

A.9 See table.

<b>Date of disclosure</b>	<b>Total number of direct shares acquired</b>	<b>Total number of indirect shares acquired</b>	<b>Total % of share capital</b>
29/03/2018	55,579,829	0	0.99
10/07/2018	63,199,756	0	1.12
12/11/2018	69,450,695	0	1.23

**BANCO DE SABADELL, S.A.**

Auditor's report on "Information regarding the  
Internal Control System over Financial Reporting (ICSFR)"  
of Banco de Sabadell, S.A. for the 2018 financial year



*This version of our report is a free translation of the original, which was prepared in Spanish. All possible care has been taken to ensure that the translation is an accurate representation of the original. However, in all matters of interpretation of information, views or opinions, the original language version of our report takes precedence over this translation.*

**AUDITOR´S REPORT ON “INFORMATION REGARDING THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING (ICSFR)” OF BANCO DE SABADELL, S.A. FOR THE 2018 FINANCIAL YEAR**

To the Board of Directors of Banco de Sabadell, S.A.,

In accordance with the request of the Board of Directors of Banco de Sabadell, S.A. and its subsidiaries ("the Group") and our engagement letter dated 14 December 2018, we have applied certain procedures in respect of the attached "Information regarding the Internal Control System over Financial Reporting" ("ICSFR"), included in Annual Corporate Governance Report in section F for listed companies of Group Banco de Sabadell for the 2018 financial year, which includes a summary of the Group's internal control procedures relating to its annual financial information.

The Board of Directors is responsible for adopting the necessary measures to reasonably ensure the implementation, maintenance and supervision of an appropriate internal control system, and for developing improvements to that system and preparing and establishing the content of the accompanying Information regarding the ICSFR.

In this regard, it should be borne in mind that, regardless of the quality of the design and operating efficiency of the internal control system used by the Group in relation to its annual financial information, only a reasonable, but not absolute, degree of assurance may be obtained in relation to the objectives it seeks to achieve, due to the limitations inherent in any internal control system.

In the course of our audit work on the consolidated annual accounts and in accordance with Spanish Auditing Standards, the sole purpose of our evaluation of the Group's internal control system is to enable us to establish the scope, nature and timing of our audit procedures in respect of the Group's annual accounts. Accordingly, our internal control evaluation, performed for the purposes of our audit, is not sufficient in scope to enable us to issue a specific opinion on the effectiveness of such internal control over the regulated annual financial information.

For the purposes of the present report, we have exclusively applied the specific procedures described below, as indicated in the “*Guidelines concerning the auditor's Report on the Information regarding the Internal Control System over Financial Reporting for listed entities*” published by the National Securities Market Commission on its web site, which sets out the work to be performed, the scope of such work and the content of this report. In view of the fact that, in any event, the scope of the work resulting from these procedures is reduced and substantially less than the scope of an audit or review of the internal control system, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness thereof, its design or operational efficiency, in relation to the Group's annual financial information for the 2018 financial year described in the accompanying Information regarding the ICSFR. Had we applied additional procedures to those determined by the aforementioned Guidelines, or had we performed an audit or review of the internal control system in relation to the regulated annual financial information, other matters could have come to light in respect of which you would have been informed.

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In addition, provided that this special work neither constitutes an account audit it is not even submitted to the Law of Account audit, we do not express an opinion of audit in the terms foreseen in the mentioned regulation.

The procedures applied were as follows:

1. Reading and understanding the information prepared by the Group in relation to the ICSFR – as disclosed in the Directors' Report – and the evaluation of whether such information includes all the information required as per the minimum content set out in Section F regarding the description of the ICSFR, in the model of the Annual Corporate Governance Report, as established in Circular n° 7/2015 of the National Securities Market Commission dated December 22, 2015 and in Circular n° 2/2018 of the National Securities Market Commission dated June 12, 2018.
2. Making enquiries of personnel in charge of preparing the information mentioned in point 1 above in order to: (i) obtain an understanding of the preparation process; (ii) obtain information that enables us to assess whether the terminology used is in line with the framework of reference; (iii) obtain information as to whether the control procedures described have been implemented and are functioning in the Group.
3. Review of supporting documentation explaining the information described in point 1 above and which mainly comprises the information made directly available to the persons responsible for preparing the information on the ICSFR. Such documentation includes reports prepared by the internal audit function, senior management and other internal and external specialists in support of the functions of the audit committee.
4. Comparison of the information described in point 1 above with our knowledge of the Group's ICSFR, obtained by means of the application of the procedures performed within the framework of the audit engagement on the consolidated annual accounts.
5. Reading the minutes of meetings of the board of directors, audit committee and other committees of the Group, for the purposes of evaluating the consistency between the matters dealt with therein in relation to the ICSFR and the information described in point 1 above.
6. Obtaining a representation letter concerning the work performed, duly signed by the persons responsible for the preparation and drafting of the information mentioned in point 1 above.

