

In addition to the principal Committees and the RSWG, the Board has established a Standing Committee which can meet as required to assist with any business of the Board. It is typically used for ad hoc urgent matters which cannot be delayed until the next scheduled Board meeting. All Directors are members of the Standing Committee and have the right to attend all meetings and receive papers. Before taking decisions on any matter, the Standing Committee must first determine that the business it is intending to consider is appropriate for a Committee of the Board and does not need to be properly brought before the whole Board. All Standing Committee meetings are reported in full to the next scheduled Board meeting.

The Standing Committee allows for fast decision-making where necessary, while ensuring that the full Board has oversight of all matters under consideration and all Directors can contribute. During 2021, the Standing Committee met twice.

Delegation to management

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the business and implementation of strategy has been delegated to the Group Chief Executive, within certain limits, for execution or further delegation by him in respect of matters which are necessary for the effective day-to-day running and management of the business. The Group Chief Executive delegates responsibility to certain senior executives through management reporting lines (principally to other GEC members, including the Chief Executive, Asia and Africa). The Chief Executive of each local business has authority (subject to the Delegated Authorities) for the management of the respective business.

Board size and roles

The Board's size allows for decision-making to reflect a broad range of views and perspectives while allowing all Directors to participate effectively in meetings. At the date of publication, the Board comprised 12 Non-executive Directors and three Executive Directors. At each scheduled meeting of the Board, the Non-executive Directors meet without the Executive Directors present.

The roles of Chair and Group Chief Executive are clearly segregated. The Chair has overall responsibility for the leadership of the Board while the Group Chief Executive manages and leads the business. The Senior Independent Director acts as a sounding board for the Chair, and provides support in the delivery of her objectives. The Chair, Group Chief Executive and Senior Independent Director all have written terms of reference which are approved by the Board and kept under regular review. A summary is available to view on the Company's website.

