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Determinants of Disclosure in Integrated Reporting and Its Effect on The Quality of Accounting Information: An Experimental Study on Companies listed on the Iraq Stock Exchange.

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Abstract:

The study aimed to define the determinants of disclosure in integrated reports and its impact on the quality of accounting information. By applying the method of binary logistic regression to a sample of 40 companies listed on the Iraq Stock Exchange during the time (2017-2019). The study found that, relative to other firms, larger companies that are distinguished by a high degree of governance have more transparency of Integrated reports information, and that such disclosure has a positive effect on the quality of accounting information. At the same time, there was no impact of financial performance on the disclosure of integrated reports. Therefore the findings of the study provide evidence of the Benefits achieved by Iraqi companies as a result of the disclosure of such studies. The study findings also provide data that confirms and supports the regulatory authorities' decisions to requiring additional disclosure requirements for companies.

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Key Words: Corporate Governance, Financial Performance, Firm Size, Integrated Reports, Quality of Accounting Information

1. Introduction:

The accounting role in the first place also relates to information that meets the needs of multiple parties in a way that allows them to make decisions that serve their personal interests, (Zhai & Wang, 2016). Consumers of accounting information involved in measuring current results and forecasting the potential outcome, so there is some controversy on the effectiveness of expressing both expectations in different accounting standards. Some company transactions require a mechanical application of accounting rules while other types depend on the judgment of the company's managers and accountants. This decision creates errors - intended and unconscious. Intentional failure is also called discretionary errors. The cause of the error does not matter, however, with regard to quality; all types reduce the level of accounting information, (Chaney, Faccio, & Parsley, 2011). And with the passage of time financial reports have become insufficient the needs of stakeholders, (Cohen, Webb, Nath, & Wood, 2012).

The accounting writings thus recently covered what is known as Integrated Reports (IR). As a means of achieving a balance between financial and non-financial information, (Vitolla, Raimo, Rubino, & Garzoni, 2019). So (IR) is not just a compilation of traditional financial reports, social reports or reports on sustainability, (Nazari, Herremans, & Warsame, 2015) But it is an innovative method that integrates all kinds of information with the aim of allowing stakeholders to accurately assess the company's ability to add value in the present and the future, (Vitolla, Rubino, & Garzoni, 2017). It is a way to improve reputation and image of the company, (Vitolla, Raimo, Rubino, & Garzoni, 2020).

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Although voluntary disclosure has received considerable attention from researchers in the accounting literature, some researchers have been discussing the determinants of voluntary disclosure and factors that influence the degree of voluntary disclosure from one business to another, (e. g., Ortas, Alvarez, & Etxeberria, 2015;Khan, Muttakin, & Siddiqui, 2012;Wang, O, & Clainborne, 2008). The effects of widening voluntary disclosure and its effect on the quality of accounting information were also addressed by other researchers, (e. g., Ji, Iq, & Qu, 2017;Chen, Gavious, & Lev, 2017). However, this focus has not yet been given to the limitations of disclosure of (IR), as researchers were interested in this subject to study components and items of this form of disclosure and to seek to establish measures representing the quality and comprehensiveness of (IR) disclosure, (e. g., Caglio, Melloni, & Perego, 2020;Liu, Jubb, & Abhayawansa, 2019).

The importance of this paper stems from the fact that it addresses an important issue that promotes disclosure and transparency, as it examines and tests the determinants and results of non-financial disclosure as a source of important information that gives a comprehensive and integrated picture of the performance of the company and its ability to create value in the future, (Jackson, Bartosch, Avetisyan, Kinderman, & Knudsen, 2020). This paper also confirms the relationship between the disclosure of (IR) and the quality of accounting information, which helps guide professional practices in issuing more binding standards and legislation and regulating processes for disclosure of those reports, (Badia, Dicuonzo, Petruzzelli, & Dell'Atti, 2019). The results of this paper also provide empirical evidence on the extent of the agreement and the difference between the Iraqi environs. In view of the above, we're trying to address two questions through this article, what are the limitations of (IR) disclosure in the Iraqi environment? Is the disclosure of (IR) having a positive impact on the quality of the accounting information? To order to address the two questions, the remainder of this paper will be structured to include the theories and the derivation of hypotheses to the second section, while the third section will deal with

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methodology, the fourth and fifth sections will discuss the findings and hypothesis tests and finally the sixth section will deal with the overview of the study and its limitations and future areas.

