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| <IR> | The International Integrated Reporting Framework |
| AA | Arthur Andersen one of the Big Four (actually the Big Five) before its demise over the Enron case. |
| AAT | The Association of Accounting Technicians |
| AC | Audit Committee |
| ACC | Audit Committee Chair. |
| ACCA | Association of Chartered Certified Accountants |
| Accountancy Europe | Accountancy Europe is the new name of the Federation of the European Accountants. |
| ACCIF | Independent Forum Audit Committee Chair. |
| accountant-preparer | is a qualified accountant in the firm preparing the reports, usually a financial director or CFO or a member of the board of directors |
| ACFE | Association of Certified Fraud Examiners |
| AEP | FRC - Audit Enforcement procedure |
| AFMA | Authority for the Financial Markets (Netherlands) |
| AfS | Available-for-sale (financial assets) |
| AG | Is an abbreviation of Aktiengesellschaft, which is a German term for a public limited company; this is a company whose shares are offered to the general public and traded on a public stock exchange, and whose shareholders' liability is limited to their investment. |
| AGM | An annual general meeting is a meeting of the general shareholders of a company. |
| AI | Artificial Intelligence |
| AIA | The Association of International Accountants |
| AIM | Alternative Investment Market. The Alternative Investment Market is the London Stock Exchange's global market for smaller and growing companies |
| AIU | FRC - Audit Inspection Unit |
| AML | Anti-money laundering |
| APMs | Alternative Performance Measures. An alternative performance measure is a financial measure of historical or future financial performance, financial position, or cash flows, other than a financial measure defined or specified in the applicable financial reporting framework. |
| AQR | FRC's Audit Quality Review |
| AQRT | FRC's Audit Quality Review Team |
| AR | Annual report |
| ARA | Annual report and accounts |
| ARC | Accounting Regulatory Committee provides opinion to the European Commission on proposals adopting IFRS and other accounting regulations. (ICAEW & ICAS term) |
| ARD | Audit Regulation and Directive |
| ARGA | Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority. Replacement for the FRC as recommended by the Kingman report. |
| ASAF | Accounting Standards Setters Forum |
| ASC | US Accounting Standards Codification |
| ASIC | Australian Securities and Investments Commission |
| ASSC | Accounting Standards Steering Committee |
| Audit Qualification | Is the qualification that is provided by an Recognised Qualifying Bodies to its members. Namely for companies the ICAEW and ACCA. |
| Audit Services | FRC's definition is: Audit services are: Reporting required by law or regulation to be provided by the auditor; Reviews of interim financial information; Reporting on regulatory returns; Reporting to a regulator on client assets; Reporting on government grants; Reporting on internal financial controls when required by law or regulation; Extended audit work that is authorised by those charged with governance performed on financial information and/or financial controls where this work is integrated with the audit work and is performed on the same principal terms and conditions. |
| Audit-related services | Services provided to clients that are of a similar nature to statutory audit. |
| B2B | Business to Business usually internet use. Ecommerce between companies. |
| B2C | Ecommerce between companies and consumers. |

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| BCR | Banking Competition Remedies. Banking Competition Remedies Limited has been established to implement the Alternative Remedies Package of measures agreed between the UK Government and the European Commission. |
| BDO | BDO or Binder Dijker Otte is a mid-tier UK accounting firm. BDO and Grant Thornton are 5th and 6th after the Big Four. BDO is officially used as the name of the firm. |
| BEIS | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. |
| BEPS | Base erosion and profit shifting |
| BHS | British Home Stores |
| Big Four | PwC, Deloitte, KPMG and EY. Previously also Arthur Andersen. |
| BIS or BEIS | Department for Business, Energy, Innovation and Skills now merged into BEIS. Formerly Department for Business, Innovation and Skill |
| BIS | Bank for International Settlements. The Swiss-based bank for central banks owned by leading central banks to co-ordinate policy and raise alarms. |
| Black Swan event | Unexpected and difficult to predict major external event leading to a major cliff-edge type of change. The GFC is an example of this type of event. |
| bps | basis points |
| C2C | Ecommerce between individual consumers. |
| CAI | Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland |
| Call option | Call options give the option to buy at certain price, so the buyer would want the stock to go up. Conversely, the option writer needs to provide the underlying shares in the event that the stock's market price exceeds the strike due to the contractual obligation. An option writer who sells a call option believes that the underlying stock's price will drop relative to the option's strike price during the life of the option, as that is how he will reap maximum profit. |
| CbC | Country by Country reporting |
| CbCR | Mandatory country-by-country (CBCR) |
| CBI | The Confederation of British Industry is a UK business organisation. |
| CC | The Competition Commission. Replaced by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). |
| CCAB | Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies |
| CCCTB | The Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base |
| CDP | Carbon Disclosure Project |