As a result of the procedures applied in relation to the Information regarding the ICSFR, no inconsistencies or incidents have been identified which could affect such information.

This report has been prepared exclusively within the framework of the requirements of article 540 of the revised Spanish Companies Act and Circular n° 5/2013 of the National Securities Market Commission, dated June 12, 2013, as modified by Circular n° 7/2015 of the National Securities Market Commission, dated December 22, 2015 and by Circular n° 2/2018 of the National Securities Market Commission dated June 12, 2018, for the purposes of describing the ICSFR in Annual Corporate Governance Reports.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditores, S.L.

Original in Spanish signed by  
Raúl Ara Navarro

31 January, 2019

# ANNUAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT OF LISTED COMPANIES

## **F** INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING (ICFR)

Describe the mechanisms that comprise the systems for Internal Control over Financial Reporting (ICFR).

### F.1 The organisation's control environment

Provide details, highlighting the main characteristics of, at least:

F.1.1. Which bodies and/or functions are responsible for: (i) the existence and maintenance of an adequate and effective ICFR system; (ii) its implementation; and (iii) its supervision.

Article 5 of the Board of Directors Regulation states that the Board of Directors is an instrument of supervision and control whose responsibility is identifying the company's and the consolidated group's main risks and implementing and monitoring suitable internal control and reporting systems, as well as setting policies on the reporting and disclosure of information to shareholders, the markets and the general public.

In addition, as provided in Article 13 of its Regulation, the Board of Directors delegates supervision of internal control systems to the Audit and Control Committee.

The functions of the group's Internal Audit Department include supporting the Audit and Control Committee in supervising the proper design and implementation and effective functioning of the risk management and control systems, which include ICFR.

The group's Finance Department contributes to implementing the general framework of the internal control systems that are rolled out across the entire organisation.

Part of that contribution materialises in the responsibility for designing and implementing internal control systems for financial information that ensure the accuracy of the financial information that is generated.

F.1.2. The following elements, if any, with regard to the process in which the financial reporting is formulated:

- Departments and/or mechanisms entrusted with: (i) designing and reviewing the organisational structure; (ii) clearly defining the lines of responsibility and authority, with an appropriate distribution of tasks and functions; and (iii) ensuring that there are sufficient procedures for proper dissemination within the company.

The design and review of the organisational structure is the responsibility of the Global Organisation and Corporate Projects Department which, based on the Banco Sabadell Group Master Plan (which normally runs for three years), analyses and reviews the resources required by each division for compliance. This review is carried out regularly and decides not only the necessary workforce but also the structural organisation of each unit. Once an agreement has been reached, it is submitted to the Management Committee for approval and referral to each of the general divisions.

At the same time, the details of all the departments/units/offices are sent on a monthly basis to the Human Resources Department showing all the modifications that have been made, so as to equip them with the resources considered necessary to perform their duties.

The organisation chart of the Banco Sabadell Group arising from the above process

addresses all the departments, areas and divisions into which the Banco Sabadell Group is divided. This organisation chart is supplemented by a “process map” giving greater details of the functions and responsibilities assigned to each area of the Banco Sabadell Group, including details of the presentation, analysis and review of financial reporting. The Banco Sabadell Group organisation chart and process map are accessible to all personnel on the corporate intranet.

- Code of conduct, approval body, degree of distribution and instruction, principles and values (indicating whether there are specific references to the recognition of transactions and production of financial information), the body entrusted with analysing non-compliance and with proposing corrective actions and sanctions.

The Banco Sabadell Group has a General Code of Conduct, approved by the Board of Directors and available via the corporate intranet, whose fundamental principles include a commitment to transparency, particularly vis-à-vis shareholders, and a commitment to place all the financial and corporate information at their disposal. The purpose is to comply strictly with the Banco Sabadell Group’s obligation to offer reliable financial reporting prepared in accordance with the applicable regulations, presenting a true and fair view of the company. It also includes the responsibilities of its employees and executives to ensure this is so, via both proper discharge of their duties and notification to the governing bodies of any circumstance which might affect this commitment.