2. THEORY AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT:

2.1 Integrated reporting determinants:

The influence of relevant rules, norms, or laws is extraordinarily low due to the newness of IR, if it occurs at all. But even a voluntary basis available structure does not exist. The impact of coercive isomorphism on the IR is, therefore, negligible. The same applies to mimetic and prescriptive stresses. Mimetic processes mean that managers duplicate techniques that are considered best practice by successful organizations (or competitors). But IR is too fresh and the number of organizations that have adopted it is too low to cause such an impact on the bandwagon, (Jensen & Berg, 2012).

The determinants of voluntary disclosure will therefore be adopted in this paper on the premise that the disclosure of (IR) and the financial and non-financial information found therein was reported on a voluntary basis to this day, and given the multiplicity of studies dealing with the determinants of voluntary disclosure,(see, e. g., Monday & Nancy, 2018; Abeywardana & Panditharathna, 2016; Habbash et al., 2016; Ceustermans & Breesch, 2017). The (IR) received little attention Studies, particularly in the Iraqi environment, in which researchers were interested in the content and nature of these reports, (hussain, & shaaban, 2018). Consequently, the importance of the paper has appeared in the determinants of disclosure of (IR), the most important of which is firm size, financial performance and corporate governance, and it will be covered in detail as follows.

2.1.1 Firm size: Many researchers claim that the larger the firm is the more likely it is to voluntarily share more information, (see, e. g., Peng, Sun, & Luo, 2015; Elshandidy, Farser, & Hussainey, 2013; Zeng, Xu, Yin, & Tam, 2012). The positive relationship between firm size and degree of voluntary disclosure may be attributed to several factors. First, large businesses are

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more likely to afford the added expense of voluntary disclosure than small firms. Second, larger companies have more stakeholders forcing management to share more information than small firms do in the light of stakeholder theory. Third, large firms encounter political costs to a greater extent than small firms; therefore, large firms work to reduce political costs through disclosing more information voluntarily, (see, e. g., Chan, Chen, Chen, & Yu, 2015; Allegrini & Greco, 2013; Gamerschlag, Moller, & Verbeeten, 2011). From the above, and to complement the results of the studies that dealt with the determinants of voluntary disclosure, the researcher predicts a rise in the degree of disclosure in (IR) for large businesses, and hence the first hypothesis of the study can be drawn follows:

H1: There is a positive relationship between the size of the company and the level of disclosure in the (IR).

2.1.2 Financial performance: Many theories discussed various interpretations of the relation between financial performance and voluntary disclosure. According to the signal theory, companies with high financial performance appear more willing to disclose voluntarily, (see, e. g., Elshandidy et al., 2013; Allegrini & Greco, 2013; Fisher-Vanden & Thorburn, 2011) by which the company makes it clear to stakeholders that it is capable of functioning properly and that it can be distinguished from less successful companies that are linked to the reputation and legitimacy of the company's activities, (Ceustermans & Breesch, 2017). (L. Chen, Feldmann, & Tang, 2015) research suggested that the most important determinants of the disclosure of social information are economic and social performance. (Dumay, Bernardi, Guthrie, & Demartini, 2016) study also emphasized that by integrating reports to reduce information asymmetry, large and more profitable companies are providing more disclosure.

According to the agency's theory, management in companies that achieve high profits is trying to show the results of its business in its various axes in order to obtain personal benefits, (Callao & Jarne, 2010). In light of

the political costs theory, companies that achieve high levels of financial performance tend to make more voluntary disclosures to provide reasonable justifications for the profits they achieve, (Frias-Aceituno, Radriguez-Ariza, & Garcia-sanchez, 2014). In the light of the above, the researcher predicts that the level of transparency in (IR) will increase for companies achieving high financial performance levels. Thus it is possible to derive the second assumption as follows:

H2: There is a positive relationship between the company's financial performance and the level of disclosure in the (IR).