| CEAOB | Committee of European Auditing Oversight Bodies |
| CEC | Code of Ethics and Conduct (ACCA term) |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| CESR | Committee of European Securities Regulators |
| CFA | Chartered Financial Analyst. |
| CFA Institute | The CFA Institute is a global association of investment professionals that sets the standard for excellence in the industry. |
| CFO | Chief Financial Officer |
| CGU | Cash-Generating Units. cash-generating unit is the smallest group of assets that independently generates cash flow and whose cash flow is largely independent of the cash flows generated by other assets. The concept is used by the international financial reporting standards in the determination of asset impairment. |
| Challenger firms | A group of audit firms that are not the Big Four audit firms often called mid-tier. |
| CIMA | Chartered Institute of Management Accountants |
| CIPFA | Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy |
| CMA | The Competition and Markets Authority is a government department in the UK, responsible for strengthening business competition and preventing and reducing anti-competitive activities. Its predecessor was the Competition Commission. |
| CPA | Certified Public Accountant in the US |
| CRR | FRC's Corporate reporting review |
| CSR | Corporate Social Responsibility |
| CVA | Company Voluntary Arrangement |
| DC | Defined Contribution pension plans. |

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| Death Spiral | Death spiral is a term applied to a type of convertible debt that stimulates an ever-increasing number of shares, leading to steep stock price drops. The convertible bond, unlike a conventional convertible one, converts into a fixed value instead of a fixed number of shares. If this bond is converted into stock, the price of the stock tends to drop due to the increased supply of shares. This, in turn, encourages more conversion because the convertible debt owners can obtain — and then sell — even more shares of the stock with the fixed value feature. Theoretically, the death spiral can end with the stock at or near a zero dollar value. This type of loan is sometimes undertaken by a company that desperately needs cash. It is called a death spiral because the stock of the company often plunges drastically after it issues this convertible debt. It is important to note that death spirals often allow buyers to convert the bonds into shares at a fixed conversion ratio in which the buyer has a large premium. For example, a bond with a face value of \$1,000 may have a convertible value of \$1,500, which means that a bondholder will receive \$1,500 worth of equity for giving up the \$1,000 bond. However, upon a conversion, more shares are created, which dilutes the share price. This drop in price may cause more bond holders to convert because the lower share price means that they will be receiving more shares. Any further conversions will cause more price drops as the supply of shares increases, causing the process to repeat itself as the stock's price spirals downward. |
| Deloitte | One of the Big Four accounting/auditing firms/ The largest worldwide. |
| Derivative | A derivative is a financial security with a value that is reliant upon or derived from an underlying asset or group of assets. The derivative itself is a contract between two or more parties based upon the asset or assets. Its price is determined by fluctuations in the underlying asset. The most common underlying assets include stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies, interest rates and market indexes. |
| director- preparers | board members who are not qualified accountants and as such are responsible for the annual reports. |
| DPA | Deferred prosecution agreement |
| DTR | Disclosure and Transparency Rules. |
| EACB | European Association of Co-operative Banks |
| EBA | European Banking Authority |
| EBF | European Banking Federation |
| EBITD | Stands for "Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation |
| EBITDA | Stands for "Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization". There are several 'Earnings Before..' ratios and acronyms: EBT = Earnings Before Taxes; EBIT = Earnings Before Interest and Taxes; EBIAT = Earnings Before Interest after Taxes; EBITD = Earnings Before Interest, Taxes and Depreciation; and EBITDA = Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization. (Earnings = operating and non-operating profits (e.g. interest, dividends received from other investments). Depreciation is the non-cash charge to the balance sheet which is made in writing off an asset over a period. Amortisation is the payment of a loan in instalments. |
| ECOFIN | Economics and Finance Ministers of the Member States |
| ED | Accounting Exposure Drafts |
| ED securities | Enhanced Disclosure securities |
| EE | British mobile network operator |
| EEA | This grouping includes EU countries and also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. It allows them to be part of the EU 's single market. Switzerland is neither an EU nor EEA member but is part of the single market - this means Swiss nationals have the same rights to live and work in the UK as other EEA nationals. |
| EFAA | European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for small and medium sized organisations |
| EFRAG | European Financial Reporting Advisory Group |
| EIOPA | European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority |
| EMIR | The European Market Infrastructure Regulation is a body of European legislation for the regulation of over-the-counter derivatives. It was originally adopted by the EU legislature on July 4, 2012 and came into force on August 16, 2012. |
