

# Group Audit Change Programme

**A**s members will be aware Group Audit is currently undertaking a wide-ranging review, central to which is the aim of creating a new operating structure. Among the areas being proposed are that:

- **a pool system for allocating resources would operate, placing staff in audits or reviews based on their level of skills and experience thus removing ongoing defined areas of responsibility**
- **a number of offices, possibly 5 or 6, would be established across the country at which staff would then be based**
- **there would be a full review of the salary and benefits package looking at the external market.**

LTU has had a number of meetings with Group Audit and our negotiations are scheduled to continue on a regular basis over the next few months, as the project develops. I had hoped to be able to advise members by now of the details of our negotiations but this will not be possible until next month at the earliest.

**However we have made progress on a number of issues that had been causing concern for members particularly regarding the Bank's plans to establish a number of regional bases. I am pleased to report that we have secured an unequivocal guarantee from the Bank that whilst ultimately**

**staff may be allocated to a new office it will only be for resource allocation and management purposes and that there will be no change to existing bases i.e. a specific office, or home and will therefore have no implication for expenses purposes.**

**We have also been given a guarantee that the Bank's plans for new offices will not necessitate any relocation, and outside of the wider market review of reward and benefits, there are no plans to change terms and conditions or job families.**

**LTU has also established with the Bank that staff who have been transferred to the Sarbanes Oxley Project are in fact seconded. The difference is important because it means that staff retain the same terms and conditions and the right to return to Group Audit. The only exceptions are the limited number of individuals who have specifically moved to the Project on a permanent basis.**

I will keep members informed of developments. In the meantime if members have any specific concerns with the Bank's proposals they should contact the Union's 24 Hour Advice Line on 01234 262868 as soon as possible for independent, professional guidance and support.

**NICK HOLT**  
Assistant General Secretary