2.1.3 Corporate governance: Corporate transparency is seen as one of the major challenges facing corporate governance adoption, particularly in emerging economies. It was claimed that the Asian financial crisis was not only the product of a loss of consumer trust but also, more significantly, a lack of good corporate governance and accountability in many Asian economies, (Bhasin, Makarov, & Orazalin, 2012). For eg, (Chung, Judge, & Li, 2015) argue that detailed knowledge disclosing strengthens a firm interest. It is evident that global investors and creditors make their decisions on the basis of information given by public entities in financial, non-financial, and economic reports, (Nugroho & Arjowo, 2014). In other words, investors and shareholders are not only involved in assessing a company's performance, liquidity, and financial conditions, but also in assessing non-financial conditions such as employee details, remuneration of management , social responsibility, and internal share transactions. Most Asian economies have been aggressively advancing their regulatory structures over the last several years, especially in terms of corporate governance, accountability and corporate disclosure. The above demonstrates the difference in the outcomes of research on the effect of governance on the accounting disclosure. With regard to the situation in Iraq, and in view of the spread of family ownership controlling the administration, the researcher predicts that

there will be a negative effect on the degree of disclosure in integrated reports. Thus it is possible to derive the third assumption as follows:

H3: There is a negative relationship between corporate governance and the level of disclosure in (IR).

2.2 Disclosure results for integrated reports:

Disclosure of (IR) is one of the types of voluntary disclosure (Abdullah, Evans, Fraser, & Tsalavoutas, 2015), and then companies try to activate the disclosure of these reports if the benefits obtained from them exceed the costs of preparing them, (Lee & Yeo, 2016), and the benefits of the accounting disclosure emerge as one of the Most important tools that support the decision making process. Therefore, many studies concerned with identifying the consequences and results of disclosure of (IR), and what added value was achieved through disclosure of the information contained in these reports, (e.g., Roger & Louise, 2015; Jensen & Berg, 2012; Eccles & Saltzman, 2011). One of the implications of (IR) reports is their impact on the quality of accounting information, which will be covered in the paragraph below.

2.3 Quality of accounting information:

The Charles Prince of Wales Sustainability Accounting Project and the Global Reporting Initiative joined forces in 2010, by creating the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) to develop a internationally agreed reporting structure that would incorporate financial, environmental, social and governance information in a simple, descriptive, consistent and comparable format, (The Prince's A4S & the GRI, 2010). Until then, the IIRC has received tremendous support from economic and business community global players as well as policy makers. The IIRC launched its first project, the International Integrated Reporting System (hereafter the Framework), three years after its creation. According to the Framework, the main aim of IR is '...to improve the quality of the

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information available to financial capital providers so as to allow a more effective and successful allocation of resources', (IIRC, 2013, Pg. 4), and also '...to explain to financial capital providers how an entity creates value over time [by containing] appropriate financial and other information' (IIRC, 2013, pg.7).

The possible effect of IR on the validity of financial reports is also recognized by scholars including who claim that if businesses disclose their financial results without taking into consideration the effects of their activities on their external climate, it is highly doubtful if their financial output is portrayed equally in their financial statements, (e.g., Cho, Lee, & Pfeiffer, 2013; Eccles & Saltzman, 2011; Middleton, 2015). Furthermore, requiring the use of an IR framework would help boost the quality of reporting. Nonetheless, it is an open scientific issue that the importance of financial information is simply improved by bringing financial statements into a mandatory consolidated context when enforcing the same accounting principles, (Solomon & Maroun, 2012).

Previous research on the influence of sustainability reporting on the importance of financial reporting found that while sustainability reporting influences the impact of financial reporting on the market value, this effect is not generally positive. (Carnevale, & Mazzuca, 2014) Note that European banks that report sustainability details have a lower valuation importance to their net assets than banks that do not reveal those details, while the significance to earnings between the two categories is not different. (Lourenço, Callen, Branco, & Curto, 2014) Note that when a company's unbooked intangible resources such as human capital and reputation can be accurately calculated by investors (due to the company's inclusion in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index), the worth importance of its earnings decreases, while the significance of net assets is not affected. (Baboukardos & Rimmel, 2016) Find clear proof of a substantial rise in the appraisal rate for earnings. Contrary to the status of the System, Also found a decrease in net assets worth importance. Such a reduction may be due to uncertainties

and/or unbooked liabilities that are exposed or more accurately assessed since an IR framework has been adopted on the JSE. It can be remembered, however, that the decrease in the worth validity of net assets, given its origin, can be seen as another reason in support of the IIRC position to give equal weight to a broad variety of "capitals," such as financial, social and natural capital.