| EPF | Early payment facility or reverse factoring |
| ERP | Enterprise Resource Planning systems use the same database throughout an entire company to store various types of data for different computerised functions. |
| ES | Ethics Standard |
| ESA | European Supervisory Authority |

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| ESBG | European Savings Banks Group |
| ESEF | European Single Electronic Format |
| ESG | The Environmental, Social And Governance Criteria is a set of standards for a company's operations that socially conscious investors use to screen investments |
| ESMA | European Securities and Markets Authority is an EU regulator. The European Securities and Markets Authority is an independent EU authority whose purpose is to improve investor protection and promote stable, orderly financial markets. |
| EU | European Union |
| EY | One of the Big Four accounting/auditing firms. Originally Ernst & Young |
| FANG, FAANG | Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix and Alphabet/Google have grown their value massively from situations of reported losses or little profitability. The four firms are often known as the FANG pack. |
| FAS | Statement of Financial Accounting Standards for the US |
| FASB | The US Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) is a private, non-profit organization standard setting body whose primary purpose is to establish and improve generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) within the United States in the public's interest |
| FATCA | The US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act |
| FBI | Federal Bureau of Investigation |
| FBU | Fair, balanced and understandable |
| FCA | UK's Financial Conduct Authority |
| FCA | Fellow of the ICAEW |
| FD | Financial Director |
| FE | FE stands for finalise early. This is the action of completing the transaction before you physically receive your order. This action releases funds from the protection of any escrow system into the vendor's hands. |
| FED | US Federal Reserve Board - the US national bank |
| FEE | Federation of European Accountants; Fédération des Experts Comptables Européens. Now renamed Accountancy Europe. |
| FIFO | First In First Out, is an assumption that enables the cost of stock to be calculated. When sales are made the items sold are assumed to be the earliest purchased, so the cost of items in stock always reflect the most recent purchases. |
| Financial Instrument | Financial instruments are assets that can be traded. They can also be seen as packages of capital that may be traded. Most types of financial instruments provide an efficient flow and transfer of capital all throughout the world's investors. These assets can be cash, a contractual right to deliver or receive cash or another type of financial |
| Firm | Generally used in our books to refer to an audit firm, as opposed to an audited company |
| FIT | FCA's The Fit and Proper Test for Approved Persons |
| FOI | Freedom of Information |
| Framework | The Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting |
| FRB | US Federal Reserve Board - the US national bank |
| FRC | UK's Financial Reporting Council. One of two watchdogs, the other being the FCA. To be replaced by ARGA (Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority). |
| FRED | Financial Reporting Exposure Draft |
| Free cash flow | Free cash flow (FCF) is a measure of a company's financial performance, calculated as operating cash flow minus capital expenditures. ... |
| FRRP | The Financial Reporting Review Panel is a body of individuals drawn from commerce and the professions who, from time to time, are called on as peers, to join a five person Review Group to consider issues raised in respect of the Conduct Committee's reviews of company reports and accounts |
| FRS | Financial Reporting Standard of the FRC applicable to the UK |
| FRS | US Federal Reserve System |
| FRS 102 | FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland – Fair value hierarchy disclosures |
| FRSC | Financial Reporting Standard Council (South Africa) |
| FSA | UK's financial services authority, predecessor to the FCA |
| FSMA | The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. amended over the years and now incorporating (some of) MiFID - brackets our interpretation. |
| FT | The Financial Times |

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| FTSE | The Financial Times Stock Exchange share index, |
| FTSE100 | is a FTSE share index of the top 100 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange with the highest market capitalisation |
| FTSE250 | The FTSE 250 Index is a capitalisation-weighted index consisting of the 101st to the 350th largest companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. |
| FTSE350 | It is a combination of the FTSE 100 Index of the largest 100 companies and the FTSE 250 Index of the next largest 250 That is the largest 350 companies. |
| Futures | Futures are financial contracts obligating the buyer to purchase an asset or the seller to sell an asset, such as a physical commodity or a financial instrument, at a predetermined future date and price. Futures contracts detail the quality and quantity of the underlying asset; they are standardized to facilitate trading on a futures exchange. Some futures contracts may call for physical delivery of the asset, while others are settled in cash. |
| G7 | he Group of Seven or G7 is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US. |
| GAA | Global Accounting Alliance |
| GAAP | Generally accepted accounting principles |
| GAAP UK | Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the UK |
| GCHQ | Government Communications Headquarters, Britain's signal-intelligence agency |
