



***The Integration of Forensic Accounting and
External Auditing for Reducing the Audit Expectation Gap
An Analytical Study on a Sample of Iraqi Universities***

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Abstract

The current study aims at identifying the complementary relationship between forensic accounting and financial auditing to narrow the expectation gap through using the statistical program SPSS to determine the level of research variables and analysis of the results . The is research used the electronic questionnaire method to determine the level of dimensions represented by the independent variables (forensic accounting and external auditing) and the dependent variable (expectations gap). The following results have been found to get a significant and positive correlations relationship between forensic accounting and the expectations' gap, and a significant positive correlations relationship between the financial audit and the expectations' gap, and a significant correlation between forensic accounting and external auditing in the expectations gap. Therefore, the study recommended that there is a need to sensitize users about the role and duties of the traditional auditor in the field of protection and disclosure of financial errors and fraud. This can be achieved by identifying and adjusting the scope of auditors' responsibility in order to absorb judicial accounting.

Key words: Forensic Accountant's Responsibility, Audit Expectation Gap, Forensic Accounting

Introduction:

In recent years, the audit profession has faced widespread challenges as a result of its loss of confidence and credibility in financial reporting by its users. Therefore, many large institutions in the developed countries have witnessed collapses caused by the financial, administrative and accounting corruption resulting from the extensive and immoral cheat and fraud in modern institutions that have made financial auditing techniques ineffective in detecting cheat, errors, and fraud prevention faced by international institutions.

Fraud financial and accounting misstatements have caused considerable concern to the management of institutions and other users



with credibility and trust in financial information. This has widened the gap between what users expect and the results and responsibility of the financial auditors and the importance of the financial statements as outputs of financial accounting. The skills and tools of forensic accounting are integrated with the auditing profession because the auditing profession is not insignificant for its importance in evaluating the risks and evaluating the validity of the financial statements that the institutions are exposed to. So by complementing each other, this gap can be reduced.

The following is a review of the methodology; previous research studies; the relationship among forensic accounting, auditing and the gap of expectations , and the analytical framework of the research; conclusions; and recommendations.

1. Research Methodology and Previous Studies

1.1 The Problem of the Research:

The problem of research lies in the lack of confidence in the financial auditor's report by users, which in turn is a concern for institutions. When financial auditors performance is less than users expect, information will not be appropriate for decision making, which in turn will create an expectations gap between the responsibility of the auditors and users of financial reports. Here comes the role of forensic accounting to detect fraud and errors in the financial data. Then the forensic accounting integration and the external audit will lead to the reducing of the audit expectations gap.

1.2 The Aims of the Research:

The research aims at studying the relationship between forensic accounting and financial auditing to narrow the expectations gap between users and auditors of financial reports through the following:

1. Understanding the concept of forensic accounting and its relationship to external auditing.
2. Understanding the relationship of financial auditing to the expectations gap and their impact on the audit profession.
3. Studying the forensic accounting and its relation to the expectations gap.
4. Understanding the relationship between forensic accounting and financial auditing and their respective responsibility in detecting errors, cheat and fraud in financial reports

1.3 The Hypotheses of the Research:

1. There is a significant statistical correlation between forensic accounting and external auditing in the detection of cheat and financial fraud with



high efficiency which is regarded as a solution to narrow the expectations gap Between users and auditors of financial reports.

2. There is a statistically significant correlation between external audit responsibility and the expectations gap Between users and auditors of financial reports.

3. There is a statistically significant correlation between forensic accounting and the expectations gap Between users and auditors of financial reports.

1.4 The Significance of the Research:

The importance of the research is that forensic accounting, together with external auditing, can meet the needs of financial reporting users (judges, investors, creditors, lenders and others), as well as reduce litigation, cheat and financial fraud, thus reducing the gap in expectations and reducing misunderstandings between management and users. This will lead to reassuring users and increasing confidence in the provided information, and reducing the gap through the skills of the accountant and the auditing procedures.

1.5 The Limits of the Study:

Spatial boundaries: which is the academic center and the auditors of the accounts in some of the Iraqi universities
Time limits: 2017

1.6 Previous Studies:

1- (Ahmed2, 2013)

The study focused on the role of forensic accounting in reducing financial corruption practices by targeting a group of forensic accountants. The study reached the results of forensic accounting based on a set of specialized skills integrated in accounting and auditing and uses forensic accounting in many areas such as cheat investigation and evaluation of internal control. The forensic accountant must have a set of skills and knowledge. It recommended the existence of legislation that sets the duties of the forensic accountant in accordance with the requirements of forensic accounting.

