

INTEGRATED REPORTING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

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Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure that these FAQs are correct. Nevertheless the FAQs are to be used purely as guidance by public sector institutions to assist them with particular problems relating to the subject matter discussed by the FAQs. SAICA will have no responsibility to any person for any claim of any nature whatsoever which may arise out of or relate to the contents of these FAQs.

Introduction

These FAQs have been developed by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) primarily to assist public sector institutions who are preparing integrated reports or are planning to prepare integrated reports. This document deals specifically with questions in the public sector.

A general FAQ on integrated reporting can be accessed on the International Integrated Reporting Council website: <https://integratedreporting.org/faqs/>

1. Can public sector institutions prepare integrated reports?

Yes.

2. Where a public sector institution prepares integrated reports, does the institution still have to comply with all the reporting requirements in legislation such as PFMA, MFMA, etc., and financial reporting frameworks such as Standards of GRAP, Modified Cash Standards, etc?

Yes. Public sector institutions that prepare integrated reports are still required to:

- (a) Comply with all the relevant legislation applicable to the institution such as the PFMA, MFMA, etc.
- (b) Prepare its financial statements in terms of the financial reporting framework applicable to it.

3. Are public sector institutions still required to submit printed copies of their annual reports to their oversight body (e.g parliament, provincial legislature, etc) in instances where the institution prepares an integrated report?

The public sector institution should liaise with its oversight body to agree on the acceptable method of submission of its annual report i.e. printed of annual reports or soft copy submission.

4. What Framework do Public Sector Institutions use to prepare integrated reports?

The Integrated Reporting Framework.

<http://integratedreporting.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/13-12-08-THE-INTERNATIONAL-IR-FRAMEWORK-2-1.pdf>

5. Is integrated reporting useful for performance information?

Yes. Integrated reporting can assist public sector institutions better explain their strategies; operational model and governance, and show how their performance is assessed against these strategies.

6. What are the benefits of preparing integrated reports in the public sector?

Many public sector institutions are required to deliver services and achieve positive change to society. Integrated reporting can help public sector institution to provide a better picture of the total value that it generates for society. Integrated reporting can also be used to support integrated thinking to improve the performance of public sector institutions by breaking down internal silos and forging better connections to release more value.