| GDPR | The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applied from 25 May 2018, when it superseded the UK Data Protection Act 1998. Significant and wide-reaching in scope, the new law brings a 21st century approach to data protection. |
| GE | General Electric |
| Gearing ratio | Gearing refers to the level of a company's debt related to its equity capital, usually expressed in percentage form. It is a measure of a company's financial leverage and shows the extent to which its operations are funded by lenders versus shareholders. Gearing is a measurement of the entity's financial leverage, which demonstrates the degree to which a firm's activities are funded by owner's funds versus creditor's funds. A gearing ratio is a general classification describing a financial ratio that compares some form of owner's equity (or capital) to funds borrowed by the company. Gearing is a measurement of the entity's financial leverage, which demonstrates the degree to which a firm's activities are funded by owner's funds versus creditor's funds. The best known examples of gearing ratios include the debt-to-equity ratio (total debt / total equity), times interest earned (EBIT / total interest), equity ratio (equity / assets), and debt ratio (total debt / total assets). |
| GFC | The 2007 to 2009 Global Financial Crisis |
| GIGO | Garbage in garbage out |
| Glass Lewis | Large shareholder advisory group. A proxy advisor. |
| GM | General Motors |
| GmbH | The acronym 'GmbH', which is written after the name of the company, designates a company as private in Germany. The letters stand for Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung which, translated literally, means a 'company with limited liability' |
| GRI | Global Reporting Initiative. GRI is an independent international organization that has pioneered sustainability reporting since 1997. |
| GT (Grant Thornton) | GT is short for Grant Thornton and is not officially used. Grant Thornton is a mid-tier UK auditing firm. Grant Thornton and BDO are 5th and 6th after the Big Four. |
| HBOS | Halifax, Bank of Scotland. HBOS plc was a banking and insurance company in the United Kingdom, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Lloyds Banking Group, having been taken over in January 2009. It is the holding company for Bank of Scotland plc, which operates the Bank of Scotland and Halifax brands in the UK, as well as HBOS Australia and HBOS Insurance & Investment Group Limited, the group's insurance division. HBOS was formed by the 2001 merger of Halifax plc and the Bank of Scotland. The formation of HBOS was heralded as creating a fifth force in British banking as it created a company of comparable size and stature to the established Big Four UK retail banks. It was also the UK's largest mortgage lender. The HBOS Group Reorganisation Act 2006 saw the transfer of Halifax plc to the Bank of Scotland, which was now a registered public limited company, Bank of Scotland plc. |

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| Hedge Funds | Hedge funds are alternative investments using pooled funds that employ numerous different strategies to earn active return, or alpha, for their investors. Hedge funds may be aggressively managed or make use of derivatives and leverage in both domestic and international markets with the goal of generating high returns (either in an absolute sense or over a specified market benchmark). It is important to note that hedge funds are generally only accessible to accredited investors as they require less regulations than other funds. One aspect that has set the hedge fund industry apart is the fact that hedge funds face less regulation than mutual funds and other investment vehicles. |
| Hedging | A hedge is an investment to reduce the risk of adverse price movements in an asset. Normally, a hedge consists of taking an offsetting position in a related security, such as a futures contract. |
| HP | Hewlett Packard |
| HRH | His Royal Highness |
| HRMC | Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is a non-ministerial department of the UK Government responsible for the collection of taxes, the payment of some forms of state support and the administration of other regulatory regimes including the national minimum wage. |
| HSBC | is a British multinational bank with its original in Hong Kong. The initials originally stood for Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. |
| IA | Investment Association. The Investment Association is the trade body that represents UK investment managers. Our 200 members collectively manage over £6.9 trillion on behalf of clients in the UK and around the world. |
| IAASA | Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority |
| IAASB | International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. The IAASB is an independent standard-setting body that serves the public interest by setting high-quality international standards for auditing, quality control, review, other assurance, and related services, and by facilitating the convergence of international and national standards. |
| IAS | International Accounting Standard. IFRS began as an attempt to harmonize accounting across the European Union but the value of harmonization quickly made the concept attractive around the world. However, it has been debated whether or not de facto harmonization has occurred. Standards that were issued by IASC (the predecessor of IASB) are still within use today and go by the name International Accounting Standards (IAS), while standards issued by IASB are called IFRS. |
| IAS (UK) | International Standards on Auditing (UK) |
