

Dear Q&A

**My organisation's internal audit service is completely outsourced to a service provider firm. Would they also provide 'advisory services'?**

**Answer**

They generally will, in the context of the IIA Standards, where the nature of consulting (advisory) services has been defined in the internal audit charter. A few key points to consider:

1. Scope of services (assurance and consulting) and conflict of interest policy should be included in the request for tender document and the internal audit service provider contract when awarded. Any contract with an internal audit service provider should be in the procuring organisation's contract format.
2. A formal conflict of interest policy endorsed by the audit committee should exist, be communicated to the internal audit service provider, and signed-off by them.
3. Internal audit should have a formal induction for every new internal audit service provider consultant that includes information on the conflict of interest policy and expectations of the procuring organisation.