2.4 Determinants of (IR) disclosure versus the quality of accounting information:

According to the advocates of the new reporting trend, mandatory adoption of the (IR) approach is expected to improve the quality of reporting, (e.g., Middleton, 2015;Cho et al., 2013;Eccles, & Serafeim, 2011), In particular, the quality of relevant accounting information, (e.g., Eccles & Saltzman, 2011;IIRC, 2013;IDSA, 2009). It will voluntarily reveal the publication of integrated reports and the details they contain. As such, the determinants of disclosure in integrated reports are extracted from voluntary disclosure criteria, (e.g., Melloni, Caglio, & Perego, 2017;Frías-Aceituno, Rodríguez-Ariza, & García-Sánchez, 2013). In this research, we discussed three basic determinants of disclosure of (IR), company size, financial performance, and corporate governance. Company size is one of the most frequently used variables in studies dealing with the determinants of voluntary disclosure in its various forms, (e.g., Ortas et al., 2015; Frias-Aceituno et al., 2014; Khan et al., 2012). It is common to assume that the relative cost of preparing reports for large companies is lower, (e.g., Ioannou & Serafeim, 2017; Ehnert, Parsa, Roper,Wagner, & Muller, 2016). and that the cost of issuing voluntary reports decreases with the size of the company because of economies of scale, (e.g., Schreck & Raithel, 2018; Wickert, Scherer, & Spence, 2016). From a political risk viewpoint, large firms may have a greater incentive for environmental reporting to minimize potential litigation costs, as large firms are more vulnerable to government interference and attempts to keep businesses accountable and raise regulation and nationalization threats, (Mshelia & Anchor, 2019).

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(Pavlopoulos, Magnis, & Iatridis, 2017) assumes that the highly integrated companies provide high-quality accounting disclosures and offer more effective corporate governance mechanisms as well as improved earnings quality, and it reveals a decrease in agency costs as a result of a decrease in information asymmetry between stakeholders and managers. Here we find some similarities with previous studies, because integrated reports are a tool that improves the level of financial and non-financial accounting information, (Du Toit, 2017). (Prado-Lorenzo & Garcia-Sanchez, 2010) found that when corporations take advantage of many of the board's features such as independence, duplication and diversification, the quality of accounting information increases. While according their findings, the greater the percentage of independent directors on the board of directors the greater the possibility of aligning them with the principles of disclosure of integrated reports, provided they are compatible with (IRRC). As far as the relationship between financial performance and (IR) is concerned, companies with low financial performance tend to produce longer and more complex reports which tend to be optimistic, (Bernardi & Stark, 2018). It is interesting that these reports are more comprehensive in terms of environmental, social, and governance aspects, which may indicate a disclosure manipulation strategy, (Beretta, Demartini, & Trucco, 2019), Where companies with poor financial performance seek to redirect attention from financial numbers to non-financial numbers (more flexible aspects of their performance), and this is in line with (e.g., Landi & Sciarelli, 2019;Fijałkowska, Zyznarska-Dworczak, & Garsztka, 2018; Ezeagba, Rachael, & Chiamaka, 2017), Those who pointed out the fact that poor performance may try to distract stakeholders from objective performance measures through claims (ESG) issues and modest discretionary disclosures, such as environmental and social initiatives. Overall, the evidence presented is consistent with the belief that businesses that report poor financial accomplishments concurrently implement various quantity-based impression creation strategies, thematic material manipulation, ease of syntactic comprehension and verbal tone