There is a Corporate Ethics Committee, whose functions include fostering ethical behaviour throughout the organisation, making proposals and advising both the Board of Directors and the various corporate and business units in connection with decisions that include aspects that may lead to conflicts of values.

Among the tasks carried out by the Corporate Ethics Committee is the analysis of compliance with the Code of Conduct or any other code or self-regulation that exists. In order to perform its functions, it has access to the human and material resources of the Compliance Department. If, as a consequence of exercising its functions, it detects any non-compliance, it must advise the Human Resources Department for the application of corrective actions and sanctions.

- A whistleblowing channel, that allows reporting to the audit committee of any irregularities of a financial or accounting nature, as well as cases of non-compliance with the code of conduct and irregular activities in the organisation, indicating if the matter is of a confidential nature.

The Banco Sabadell Group has, and encourages the use of, a whistle-blower channel to report all types of irregularities, particularly possible breaches of the General Code of Conduct. Any reports received are treated confidentially and, once handled by the Corporate Ethics Committee (comprising a chairperson and six members appointed by the Board of Directors), are referred to the Audit and Control Committee, if appropriate. This channel is managed internally and may be contacted by email at 0901CEC@bancsabadell.com.

- Training programmes and regular updating for staff involved in the preparation and review of financial information, as well as in the evaluation of ICFR, and which cover at least accounting standards, auditing, internal control and risk management.

As regards training and refresher programmes and particularly regarding the financial reporting process, the Banco Sabadell Group's Finance Department has an on-site training plan that basically addresses areas such as the company's internal accounting/finance procedures, analysis of current regulations and drafts of new domestic and international accounting standards, analysis of the domestic and international economic situation, together with training in the use of software to facilitate management and oversight of the financial reporting process.

These training sessions are programmed based on two criteria:

- Sessions scheduled at the start of the year by selecting the areas considered of greatest interest by the Finance Department.

- Sessions scheduled during the current year when an issue arises that is believed to warrant prompt distribution (drafts of new accounting standards, changes in the economic situation, etc.).

These training sessions are not only for Finance Department personnel but also for other departments (Audit, Risk Control, Asset Transformation, etc.), depending on the content.

The on-site training is taught chiefly by internal professionals of the Banco Sabadell Group and by external experts who are specialists in the subject area.

In addition, the Human Resources Department places at the disposal of Banco Sabadell Group employees a series of financial training courses which they can take online. The most notable courses refer to IAS-IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards), financial mathematics, Spain's General Accounting Plan and general tax matters.

The Internal Audit Department has a training plan in place for all management professionals which includes a University Specialist Programme in Bank Internal Auditing (PSAI) at a prestigious academic institution. The course covers areas such as accounting principles and financial reporting, the basics of auditing, and financial risk monitoring and management. In the 2018-2019 academic year, ten audit professionals were taking this programme, and 65 members of the Internal Audit Department hold PSAI certificates. Additionally, during 2018, the members of the Internal Audit Department participated in workshops on new regulatory impacts, including new accounting and financial reporting.

## F.2 Evaluation of financial reporting risks

Provide information on, at least:

F.2.1. What are the chief characteristics of the process for identifying risk, including error or fraud, in relation to:

- If the process exists and is documented.

The Banco Sabadell Group's process of identifying the risk of error or the probability of fraud in financial reporting is documented in a procedure which sets out the frequency, methods, types of risks and other basic features of the process.

- Whether the process covers all the financial reporting objectives (existence and occurrence; integrity; valuations; presentation, itemisation and comparability; and rights and obligations), and if it is updated and how often.

The process covers all the financial reporting objectives (existence and occurrence; integrity; valuation; presentation, itemisation and comparability; and rights and obligations) and focuses on identifying risks of material error based on transaction complexity, quantitative and qualitative materiality, complexity of the calculations and application of judgements and estimations, updated on an annual basis. If (i) circumstances not previously identified which reveal possible errors in the financial information, or (ii) material changes to the operations of the Banco Sabadell Group arise during the year, the Finance Department evaluates the risks to be added to those already identified.

The process is structured such that, on a half-yearly basis, an analysis is conducted to identify which areas or processes and in which companies and locations material transactions arise.

Once they have been identified, they are reviewed so as to analyse the potential risks of error for these types of transactions in each financial reporting objective.

- The existence of a process for identifying the consolidation scope, taking into account, among others, whether there are complex corporate structures, instrumentality companies or special purpose vehicles.

