsector—see Table 3–Table 9.

The estimated levies are a guide only. The final levies will be based on our actual cost of regulating each subsector in 2024–25.

Overview of the corporate sector

- The corporate sector consists of:
 - (a) companies, including:
 - (i) listed corporations;
 - (ii) unlisted public companies;
 - (iii) large proprietary companies; and
 - (b) certain members of our regulated population that provide professional services:
 - (i) auditors of disclosing entities;
 - (ii) registered company auditors; and
 - (iii) registered liquidators.
- 2 Small proprietary companies are not included as a subsector in the *ASIC* Supervisory Cost Recovery Regulations 2017 (Cost Recovery Levy

Regulations) because we recover our regulatory costs for this subsector through the \$4 increase to the annual review fee for proprietary companies, which was introduced in July 2018. This minimises the regulatory burden on small proprietary companies by ensuring they only pay one fee each year. This is a registry fee and is not charged within the Australian Government Charging Framework. However, we have included our estimated costs for regulating small proprietary companies in the CRIS to provide transparency on our work in this sector.

Note: The \$4 increase is subject to indexation and applies to all proprietary companies. We will reduce our levy for large proprietary companies by \$5 in 2024–25 to allow for what they will pay through the increase to the annual review fee.

Our ongoing regulatory work

- We use the full suite of our regulatory tools (<u>ASIC Annual Report 2023–24</u>, <u>Chapter 2</u>) to promote integrity in this sector in order to bring about sound consumer outcomes. This includes, where appropriate, taking enforcement action to address misconduct. This action may span several years.
- 4 Our focus is on promoting sound corporate conduct and enforcing the law to minimise and respond to misconduct. Our work includes supervision and surveillance that targets corporate governance practices, corporate transactions and disclosures. This includes:
 - (a) surveillance of, and reviewing, public corporate finance activity, reports of misconduct and governance-related conduct. We primarily review activity and conduct by listed companies to maintain an informed market and reduce harms to investors; and
 - (b) reviewing financial reports of listed entities and other public interest entities on a risk basis.
 - In relation to auditors, our ongoing focus is on audit quality and the consistency of audit execution to support the integrity of financial reporting. This includes:
 - (a) reviewing audits of listed entities and other public interest entities on a risk basis, focusing on asset values, provisions and revenue; and
 - (b) engaging with the largest six audit firms to promote enhanced audit quality.
 - Our work in relation to registered liquidators seeks to ensure that they fulfil their statutory duties and roles as fiduciaries diligently and independently. We continue to influence better outcomes in the insolvency space by:
 - (a) providing information to the public about corporate insolvency in Australia and regulation of registered liquidators;

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- (b) using information collected from online forms to inform our guidance to industry on compliance with their obligations;
- (c) engaging with Treasury on policy issues relevant to existing and proposed corporate insolvency law; and
- (d) providing new and updated guidance (regulatory guides, information sheets and FAQs) to registered liquidators on key regulatory issues about how ASIC proposes to administer the law.
- We continue to engage with external stakeholders and manage our relationships with them through, for example:
 - (a) ongoing liaison meetings with key stakeholders—including through our advisory panels—on a range of matters (e.g. corporate governance, corporate finance, accounting and auditing policy, technical issues and insolvency); and
 - (b) quarterly newsletters on our regulation of corporate finance and our response to novel relief applications, and on corporate insolvency issues.
- The level of our regulatory activity in each subsector in the corporate sector depends on our assessment of the level of potential harm posed by the subsector. For example, we dedicate a significantly larger amount of our regulatory effort to listed corporations, compared to small proprietary companies, because misconduct by listed corporations has the potential to cause greater harm to investors and to fair, strong and efficient financial markets.

Strategic work in this sector

- 9 ASIC's *Corporate Plan 2024–25* outlines our strategic priorities for the next four years and our planned actions for 2024–25.
- 10 Our strategic priorities inform our <u>2025 enforcement priorities</u> which communicate our intent to industry and indicate where we will direct our resources and expertise.
- 11 Table 1 sets out our strategic work in the corporate sector in 2024–25.

Note: In Table 1, the strategic work may apply to the listed relevant subsectors, depending on prevailing circumstances. Our key actions for some strategic work can apply to multiple sectors and subsectors, particularly for our strategic priorities. This means there may be other relevant sectors and subsectors for this work outside the corporate sector.