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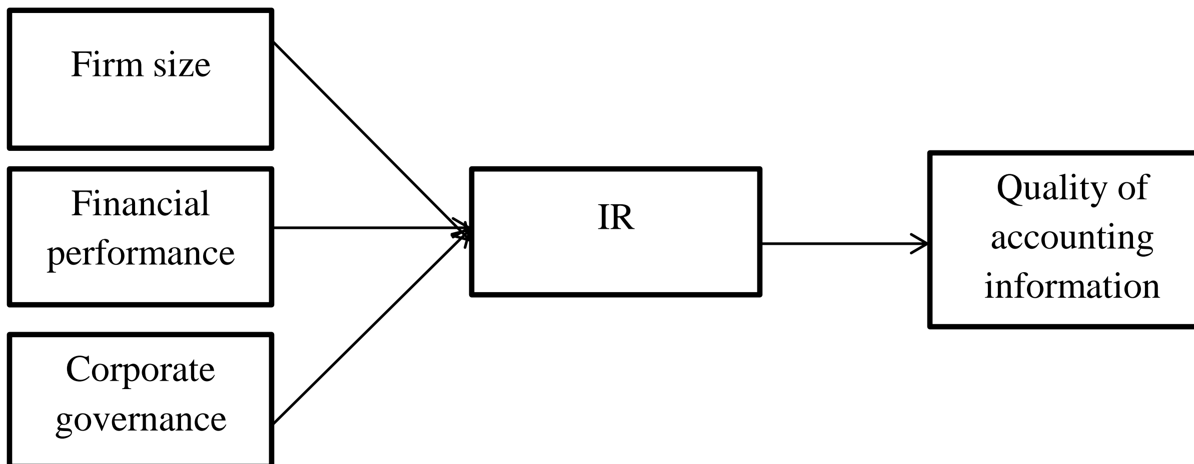
manipulation, (Melloni et al., 2017). Hence, disclosure strategies depend not only on the level of company financial performance, but also on the type of performance where (IR) can act as a catalyst for companies to embrace a dynamic learning process that can lead to a rethinking of reporting systems and practices, (Maniora, 2017).

In light of the foregoing, the main hypothesis of the research can be derived as follows:

H4: quality of accounting information is positively associated with Determinants of disclosure of (IR).

Figure 1: the effect of Determinants of disclosure in (IR) on quality of accounting information



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3. Research Methodology:

The study methodology and design are discussed in this paragraph, and how to collect information from which variables will be calculated. The essence of the study population and sample and how the sample can be evaluated, as well as the explanation of the methodological methods used, are often checked in order to evaluate the research hypotheses experimentally in a way that allows access to outcomes from which the determinants and results of the disclosure of integrated reports can be established. This will be carried out by exploring the following aspects:

3.1 Regression Models: In general, by formulating a mathematical equation that connects the dependent variable to the study's independent variables, regression is an effective tool for evaluating and explaining relationships and constructing models. In order for the research hypotheses to be tested experimentally, the researcher adopted the binary logistic regression method for its suitability for this research due to the nature of the measurement of the dependent variable. It is a binary qualitative variable expressed as a dummy variable that takes the value (1) with probability (P), and take the value (0) with probability (P-1). It can also be used when a combination of related and qualitative variables are used in the independent variables,(Abas, 2012). It has previously been used in several accounting studies that deal with accounting disclosure determinants in their different forms, (e.g., Iatridis, 2008; Kolk & Perego, 2010).

In order to test the research hypotheses from the first to the third, the regression equation will be as follows:

$$IR = Bo + B1\ Size + B2\ ROA + B3\ Cg + E$$

IR: A dummy variable that expresses the level of disclosure in integrated reports.

Size: A continuous variable that expresses the size of the company.

ROA: A continuous variable that expresses the company's financial performance.

Cg: A related variable that expresses the level of corporate governance.

In order to test the fourth hypothesis, the regression equation is as follows:

$$QAI = Bo + B1\ IR + B2\ Size + B3\ ROA + E$$

QAI: A dummy variable that expresses the quality of accounting information.

3.2 Population and sample study:

The study population includes all the (130) companies listed on the Iraq Stock Exchange, and it includes the most active companies in terms of trading volume, during the period (2017-2019). While the study sample includes two groups of companies, where the first group consists of the most active companies in terms of trading volume, which is (10), while the second group includes (30) randomly, selected companies from among the group of companies listed on the market. Thus, the total sample of the study is (40) companies.

3.3 Measuring variables:

3.3.1 Dependent variables:

a) The level of disclosure in (IR): In order to measure this variable, the researcher relied on the report prepared annually by the Iraqi Securities Commission, which classifies companies with the most disclosure and transparency of social and environmental responsibility in addition to the dimension related to governance, and this variable is measured as a fictitious variable whose value (0) takes if the company is out of classification Its value shall be (1) for the companies included in the classification.

b) Quality of accounting information: In order to measure this variable, the researcher relied on the companies' activity index, which includes the

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most active companies in the stock market, which are chosen on the basis of three main elements: the value of trading (liquidity), the number of trading days and the percentage of free circulation, and this variable is measured in this case as A dummy variable takes its value (1) for the most active companies in the stock market, while it takes its value (0) for the least active companies.