The process for identifying the scope of consolidation is described in section F.3.1. of this document.

- If the process takes into account the effects of other types of risks (operational, technology, financial, legal, reputational, environmental, etc.) insofar as they affect the financial statements.

In addition, the process considers the risk of error in certain processes not linked to specific transaction types but which are especially important in view of their impact on drafting the financial reporting, such as the process of reviewing judgements and estimates, significant accounting policies and the closing and consolidation process. In this respect, and with a view to covering the risks of these processes, the Banco Sabadell Group has the control activities described in section F.3.1. of this document. It should also be noted that the risk identification process takes into account the possible effects of other types of risks (operational, technology, financial, legal, reputational, environmental, etc.), insofar as these may affect the financial statements.

- What governing body of the institution supervises the process.

The aforementioned process is conducted and documented by the Banco Sabadell Group's Finance Department and is supervised ultimately by the Audit and Control Committee.

### F.3 Control activities

State whether the company has at least the following, and describe their characteristics:

**F.3.1. Review and authorisation procedures for financial reporting and description of the ICFR, to be published in the securities markets, indicating those responsible, together with documentation describing the flows of activities and controls (including those related to the risk of fraud) of the various types of transactions that may have a significant effect on the financial statements, including the accounting close procedure and specific review of the judgements, estimations, evaluations and major projections.**

The procedure for reviewing and authorising the Banco Sabadell Group's financial reporting to the markets commences with a review by the Finance Department. In accordance with the Board of Directors Regulation, the separate and consolidated financial statements and half-yearly financial reports are reviewed by the Audit and Control Committee prior to being authorised by the Board of Directors. In accordance with the provisions of its Regulation, the Audit and Control Committee reads and discusses the information with the heads of the Finance and Internal Audit departments and with the external auditors prior to submission to the Board of Directors.

Once the Audit and Control Committee has vetted the information and either approved it or attached its comments, the CFO, the Chairman and the Managing Director of the Banco Sabadell Group sign the accounts and submit them to the Board of Directors for authorisation.

The Audit and Control Committee reviews the quarterly financial disclosures (income statement and trend of the main balance sheet items) before they are submitted to the Board of Directors.

With regard to the activities and controls directly relating to transactions that may have a



significant impact on the financial statements, the Banco Sabadell Group has descriptions of the controls in place to mitigate the risk of material error (intentional or otherwise) in the information reported to the markets. For the critical areas of the Banco Sabadell Group, special emphasis is placed on developing solid descriptions of the flows of activities and controls, which cover, among others:

- Loans and advances
- Fixed-income portfolio and issuance
- Equity securities
- Customer deposits
- Derivatives
- Foreclosed real estate

These descriptions contain information on what form the control activity should take, its purpose (risk to be mitigated), the party responsible for executing it and the frequency. The descriptions cover controls on the proper accounting, measurement, presentation and disclosure of these areas.

The Banco Sabadell Group also has procedures for mitigating the risk of error in processes not related to specific transactions. In particular, there are procedures defined for the accounting close which include the consolidation process and specific review procedures for material judgements and estimates, which are escalated to senior management when appropriate.

With regard to the consolidation process within the accounting close, procedures have been implemented to ensure proper identification of the consolidation scope. In particular, for example, the Banco Sabadell Group conducts a monthly analysis of the consolidation scope, requesting the necessary information from all the subsidiaries; the analysis covers all types of corporate structures.

The review of judgements and estimates is carried out at different levels by members of the Finance Department. In addition, in its financial statements the Banco Sabadell Group describes the most important areas in which judgements and estimates are made, together with the key assumptions made in this connection. It also has procedures for reviewing accounting estimates. The main estimates relate to impairment losses on certain financial assets, actuarial calculations of pension liabilities and obligations, the useful life of tangible and intangible assets, measurement of goodwill, and the fair value of unlisted financial assets and of real estate.

**F.3.2. Internal control policies and procedures on security, the information systems (among others, access control, change control, operation, operational continuity and segregation of functions) that support the institution's major processes with regard to the formulation and publication of financial reporting.**

The Banco Sabadell Group uses information systems to maintain an adequate record and control of its operations and is, consequently, highly dependent on them working properly.

As part of the process to identify risks of error in financial reporting, the Banco Sabadell Group identifies which systems and applications are important in each of the areas or processes considered to be material. The identified systems and applications include those used directly in preparing the financial information and those that are important for ensuring that the controls to mitigate the risk of errors are effective.