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Key activity	Key actions	Relevant subsector
Sustainable finance practices	 Provide regulatory guidance to help entities comply with the Australian mandatory sustainability reporting obligations 	Listed corporations, unlisted public companies
	• Engage with industry and conduct targeted surveillance to promote enhanced sustainability-related disclosures and governance practices	
	 Take action against misconduct, including greenwashing by entities 	
	• Engage with peer domestic and international regulators (such as the Council of Financial Regulators Climate Working Group and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) Sustainable Finance Task Force) on sustainable finance developments	
Financial reporting and audit quality	 Review the financial reports of listed entities, unlisted entities that are of public interest, previously grandfathered large proprietary companies and 	Listed corporations, unlisted public companies
	superannuation funds to improve financial reporting quality	Auditors of disclosing entities
	Review audit files to promote audit quality	Registered company
	 Review audit firms' adherence to ethical and independence standards to promote audit quality 	auditors
	Engage with audit firms to promote better quality	
	 Provide guidance to better support industry when complying with financial reporting and audit obligations 	
Cyber and operational resilience	 Conduct targeted surveillances to monitor cyber and operational resilience among our regulated entities 	Listed corporations, unlisted public
	 Engage with industry to promote good practices and support initiatives that enhance cyber resilience 	companies
	 Develop supervisory approaches for emerging operational risks, including artificial intelligence 	
	 Partner with other regulators to harmonise regulatory approaches and action 	
Design and distribution obligations	 Take action against poor product design and distribution practices to reduce consumer harm and improve consumer outcomes 	Listed corporations, unlisted public companies
Digital technology and data	 Invest in our use of data and digital technology to become a leading digitally enabled and data-informed regulator 	Listed corporations
	 Use data and technology to more quickly and accurately identify poor market disclosure and other harms, and to support improved decision making 	
	 Develop supervisory approaches for emerging operational risks, including artificial intelligence 	

 Table 1: Strategic work in the corporate sector (2024–25)

Key activity	Key actions	Relevant subsector
Contributing to the development of the beneficial ownership regime	 Provide input and technical advice to support the Australian Government's proposed introduction of a beneficial ownership regime Undertake planning and technical preparatory work in readiness for implementation of the proposed regime 	Listed companies, unlisted public companies, large proprietary companies, small proprietary companies
Focusing on better outcomes from reports lodged by registered liquidators	 Engage with external stakeholders on options to obtain better outcomes from reports lodged by registered liquidators Update regulatory guidance to better support industry when complying with the obligation to report possible offences and misconduct Make changes to ASIC's internal processes to improve our collection and use of information reported by registered liquidators 	Small proprietary companies Registered liquidators
Assetless Administration (AA) Fund	 Use the AA Fund to provide registered liquidators with funding, that is otherwise unavailable, to: pursue relevant matters to identify and report on potential serious misconduct (including illegal phoenix activity); and take action to recover assets of the company dissipated through misconduct 	Small proprietary companies
Targeting gatekeeper misconduct	 Take action against gatekeepers, including auditors and liquidators, where they have failed to meet the standards required of them 	Registered company auditors Registered liquidators
Acting against non- lodgement of financial reports	 Take action against public companies, large proprietary companies, registrable superannuation entities and AFS licensees who do not comply with obligations to lodge financial reports 	Listed public companies, unlisted public companies, large proprietary companies
Acting against misconduct that impacts small businesses	 Take action in relation to conduct affecting small business, including in response to illegal phoenix activity Continue to work with the ATO's Phoenix Taskforce to target illegal phoenix activity and address other issues in the small business sector 	Small proprietary companies

Summary table of estimated industry funding levies for the corporate sector

Subsector	Definition	Estimated cost recovery amount	Number of entities	Levy metric and description	Minimum levy	Graduated levy threshold	Estimated levy
Listed corporations	Entities that, at any time in the financial year, are a listed corporation	\$59.197m	2,097	 Market capitalisation An entity <i>listed</i> at the end of the financial year must multiply: the price for the entity's main class of securities at the time the market closes on the last trading day of the financial year; and the number of securities in that class at that relevant time An entity <i>unlisted</i> at the end of the financial year (but listed in the financial year) must multiply: the last price for the entity's main class of securities on the day before the entity stops being listed; and the number of securities in that class at that relevant time 	\$4,000	\$5m market capitalisation (minimum levy threshold) \$20bn market capitalisation (maximum levy threshold)	Minimum levy of \$4,000 plus \$31.59 per \$1m of market capitalisation above \$5m. Maximum levy of \$717,967, for entities with a market capitalisation of greater than \$20bn
Unlisted public companies	Entities that, at any time in the financial year, are a public company that is not listed	\$3.027m	14,725	Flat levy	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$206