| IAS 39 | International Accounting Standard 39 establishes principles for recognising and measuring financial assets, financial liabilities and some contracts to buy or sell non-financial items. It also prescribes principles for derecognising financial instruments and for hedge accounting. Will be superseded by IFRS 9. |
| IASB | International Accounting Standards Board. IASB) took over from the IASC the responsibility for setting International Accounting Standards. During its first meeting the new Board adopted existing IAS and Standing Interpretations Committee standards (SICs). The IASB has continued to develop standards calling the new standards "International Financial Reporting Standards" or IFRS. |
| IASC | International Accounting Standards Committee. Standards that were issued by IASC (the predecessor of IASB) are still within use today and go by the name International Accounting Standards (IAS), |
| ICA | Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland |
| ICAEW | The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales often considered as the premier professional body for accounting and audit in England and Wales |
| ICAI | Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland |
| ICAS | Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland |
| ICO | An initial coin offering is a controversial means of crowdfunding centred around cryptocurrency, which can be a source of capital for start-up companies. In an ICO, a quantity of the crowdfunded cryptocurrency is sold to investors in the form of "tokens", in exchange for legal tender or other cryptocurrencies. |
| ICSA | The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. ICSA: The Governance Institute is the professional body for governance. |
| IESBA. | International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants—an independent body that sets robust, internationally appropriate ethics standards, including auditor independence requirements, compiled in the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants. |

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| IFAC | The International Federation of Accountants. |
| IFIAR | International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators |
| IFoA | The Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) is the UK's only chartered professional body dedicated to educating, developing and regulating actuaries. |
| IFRIC | International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee usually an interpretation of a standard |
| IFRS | The International Financial Reporting Standards, usually called the IFRS Standards, are standards issued by the IFRS Foundation and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) to provide a common global language for business affairs. |
| IIA | Institute of Internal Auditors |
| IIRC | The International Integrated Reporting Council |
| IMA | Institute of Management Accountants |
| INE | Independent Non-Executive |
| IoD | Institute of Directors |
| IOSCO | The International Organisation of Securities Commissions is an association of organisations that regulate the world's securities and futures markets. |
| IoT | Internet of Things |
| IPO | Initial Public Offering. An Initial Public Offering (IPO being the Stock Exchange and corporate acronym) is the first sale of privately owned equity (stock or shares) in a company via the issue of shares to the public and other investing institutions. IPOs typically involve small, young companies raising capital to finance growth. For investors IPO's can risky as it is difficult to predict the value of the stock (shares) when they open for trading. An IPO is effectively 'going public' or 'taking a company public'. |
| IRR | Internal rate of return used in discounted cash flows. |
| ISA | International Standard on Auditing. International Standards on Auditing (ISA) are professional standards for the performance of financial audit of financial information. These standards are issued by International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) through the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB). |
| ISAs (UK and Ireland) | International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) |
| ISIN | International Securities Identification Number and uniquely identifies a security. |
| ISQC | International Standard on Quality Control |
| ISQC (UK and Ireland) | International Standard on Quality Control (UK and Ireland) |
| ISRE | International Standard on Review Engagements |
| ISS | Institutional shareholders Service. A proxy advisor. |
| ITS | Implementing Technical Standards - usually in connection with MiFID or electronic format of annual reports. |
| IVA | Individual Voluntary Arrangement |
| JLP | John Lewis Partnership |
| KAM | Key audit matter. |
| Kingman Review | The independent review of the Financial Reporting Council led by Sir John Kingman. |
| KPI | Key performance indicators usually non-financial. Key Performance Indicators define factors the institution needs to benchmark and monitor. Assessment techniques provide the mechanism for measuring and evaluating the defined factors to evaluate progress or impact |
| KPMG | One of the Big Four accounting/auditing firms. Originally Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler |
| Krish Bhaskar | Professor Krish Bhaskar, principle author of the book but aided and abetted by all classes of stakeholders, including, professional investors, members/partners/managing partner of the Big Four, other members of the profession and in smaller practices, managers, board members (including Chairpersons, CEOs % CFOs), politicians and others. Published 52 books to date. Expert on Reporting, new forms of accounting, blockchains, AI, financial modelling & forecasting, and auditing. |
| LAPFF | Local Authority Pension Fund Forum |
| LBO | The leveraged buyout |
| LCF | London Capital & Finance |

