

Endnote

¹ Laurance, B., 2018, “Crunch time for the big four bean counters: The accountancy giants that keep a stranglehold on auditing are in the line of fire”, *The Sunday Times*, 19 August 2018. Available at: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/crunch-time-for-the-big-four-bean-counters-td6zlwjq3>

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² Marriage, M., 2018, 'Biggest UK auditors hold secret talks to avert watchdog probe: Firms meet in private amid fears investigation could lead to break-up of Big Four', *Financial Times*, 13 July 2018

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<https://www.ft.com/content/0605c1d8-86bc-11e8-96dd-fa565ec55929>

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³ Jones, H., 2018, 'Big Four accountants counting on capped market share to avoid break-up', *Reuters*, 1 June 2018.

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<https://www.reuters.com/article/britain-accounts-regulator/big-four-accountants-counting-on-capped-market-share-to-avoid-break-up-idUSL8N1TH349>

Accessed July 2018.

⁴ Kinder, T., 2018, 'EY wants conflict of interest waivers', *The Sunday Times*, 7 July 2018

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<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ey-wants-conflict-of-interest-waivers-9vqrc889w>

Accessed July 2018.

⁵ Size means global reach, widespread industry and sector experience and data, knowledge and prestige. In the *Financial Time*, Marriage 2018 article, some executives from the mid-tier accounting firms described the lending of resources offer of aid from larger rivals as condescending. Others seemed to be more open.

⁶ This argument was reported in the *Financial Times*, Op. Cit. Marriage, 2018

⁷ The authors reserve the right to keep publish this work separately.

⁸ See the Southwest Environmental Limited website.

Available at:

<http://www.southwest-environmental.co.uk>

Accessed July 2018.

⁹See the AECOM website.

Available at:

<https://www.aecom.com/services/environmental-services/ehs-management-consulting-compliance/>

Accessed July 2018.

¹⁰ In 2018 the mid-tier firm GT (Grant Thornton) said this was the average cost of a tender but there is inflation and we think the scope and depth of the audit will be expanded. So £500,000 is a fair estimate for 2019 to 2021 timeframe.

¹¹ Ward, A., 2018, 'TSB calls in Slaughter and May for investigation into online banking shutdown: Magic circle firm to carry out independent probe of IT crisis', *Legal Week*, 2 May 2018.

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<http://www.legalweek.com/2018/05/02/tsb-calls-in-slaughter-and-may-for-investigation-into-online-banking-shutdown/?slreturn=20180403232623>

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