3.3.2 Independent variables:

a) **Firm size:** This variable is measured by the natural logarithm of total assets.

b) **Financial performance:** This variable is measured by the rate of return on assets (ROA), (e.g., Ortas et al., 2015; Frias-Aceituno et al., 2014).

c) **Corporate governance:** This variable is measured by the concentration of ownership and the effectiveness of the board of directors.

4. Hypothesis testing:

In this part the researcher deals with testing the research hypotheses, and determining the extent of acceptance or non-acceptance of these hypotheses, and the researcher approved the statistical program (SPSS:23), as he tested the hypotheses in two stages, the first phase included the first regression model which tests the hypotheses from the first to the third, and in the second phase the researcher tested The fourth hypothesis, and the following is a presentation of the results of testing the hypotheses in both stages.

4.1 Regression model validity:

The significance of the model was verified through a set of indicators, including (X^2), as well as determination factors (R^2 Nagelkerke), (R^2 COX & Snell). EXHIBIT2 describes the test results.

Table 1: Statistical Significance of the Two Regression Models

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Regression model	(X^2) (Chi- square)	df	P- value	R^2 Nagelkerke	R^2 COX & Snell
1	131.54	5	0.00	0.69	0.52
2	49.88	3	0.00	0.33	0.24

The results for the first model indicate that the model is statistically significant, and that at least one of the independent variables present in the model has an effect on the dependent variable under study (IR). The results also indicate that the used regression model can explain (69.7 per cent) from the changes that occur in the dependent variable based on the parameter (R^2 Nagelkerke), while the rest of the variables are due to other variables not included in the model.

As for the second model, the results indicated that the model is statistically significant, and that at least one of the independent variables present in the model has an impact on the dependent variable under study (the quality of accounting information). The results also indicate that the regression model used can explain (33.1 per cent) of the changes that they occur in the dependent variable based on (R^2 Nagelkerke), while the rest of the changes are due to other variables not included in the model.

4.2 The determinants of disclosure in (IR) versus the level of disclosure in (IR):

The results in EXHIBIT 3 Regarding the results of the first regression model, which deals with the determinants of disclosure in (IR), indicate that the disclosure in (IR) is affected positively by two variables (company size and corporate governance).

The variable related to the size of the company came in the first place in terms of its impact on the dependent variable (disclosure of IR), as it was ($B= 2.01$, $P< 0.00$) indicating acceptance of the first hypothesis for research

on the existence of a positive relationship between the size of the company and the level of disclosure in (IR).

The company governance variable came in second place in terms of influencing the dependent variable (disclosure of IR), as it was (B= 0.03, P< 0.00), indicating a positive relationship between the company's governance and the level of disclosure in (IR), contrary to the researcher's expectations. A negative relationship between corporate governance and the level of disclosure in (IR).

As for the second variable (financial performance), it did not have a significant effect on the dependent variable (disclosure of IR) in contrast to the researcher's expectations, which indicates the non-acceptance of the second hypothesis.

Table 2: The Results of the Regression Model 1

Independent variables	(B)	S.E	Wald	df	Sig.	EXP (B)
Size	2.01	0.4	25.11	1	***0.00	7.46
ROA	0.03	0.02	1.22	1	0.27	1.03
Cg	0.03	0.02	3	1	*0.08	1.03

Note *** The significant effect is at a level of significance less than (1 per cent), * The significant effect is at a level of significance less than (10 per cent), - n = 40

4.3 Disclosure of IR versus the quality of accounting information:

The apparent results in EXHIBIT4 regarding the results of the second regression model, which deals with the effect of disclosure in IR on the quality of accounting information, indicate that the disclosure of IR positively affects the quality of accounting information. Where it was (B=1.81, P<0.00), which indicates acceptance of the non-research hypothesis on the existence of a positive relationship between disclosure in IR and the quality of accounting information.

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In addition, the results of the analysis showed that the size of the company as a control variable is positively and significantly related to the quality of the accounting information, as it was (B=0.39, P<0.1). While the results showed that the financial performance of the company as a control variable had no significant effect on the quality of the accounting information.