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| Level 3 asset | Level 3 assets are assets whose fair value cannot be determined by using observable inputs or measures, such as market prices or models. Level 3 assets are typically very illiquid, and fair values can only be calculated using estimates or risk-adjusted value ranges. |
| Leverage | Loans and borrowed money. The greater the leverage the greater the debt as a proportion of the firm as a whole. |
| LIFO | Last-in First-out. A method by which the goods sold are said to have come from the last lot of goods received. |
| LLA | Auditor Liability Limitation Agreements. |
| LLP | Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP). With this form of partnership, there is limited personal liability for individual partners (similar in manner to a limited company). For tax purposes, an LLP does not differ greatly from an ordinary partnership. Most audit firms are LLPs. |
| LSE | London School of Economics and Political Science (to which all three authors are attached) |
| LSE | London stock exchange. |
| LTSE | Long-term stock exchange. |
| M&A | Mergers and acquisitions. |
| M&S | Marks and Spencer Limited |
| Mandatory rotation | European Union rules compelling companies to tender their audit at least every ten years and switch their auditor at least every twenty years. |
| MFR | Mandatory audit firm rotation applying to audit firms which in practice means that every 7 years. The audit has to go to tender |
| MGRG | MG Rover Group |
| MiFID | Markets in Financial Instruments Directive Level 1 (2014) |
| MiFID II | Markets in Financial Instruments Directive Level 2 (2017/2018) |
| MNE | Multinational enterprise |
| MP | Member of Parliament (UK) |
| MTM | Mark-to-market (MTM or M2M) |
| NA or N/A | Not available |
| NAO | The National Audit Office is an independent Parliamentary body in the United Kingdom which is responsible for auditing central government departments, government agencies and non-departmental public bodies. The NAO also carries out Value for Money (VFM) audit into the administration of public policy. |
| NAS | Non audit services. |
| NASDAQ | is an American stock exchange. It is the second-largest exchange in the world by market capitalisation, behind only the New York Stock Exchange located in the same city |
| NED | Non-executive director. Also known as INE (Independent Non-Executive) |
| NFI | Non-financial information |
| NFR | Non Financial Reporting and often refers to the directive/regulation. |
| Non audit services | Non-audit services' comprise any engagement in which an audit firm provides professional services to: An audited entity; An audited entity's affiliates; or another entity in respect of the audited entity; Other than the audit of financial statements of the audited entity. |
| NSS | National Standards Setters |
| NYSE | New York Stock Exchange |
| OBE | A royal honour - Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire |
| OCI | Other comprehensive income |
| OCP | Onerous Contract Provision |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| OFT | Office of Fair Trading. |
| Options | An option is a financial derivative that represents a contract sold by one party (the option writer) to another party (the option holder). The contract offers the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy (call) or sell (put) a security or other financial asset at an agreed-upon price (the strike price) during a certain period of time or on a specific date (exercise date). |
| P&L | Profit and Loss account also known as the income statement |
| P/E ratio | Price earnings ratio |
| Passport/ Passporting | This is as applied particularly to an EU bank passport. Passporting is the exercise of the right for a firm registered in the EU to do business in any other EU state without needing further authorisation in each country |

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| PAYE | Pay as your earn tax mechanism |
| PC | Personal Computer usually a desktop. |
| PCAOB | Public Company Accounting Oversight Board – the audit regulator in the United States. |
| Peer-to-peer lenders | Peer-to-peer lending websites are financial matchmakers, marrying up online people who have cash to lend and who are looking for a good return, with individuals or companies wanting to borrow. Examples include: Ratesetter, Funding Circle, Zopa and others. |
| PFI | Private Finance Initiative - see PPP for a full explanation. |
| PIEs | Public interest entities originally defined by the EU for audit purposes. |
| PIRC | Pensions & Investment Research Consultants Ltd is Europe's largest independent corporate governance and shareholder advisory consultancy with over 25 years experience in providing proxy research services to institutional investors on governance and other ESG issues. A proxy advisor. |
| plc or PLC | Public limited company (used in the UK). It is a limited liability company whose shares may be freely sold and traded to the public (although a plc may also be privately held, often by another plc), with a minimum share capital of £50,000 |
| PPF | Pensions Protection Fund |
| PPI | Public-Private investment - see below. |
| PPP | Public-private partnership is a funding model for a public infrastructure project such as a new telecommunications system, airport or power plant. The public partner is represented by the government at a local, state and/or national level. |
| PRA | The Prudential Regulation Authority at the Bank of England is responsible for this prudential regulation and supervision of 1,500 banks, building societies, credit unions, insurers and major investment firms. |
| PRC | PRC Planning and Resources Committee |
| preparer-directors | board members who are not qualified accountants and as such are responsible for the annual reports. |