Table 2: Esti	mated industry	funding levie	es for the	corporate sector
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Subsector	Definition	Estimated cost recovery amount	Number of entities	Levy metric and description	Minimum levy	Graduated levy threshold	Estimated levy
Large proprietary companies	Entities that, at any time in the financial year, are a large proprietary company	\$9.861m	11,377	Flat levy Note: To ensure large proprietary companies are not overcharged, the actual levy will be reduced by \$5 to allow for the \$4 increase in the annual review fee paid by proprietary companies	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$867
Small proprietary companies	Entities that, at any time in the financial year, are a small proprietary company	\$38.065m	3,349,956	Costs recovered via an increase in the annual review fee for proprietary companies	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable. Recovered via the annual review fee
Auditors of disclosing entities	Entities that, at any time in the financial year, are or have consented to be an audit entity for a disclosing entity with quoted securities	\$7.025m	121	 Audit fee revenue The total of the fees paid or payable to the entity in the financial year for the auditing and review of financial reports that relate to: a disclosing entity with quoted securities; or an entity controlled by a disclosing entity with quoted securities Note: Whether a disclosing entity controls another entity is decided in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 10 Consolidated financial statements 	Not applicable	No threshold	\$100 per \$10,000 of revenue
Registered company auditors	Entities that, at any time in the financial year, are a registered company auditor	\$3.140m	3,017	Flat levy	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$1,041

Subsector	Definition	Estimated cost recovery amount	Number of entities	Levy metric and description	Minimum levy	Graduated levy threshold	Estimated levy
Registered liquidators	Entities that, at any time in the financial year, are a registered liquidator	\$4.034m	675	Number of external administration appointments and notifiable events The sum of:	\$2,500	No threshold	Minimum levy of \$2,500 plus \$29.70
	5 1			 the number of specified appointments under Ch 5 of the Corporations Act accepted by the entity that financial year and in an earlier financial year if the entity is still acting at the start of the financial year for which the levy is to be calculated (see reg 20(3)(a)– (b) of the Cost Recovery Levy Regulations); 			per appointment and notifiable event
				 the number of specified notifiable events entered on ASIC's <u>Published notices website</u> by the entity (see reg 20(3)(c)); and 			
				 the number of documents lodged with ASIC by the entity for: 			
				 a notice of the outcome of a proposal to pass a resolution without a meeting; 			
				 an executed deed of company arrangement (see reg 20(3)(d)); and 			
				 a restructuring plan that has been made 			

Detailed breakdown of estimated costs of regulating each subsector in the corporate sector

We have provided a breakdown of the costs for each subsector in the corporate sector. It also includes the cost of regulating the subsector in the previous year. For more information about the actual costs for 2023–24, see our annual dashboard and summary of variances documents on our website.

Corporations

Listed corporations

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- ASIC's cost of regulating the subsector in 2023–24 was \$57.4 million. The estimated cost of regulating the subsector for 2024–25 is \$59.2 million: see Table 3.

Expense	Estimated cost
Supervision and surveillance	\$9.984m
Enforcement	\$26.988m
Other regulatory activities	
Industry engagement	\$1.166m
Education	\$0.740m
Guidance	\$0.621m
Policy advice	\$1.303m
Indirect costs	
Commission, legal services and risk management	\$1.917m
Digital, data and technology	\$7.074m
Corporate support	\$3.324m
Property and accommodation services	\$4.312m
Total operating expenditure	\$57.428m
Allowance for capital expenditure	\$1.414m
Less costs funded by own-source revenue	(\$0.156m)
Adjustment for prior year under/(over) recovery	\$0.511m
Total levy to recover costs	\$59.197m

Unlisted public companies

14 ASIC's cost of regulating the subsector in 2023–24 was \$4.1 million. The estimated cost of regulating the subsector for 2024–25 is \$3.0 million: see Table 4.

Table 4: Estimated levies to recover costs to regulate unlisted public companies

Expense	Estimated cost
Supervision and surveillance	\$0.341m
Enforcement	\$1.238m
Other regulatory activities	
Industry engagement	\$0.038m
Education	\$0.030m
Guidance	\$0.038m
Policy advice	\$0.083m
Indirect costs	
Commission, legal services and risk management	\$0.101m
Digital, data and technology	\$0.353m
Corporate support	\$0.134m
Property and accommodation services	\$0.211m
Total operating expenditure	\$2.565m
Allowance for capital expenditure	\$0.065m
Less costs funded by own-source revenue	(\$0.001m)
Adjustment for prior year under/(over) recovery	\$0.398m
Total levy to recover costs	\$3.027m

Large proprietary companies

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ASIC's cost of regulating the subsector in 2023–24 was \$10.3 million. The estimated cost of regulating the subsector for 2024–25 is \$9.9 million: see Table 5.