Table 3: The results of the regression model 2

Independent variables	(B)	S.E	Wald	df	Sig.	EXP (B)
IR	1.81	0.47	15.03	1	***0.00	6.13
Size	0.39	0.23	2.89	1	*0.09	1.48
ROA	0.01	0.02	0.23	1	0.63	0.99
Constant	5.06	2.01	6.31	1	0.01	0.01

Note *** The significant effect is at a level of significance less than (1 per cent), * The significant effect is at a level of significance less than (10 per cent), - n = 40

5. Results:

The results of the study indicate that:

a) The size of the company is one of the determinants of disclosure in IR, and this is consistent with the concepts of agency theory and the theory of stakeholders, as the larger companies capture the interest of many categories of stakeholders, so larger companies tend to expand the provisions of voluntary disclosure, in order to reduce conflict of interest and meet Their multiple needs for information and reducing agency costs as much as possible, and this is consistent with the findings of several studies (e.g., Ortas et al., 2015; Frias-Aceituno et al., 2014), but it differs with other studies that indicated that there is no relationship between the size of the company and the voluntary disclosure about corporate social responsibility, (e.g., Hussainey, Elsayed & Razik, 2011; Aly, Simon & Hussainey, 2010; Elsayed & Hoque, 2010).

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b) Contrary to the researcher's expectations, the results of the hypothesis test confirmed that corporate governance is positively related to the expansion of disclosure in IR, and this is consistent with the results of, (e.g., Ho, Tower & Taylor, 2013; Jiang, Habib & Hu, 2011) studies, whose results indicated an increase in the effectiveness of the supervisory role by the owners over management in the light of increasing governance. As management seeks in such a case to expand the requirements of voluntary disclosure in order to reduce asymmetry of information as much as possible.

c) In addition, the results of the hypothesis test came to make sure that the financial performance measured by the rate of return on assets was not influential with regard to the disclosure of the IR, contrary to the results of the study, (e.g., Girella, Rossi & Zambon, 2019; Durak, 2013), and this may be due to the weakness of the role of the regulatory bodies at the national level, thus companies are not interested Those that achieve high levels of financial performance by providing the necessary information and providing appropriate justifications for the company's high financial results.

d) Finally, with regard to the impact of disclosure of IR on the quality of accounting information, the results of the fourth hypothesis test came to support the existence of a positive moral relationship between disclosure of those reports based on the companies listed in the Iraq Stock Exchange and the quality of accounting information. However, confirmation of the outcome of the current research requires more future studies based on other indicators other than what the researcher has adopted in the current study.

6. Conclusion and future areas of research:

In general, companies tend to voluntarily disclose in its various forms because of the benefits that this disclosure brings, the most important of which are: Improving the company's relationship with stakeholders, especially current and potential investors. Despite the multiplicity of benefits of disclosure of integrated reports, the absence of binding standards for companies to prepare these reports and the lack of guidelines to help achieve this limits the benefits of these reports. The current study provided empirical

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evidence regarding the determinants and results of the disclosure of integrated reports, the most important of which are: Large-sized companies that are characterized by a high degree of governance are more disclosed compared to other companies. And that this disclosure has positive implications on the quality of accounting information.

Thus, the results of the study provide evidence about the benefits that Iraqi companies achieve as a result of the disclosure of integrated reports, which are represented in improving the company's reputation and then attracting the attention of many investors and thus increasing transactions on the company's shares in the stock market. On the other hand, and if we are going to talk about the necessity to oblige the large companies listed on the stock exchange with additional disclosure requirements, the results of the current study provide evidence that supports the decisions and practices of the regulatory authorities in this regard.

One of the limits of the research is that it examined and tested the characteristics of companies as determinants of disclosure in integrated reports, which opens the way for more studies in this area that deal with other characteristics than what the current study dealt with, such as those that express debt (leverage), and the environmental and social performance of the companies under study. As well as some other corporate governance mechanisms, such as the role of audit committees in supporting accounting disclosure. It is also one of the limits of the research that the study sample was limited to companies listed in the Iraq Stock Exchange, and then this requires conducting future research through which the study sample can be expanded or relied on measures of the quality of accounting information other than what the researcher relied on in this study.

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