| Preparer-accountant | Preparer-account is a qualified accountant in the firm preparing the reports, usually a financial director or CFO. |
| preparer-accountant | is a qualified accountant in the firm preparing the reports, usually a financial director or CFO or a member of the board of directors |
| Preparer-directors | Members of the board of an entity producing annual and corporate reports - in general with or without accounting qualifications. |
| Principals | Partners or members of an LLP |
| Proxy adviser or firm | A proxy adviser or firm (also known as a proxy voting agency, vote service provider or shareholder voting research provider) provides services to shareholders (in most cases an institutional investor of some type) to vote their shares at shareholder meetings of listed companies. Also to provide research and views. These include ISS, PRIC, Glass-Lewis and others including several in India. |
| Put option | A put option is an option contract giving the owner the right, but not the obligation, to sell a specified amount of an underlying security at a specified price within a specified time frame. This is the opposite of a call option, which gives the holder the right to buy an underlying security at a specified price, before the option expires. |
| PwC | PricewaterhouseCoopers = one of the Big Four accounting/auditing firms. Best known brand name of the Big Four. |
| QAC | Quality Assurance Committee (CAI term) |
| QAD | Quality Assurance Directorate (ICAEW term) |
| RAC | Royal Automobile Club |
| RBS | Royal Bank of Scotland - also owns NatWest Bank |
| RCA | Root cause analysis |
| Repo | Repos are sometimes known as 'sale-and-repurchase; agreements. |
| Revenue | The same as turnover |
| Reverse stress tests | Reverse stress tests are stress tests that require a firm to assess scenarios and circumstances that would render its business model unviable, thereby identifying potential business vulnerabilities. This differs from typical stress and scenario testing, which tests for outcomes arising from changes in circumstances. |

| bbbbbb | Description |
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| Reverse takeover | A reverse takeover or reverse merger takeover (reverse IPO) is the acquisition of a public company by a private company so that the private company can bypass the lengthy and complex process of going public. This allows a private company to become publicly traded without resorting to an initial public offering (IPO). |
| RI | Responsible Individuals have been awarded the recognised professional qualification in audit and hold a practising certificate . An RI can sign an audit report on behalf of his/her firm |
| Rights issue | An issue of shares offered at a special price by a company to its existing shareholders in proportion to their holding of old shares. Often cash-strapped companies can turn to rights issues to raise money when they really need it. In these rights offerings, companies grant the existing shareholders a chance to buy new shares at a discount to the current trading price. |
| RIS | Regulatory Information Service. Defined as a primary information provider; or an incoming information society service, established in an EEA state other than the UK, that disseminates regulated information in accordance with the minimum standards |
| RNS | Regulatory News Service, a part of the London Stock Exchange. The RNS sends regulatory and non-regulatory information on behalf of businesses and other companies, helping them to comply with the disclosure obligations set out by regulators around the world. |
| ROCE | Return on Capital Employed. |
| ROI | Republic of Ireland |
| RQB | Recognised Qualifying Bodies - there are six bodies in the UK recognised to offer the audit qualification in line with the requirements of Schedule 11 to the Companies Act 2006 |
| RSB | Recognised Supervisory Bodies -these bodies can register and supervise audit firms in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 10 to the Companies Act 2006 |
| RTS | Regulatory Technical Standard specifying the electronic reporting format in which issuers should prepare their annual financial reports for listed companies from 1 January 2020 |
| S&P 500 | The Standard & Poor's 500 is an American stock market index based on the market capitalizations of 500 large companies having common stock listed on the NYSE or NASDAQ. The S&P 500 index components and their weightings are determined by S&P Dow Jones indices. |
| SA | Société Anonyme ' A French term for a public limited company, abbreviated S.A. A société anonyme is the equivalent of a corporation in the United States, a public limited company (plc) in the United Kingdom or an Aktiengesellschaft (AG) in Germany. |
| SARL | Société A Responsabilité Limitée (SARL) is an incorporate business or limited company in France and smaller than a SA and probably not listed. |
| SASB | Sustainability Accounting Standards Board |
| SATCAR | The Statutory Auditors and Third Country Auditors Regulations 2016 |
| SC | Joint report from the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Work and Pensions Select Committees on Carillion |
| SEC | Securities and Exchange Commission. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is a U.S. government agency that oversees securities transactions, activities of financial professionals and mutual fund trading to prevent fraud and intentional deception. |
| SEO | Search Engine Optimisation |
| SFAS | Statement of Financial Accounting Standards for the US |
| SFO | Serious Fraud Office |
| Share | A stock is a general term used to describe the ownership certificates of any company. A share, on the other hand, refers to the stock certificate of a particular company. Holding a particular company's share makes you a shareholder. |