The design and implementation of the applications define a methodological framework that establishes various points of control to ensure that the solution complies with user requirements and meets the required standards of reliability, efficiency and maintainability.

Any change regarding infrastructures or applications is handled via the change management service, which defines the change approval flow, which may be escalated to the Change Committee, with definition of the impact and the possibility of roll-back.

The Banco Sabadell Group Information Security and Operational Continuity Department has

policies aimed at covering access security by segregating functions and defining virtual roles and resources, and the continuity of operations by creating BRS centres, and performing periodic operating tests.

### F.3.3. Internal control policies and procedures for managing outsourced activities, and measurement, calculation or valuation services commissioned from independent experts, when these may materially affect the financial statements.

The Banco Sabadell Group regularly examines whether activities carried out by third parties are material to the financial reporting process or might indirectly affect its reliability. To date, the Banco Sabadell Group has not outsourced processes with a material impact on financial reporting. However, the Banco Sabadell Group regularly uses reports from independent experts for measuring transactions that may materially affect the financial statements.

In 2018, the activities outsourced to third parties (appraisals and calculations by independent experts) were connected with real estate valuations, measuring post-employment benefits for employees, and reviewing goodwill.

The units of the Banco Sabadell Group responsible for these operations exercise oversight on the work of the external experts to check their competence, skills, accreditation and independence together with the validity of the data and methods used and the reasonableness of the assumptions, applied as described in section F.3.1.

## F.4 Information and reporting

State whether the company has at least the following, and describe their characteristics:

### F.4.1. A specific function responsible for defining the accounting policies and keeping them up to date (accounting policies department or area) and for resolving doubts or conflicts arising from their interpretation, maintaining regular communication with the persons responsible for operations within the organisation, together with an updated accounting policies manual distributed to all the bank's operating units.

The Accounting Regulation and Financial Reporting Department (under the Financial Reporting Department) is the unit responsible for identifying and defining the accounting policies that affect the Banco Sabadell Group and for responding to queries concerning accounting from the subsidiaries and business units.

The Financial Reporting Department is responsible for informing Senior Management of the Banco Sabadell Group regarding new accounting standards, the results of their implementation and their impact on the financial statements of the Banco Sabadell Group.

The functions of the Technical Committee on Accounting and Financial and Non-Financial Disclosures include identifying transactions that, in accordance with established procedures, must be cross-checked by an independent accounting expert, identifying and review accounting issues to be referred to the Audit and Control Committee for approval, approving accounting procedures, and overseeing and checking the conclusions provided by the work groups that analyse one-off transactions, as well as any accounting treatment that has a material impact and involves a significant judgement and estimate component.

The Banco Sabadell Group has guides on accounting procedure that conform to the needs, requirements and dimension of the Banco Sabadell Group; they set out and explain the rules for preparing financial reporting and describe how to apply the rules to the bank's specific operations. These documents not only explicitly refer to the standards applied to each type of transaction but also elaborate upon and interpret them so as to adapt exactly to each transaction type.

These documents are updated regularly, and at least once per year. Significant modifications are notified to the dependent companies to which they are applicable.

#### F.4.2. Mechanisms using standard forms for gathering and preparing financial information, for application and use by all units in the bank or group, to support the main financial statements and notes as well as detailed disclosures on ICFR.

The chief IT systems and applications used in generating financial reporting by the Banco Sabadell Group are centralised and interconnected. There are procedures and controls that ensure proper development and maintenance of those systems, as well as their proper performance, continuity and security.

During the consolidation and preparation of the financial reporting, inputs such as the financial statements issued by the Group subsidiaries are used in the established formats, together with the rest of the financial information required both for accounting harmonisation and for meeting the disclosure requirements.

The Banco Sabadell Group has a number of software applications for consolidation, including a series of controls to ensure the reliability and proper processing of the information received from subsidiaries, notably checks to ensure consolidation entries were posted correctly, an analysis of variations in all balance sheet and income statement items, variations in the results obtained with respect to proper insertion of group undertakings' financial statements, the monthly and annual budget, and specific Bank of Spain checks on the financial statements, in which the balance sheet and profit and loss account items are cross-checked.

#### F.5 Supervision of system operation

Report on at least the following, giving details of their main features:

F.5.1. Supervision of ICFR by the Audit Committee, and whether the institution has an internal audit function with the duty of supporting the committee in supervising the internal control system, including ICFR. Also provide information on the scope of the evaluation of ICFR carried out during the year and the procedure by which the person assigned to perform the assessment reports the results, whether the institution has an action plan setting out corrective measures and whether its impact on financial reporting has been considered.

