

THE FOLLOWING MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THE INDEPENDENCE OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS:

- Detailed assessment of the external auditor's independence, service quality and remuneration level;
- Annual confirmation of the auditor's independence issued by the external auditor;
- A rotation arrangement for the lead audit partner was established and implemented by the external auditor;
- The lead audit partner is required to comply with professional ethical standards and independence policies and requirements applicable to the work performed;
- The award of any non-audit services provided by the Group's external auditors (and their affiliates) is subject to the Group's procurement policy which is consistent with all other third-party vendor relationships;
- All non-audit services were pre-approved by the Audit and Risk Management Committee; and
- Appropriate policies and procedures have been established to identify audit and non-audit services, as well as prohibited non-audit services that might impair the independence of the auditor. The external auditor confirmed its independence with regard to the non-audit services provided.

A summary of external auditor's services and fees for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022 is as follows:

	2023 HK\$ million	2022 HK\$ million
Audit services	3.5	3.5
Non-audit services		
– Recurring (Note a)	0.6	0.6
– One-time transactional		
• Technology services (Note b)	7.0	6.2
• Other services (Note c)	–	0.4
Total	11.1	10.7

Notes:

- (a) Recurring services include statutory compliance and regulatory or government procedures required to comply with financial, accounting or regulatory report matters.
- (b) Deloitte Advisory (Hong Kong) Limited ("Deloitte Consulting") was appointed to provide technology services, system integration and application management for our customer relationship management ("CRM") platforms based on their demonstrated subject matter expertise in implementing similar CRM solutions, proven track record from past projects and competitive pricing presented through a rigorous tender process. To maintain Auditor's independence, the External Auditor confirmed that such technology services are provided by professionals from Deloitte Consulting who are not audit engagement team members and Deloitte Consulting did not assume any management responsibility during the provision of such services.
- (c) Other services include assurance services required for transaction compliance (e.g. major transactions as defined by the Listing Rules and offering of guaranteed notes). Leveraging the external auditors ensures efficiency and consistent quality of the assurance exercises. It also reduces onboarding costs by utilizing the external auditors' existing institutional knowledge of the Company.