| Shorting | Short selling is the sale of a security that is not owned by the seller or that the seller has borrowed. Short selling is motivated by the belief that a security's price will decline, enabling it to be bought back at a lower price to make a profit. Short selling may be prompted by speculation, or by the desire to hedge the downside risk of a long position in the same security or a related one. Since the risk of loss on a short sale is theoretically infinite, short selling should only be used by experienced traders, who are familiar with the risks. |
| SIC | SIC Interpretations were previously issued by the Standard Interpretations Committee (SIC), and were subsequently endorsed by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). |
| SIC code | Standard Industrial Classification code (a system for classifying industries using four-digit codes). |

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| SIFI | Systemically important financial institution is a bank, insurance company, or other financial institution whose failure might trigger a financial crisis. |
| SLC | Significant lessening of competition |
| SME | A small or medium-sized enterprise,. When used by the European Commission this may be a business or company: that has fewer than 250 employees; and has either (a) annual turnover not exceeding €50 million or (b) an annual balance-sheet total not exceeding €43 million; and of whose capital or voting rights, 25 per cent or more is not owned by one enterprise, or jointly by several enterprises, that fall outside this definition of an SME. |
| SORPs | Statements of Recommended Practice |
| SOX | Sarbanes–Oxley Act of 2002 |
| SPV | Special Purpose Vehicle |
| SRI | Socially Responsible Investors or Investment |
| STI | Short-term incentive |
| Stock | A stock is a general term used to describe the ownership certificates of any company. A share, on the other hand, refers to the stock certificate of a particular company. Holding a particular company's share makes you a shareholder. |
| Stress tests | A stress test, in financial terminology, is an analysis, forecast or simulation designed to determine the ability of a company to deal with changes in circumstances assumptions, or an economic crisis. |
| TCFD | Financial Stability Board's Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures. Part of the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority). |
| TEG | Technical Expert Group |
| TFEU | Treaty on the functioning of the European Union |
| Ticker | A Ticker is a short abbreviation used to uniquely identify publicly traded securities on a particular stock market. A stock symbol may consist of letters, numbers or a combination of both. "Ticker" refers to the symbols that were printed on the ticker tape of a ticker tape machine. |
| Top Track 100 | The largest 100 private companies in the UK by sales. |
| TOR | The Onion Router for anonymous access to the dark web. |
| TPE | Third-party evidence |
| TPR | The Pensions Regulator |
| TPU | Tensor Processing Unit |
| TSR | Total shareholder return |
| Turnover | The same as revenue |
| UK GAAP | Generally accepted accounting principles and practices for the UK |
| UK Regulated Market | An organised trading venue that operates under Title III of MiFID |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| Unicorn | Unicorn refers to a start-up company (often tech or disruptive) that is valued at over \$1 billion dollar market value - or in the UK and Europe a very high value. Unicorn is sometimes used to represent all high value start-ups. Technically a decacorn is a word used for those companies over \$10 billion, while hectocorn is the appropriate term for such a company valued over \$100 billion. According to TechCrunch, there were 279 unicorns as of March 2018. The largest unicorns included Uber, Xiaomi, Airbnb, Palantir, and Pinterest. Dropbox is the most recent decacorn that turned into a public company on March 23, 2018. Bill Gurley, a partner at Benchmark predicted in March 2015 and earlier that the rapid increase in the number of unicorns is unsustainable. This will leave in its wake what he terms "dead unicorns". It is acknowledged that the main reason for many of the Unicorn's valuation is speculation and bull markets. Research by the University of Stanford suggests the average unicorn is overvalued by as much as 48%. |
| URL | Stands for Uniform Resource Locator, and is used to specify addresses on the World Wide Web. |
| US | United States of America |
| US GAAP | Generally accepted accounting principles for the US |
| VAT | Value Added tax a common sales tax throughout the EU |

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| VPN | A virtual private network provides privacy and un-traceability. It extends a private network across a public network, and enables users to send and receive data across shared or public networks as if their computing devices were directly connected to the private network. Applications running across the VPN may therefore benefit from the functionality, security, and management of the private network. |
| WBCSD | World Business Council for Sustainable Development |
| WCCAEW | Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. |
| WEF | World Economic Forum |
| WICI | World Intellectual Capital Initiative |
| WIP | Work-in-progress |
| XBRL | eXtensible Business Reporting Language is a freely available and global standard for exchanging business information. |
| Year End | An accounting procedure undertaken at the end of the year to close out business from the previous year and carry forward balances from the previous year |