At each financial close, the Financial Department assesses the internal control model, considering its frequency, the risks in the financial reporting processes, and the adequacy and effectiveness of the controls that mitigate them, and it produces and custodies evidence that each specific control was performed. The Finance Department also continuously evaluates aspects that may lead to changes in the internal control model, including regulatory changes, the introduction of new products and amendments to Banco Sabadell's processes, identifying the risks associated with them and designing controls to mitigate them; it also reviews the criticality of the controls and the changes in the materiality of processes with an accounting impact.

In accordance with the Board of Directors Regulation, the Audit and Control Committee is the body empowered with overseeing Internal Audit. Additionally, the Audit and Control Committee's functions include approving the Internal Audit plan, assessing the outcome of each audit, and prioritising and tracking corrective measures.

The Bank's Internal Audit Department reports directly to the Audit and Control Committee, which grants it hierarchical and functional independence from the rest of the institution's departments and positions the function at an appropriate level of the organisation.

On the basis of its policy, which was approved by the Board of Directors, the functions of the Internal Audit Department include supporting the Audit and Control Committee in supervising the proper design and implementation, and the effective functioning of the risk management and control systems.

The Overall Audit Plan that the Audit and Control Committee approved at a meeting on 30 January 2018 set out, inter alia, the actions to be implemented with respect to the areas or processes considered to have the highest residual risk on the basis of a risk assessment exercise. The actions set out in the plan were performed in 2018; in some cases, the control environment was reviewed and, in particular, the proper identification of risks in processes was assessed, along with the sufficiency, design, implementation and effective functioning of existing controls. The general controls on reporting systems indicated in section F.3.2 are reviewed every year.

In addition to the aforementioned supervisory activities carried out by the ICFR Department, the Audit and Control Committee and the Internal Audit Department, in 2018 the external auditor reviewed the information relating to the ICFR, with no adverse findings.

**F.5.2.** Is there a discussion procedure through which the auditor (in accordance with the provisions of the Audit Technical Standards), the internal audit function and other experts can report to senior management and to the audit committee or company directors on any significant internal control weaknesses identified during the review of the financial statements, or any other entrusted to them? Also report on whether there is an action plan to remedy or mitigate identified weaknesses.

The Audit and Control Committee meets at least once every three months (prior to the publication of the regulated disclosures) in order to obtain and analyse the necessary information to fulfil the functions entrusted to it by the Board of Directors.

These meetings carry out an in-depth review of the annual and half-yearly accounts and the interim financial statements of the company together with the rest of the information made available to the market. To carry out this process, the Audit and Control Committee first receives all the documentation and meets with the Director - General Manager, the Internal Audit Department and the external auditor (in the case of the annual and half-yearly accounts) in order to ensure proper application of the current accounting standards and the reliability of the financial reporting. In addition, this discussion process assesses any ICFR weaknesses that were identified, the proposals to correct them and the status of any actions that have been taken.

The group's auditor has direct access to the group's senior management and holds regular meetings to obtain the necessary information and to report on control weaknesses detected during the audit. With regard to the latter, each year the external auditor submits a report to the Audit and Control Committee detailing any internal control weaknesses that were detected or certifying that there were none. This report incorporates comments by group management and any action plans implemented to remedy internal control weaknesses.

## **F.6 Other material information**

The Banco Sabadell Finance Department has implemented a software application that includes and formalises all the ICFR controls, while at the same time ensuring ongoing identification of new risks to be considered and updates to mitigating controls in each accounting close. This application enables the controls to be validated on time and properly with the aim of guaranteeing the reliability of the financial reporting. The software features are designed to take account of the recommendations in the CNMV's guide entitled "Internal Control over Financial Reporting in Listed Companies," based on the principles and good practices contained in the COSO report (Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission).

## F.7 External auditor report

Report on:

F.7.1. State whether the ICFR information supplied to the market has been reviewed by the external auditor, in which case the corresponding report should be attached. Otherwise, give the reasons for the absence of this review.

The Banco Sabadell Group submitted the ICFR information supplied to the markets for 2018 to the external auditor for review. The report by the external auditor (PricewaterhouseCoopers), once it is available, will be attached as an annex to this annual report on corporate governance.

The scope of the auditor's review is determined by Circular E14/2013, dated 19 July 2013, of the Instituto de Censores Jurados de Cuentas de España.