Expense	Estimated cost
Supervision and surveillance	\$0.713m
Enforcement	\$6.436m
Other regulatory activities	
Industry engagement	\$0.077m
Education	\$0.107m
Guidance	\$0.016m
Policy advice	\$0.106m
Indirect costs	
Commission, legal services and risk management	\$0.216m
Digital, data and technology	\$0.754m
Corporate support	\$0.314m
Property and accommodation services	\$0.449m
Total operating expenditure	\$9.187m
Allowance for capital expenditure	\$0.149m
Less costs funded by own-source revenue	(\$0.001m)
Adjustment for prior year under/(over) recovery	\$0.526m
Total levy to recover costs	\$9.861m

Table 5: Estimated levy to recover costs to regulate large proprietary companies

Small proprietary companies

ASIC's cost of regulating the subsector in 2023–24 was \$36.6 million. The estimated cost of regulating the subsector for 2024–25 is \$38.1 million: see Table 6.

Table 6: Estimated levies to recover costs to regulate small proprietary companies

Expense	Estimated cost
Supervision and surveillance	\$4.227m
Enforcement	\$16.768m

Expense	Estimated cost
Other regulatory activities	
Industry engagement	\$0.425m
Education	\$0.317m
Guidance	\$0.394m
Policy advice	\$0.576m
Indirect costs	
Commission, legal services and risk management	\$3.545n
Digital, data and technology	\$5.524n
Corporate support	\$2.070n
Property and accommodation services	\$3.293n
Total operating expenditure	\$37.140m
Allowance for capital expenditure	\$0.935n
Less costs funded by own-source revenue	(\$0.010m
Adjustment for prior year under/(over) recovery	N
Total costs	\$38.065n

Auditors

Auditors of disclosing entities

ASIC's cost of regulating the subsector in 2023–24 was \$7.1 million. The estimated cost of regulating the subsector for 2024–25 is \$7.0 million: see Table 7.

Table 7: Estimated levies to recover costs to regulate auditors of disclosing entities

Expense	Estimated cost
Supervision and surveillance	\$1.705m
Enforcement	\$1.761m
Other regulatory activities	
Industry engagement	\$0.325m
Education	\$0.124m
Guidance	\$0.112m
Policy advice	\$0.291m

Expense	Estimated cost
Indirect costs	
Commission, legal services and risk management	\$0.322m
Digital, data and technology	\$1.166m
Corporate support	\$0.763m
Property and accommodation services	\$0.722m
Total operating expenditure	\$7.288m
Allowance for capital expenditure	\$0.222m
Less costs funded by own-source revenue	(\$0.485m)
Adjustment for prior year under/(over) recovery	Nil
Total levy to recover costs	\$7.025m

Registered company auditors

ASIC's cost of regulating the subsector in 2023–24 was \$3.1 million. The estimated cost of regulating the subsector for 2024–25 is \$3.1 million: see Table 8.

Table 8:Estimated levies to recover costs to regulate registered
company auditors

Expense	Estimated cost
Supervision and surveillance	\$0.671m
Enforcement	\$1.173m
Other regulatory activities	
Industry engagement	\$0.092m
Education	\$0.053m
Guidance	\$0.023m
Policy advice	\$0.079m
Indirect costs	
Commission, legal services and risk management	\$0.137m
Digital, data and technology	\$0.493m
Corporate support	\$0.258m
Property and accommodation services	\$0.299m
Total operating expenditure	\$3.278m

Expense	Estimated cost
Allowance for capital expenditure	\$0.090m
Less costs funded by own-source revenue	(\$0.376m)
Adjustment for prior year under/(over) recovery	\$0.148m
Total levy to recover costs	\$3.140m

Registered liquidators

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ASIC's cost of regulating the subsector in 2023–24 was \$7.5 million. The estimated cost of regulating the subsector for 2024–25 is \$4.0 million: see Table 9.

Table 9: Estimated levies to recover costs to regulate registered liquidators

Expense	Estimated cost
Supervision and surveillance	\$0.646m
Enforcement	\$1.517m
Other regulatory activities	
Industry engagement	\$0.134m
Education	\$0.062m
Guidance	\$0.062m
Policy advice	\$0.158m
Indirect costs	
Commission, legal services and risk management	\$0.145m
Digital, data and technology	\$0.511m
Corporate support	\$0.325m
Property and accommodation services	\$0.316m
Total operating expenditure	\$3.877m
Allowance for capital expenditure	\$0.099m
Less costs funded by own-source revenue	(\$0.001m)
Adjustment for prior year under/(over) recovery	\$0.058m
Total levy to recover costs	\$4.034m