2- (Ghaneem, 2014)

The aim of this study was to analyze the shortcomings of the external audit in the detection of cheat and errors. The analytical descriptive method was used to study the views of a sample of auditing accounting offices, academics, and accountants in the central system, in addition to the information users.



The most important results of the study were the importance of forensic accounting and its role in narrowing the gap in expectations, especially in light of the lack of work of the external auditor in detecting cheat in the current situation, in addition to the most important areas of forensic accounting is the discovery of cheat in the financial statements.

3- (Shanqrai and Ababaker, 2015)

The study aimed at identifying the concepts of forensic accounting and its role in the detection and prevention of manipulation of financial lists and learning about the skills that characterize the accountant. The study reached some results, such as representing the profession of forensic accounting of the developed professions in the Arab world and the lack of qualification for the accountant and the forensic auditor contributes to presenting unsound view about financial statements and the financial institution operations. The study recommended teaching of forensic accounting within the postgraduate curriculum.

4- (Temitope, Muturi and Nasieku, 2016)

This study deals with the relationship between forensic accounting and the expectations gap using the questionnaire method to measure the relationship between forensic accounting and the expectations gap. The study revealed that there is a statistically significant relationship between the expectations gap and the forensic accounting in Nigeria. Therefore, the study recommended that there is a need for continued awareness of the responsibilities of both the audit profession and other stakeholders on the role and duties of the auditor in the field of prevention and fraud detection to avoid unreasonable expectations by users. This can easily be achieved by modifying the traditional auditor's procedures and accountability to accommodate forensic accounting services.

5- (Odelabu , 2016)

The legal auditor fails to meet reasonable expectations of users of accounting information; that is, the information required for making decisions in banking industries. This study was designed to determine the relationship between efficiency of experience and mental efficiency, professional suspicion, efficient responsibility, forensic information and technical competence of forensic accountants. Questionnaires were used to collect data. The data were analyzed using SPSS. The results revealed that there is a strong linear relationship between the jurisdictions of forensic accountants and the expectations gap. It means that the increase in the competencies of forensic accountants leads to a reduction in the expectations gap for scrutiny. The study concluded that through the application of the techniques of forensic accounting in the audit of banks



through the competencies of forensic accountants to improve the public confidence in the financial report of the bank. The study recommended that the application of the competencies of forensic accountants in the bank to narrow the gap expectations audit in banks.

The present study is characterized by being the first to present the proposal for the integration of forensic accounting with the auditing profession in reducing .The audit expectation gap through the use of descriptive and analytical methodology for the views of a sample of professionals.

2. Theoretical Framework of Research

2.1 The Concept of Forensic Accounting

Forensic accounting was founded for the need of judges for accounting services in accounting and financial matters . It is based on the use of accounting, auditing and investigative skills in assisting the judiciary in resolving disputes of an accounting and financial nature .

Accountants should have sufficient understanding of accounting and legal sciences and possession of investigative in the light of the accepted accounting standards, the profession charter, ethics, and conduct of the organization of this profession. They should have a professional certificate and practice it in a real and continuous manner and shall be evaluated by professional, global bodies and every three years through the following tests: CPA, CFE, CISA, CIA, CR and FA (Ahmed2, 2013, p. 6).

The forensic accountant must then collect and analyze information to determine the value of the resulting damage and to form an opinion on the basis of in-depth analysis through the investigation process, conduct the judgment of the data with the standards set forth in the profession, and assess the value of the financial damage (Grippio, 2003, P. 7).

Forensic accounting is also called: criminal accounting, investigative accounting, fraudulent auditing . One of the most important reasons for the growth of forensic accounting is the usual method of appointing legal auditors who do not have the independence and the inability of audit committees to shed light on the various facts and hidden aspects of corporate fraud and the lack of sufficient independence for internal auditors (Owojori & Asaolu , 2009, p.184).

The forensic accountant uses his characteristics, behavioral traits, professional and scientific skills in accounting, auditing, law, computer, and psychology in forensic support or accounting investigation by himself or within a work team. Forensic accounting is the science of using accounting, auditing, analysis, oral and written communication,



civil and criminal law knowledge, computer technology and software tools in analysis, disclosure, collection of evidence, and interpretation of financial and accounting information for the purposes of forensic support or valuation and accounting investigation (Massoud, 2015, p. 25).

The qualifications that must be in the accountant are the business experience and his experience in the field of auditing for forensic accounting as well as his experience in auditing accounts, education, and continuous training in his field of competence. He has the flexibility and adequate communication in dealing with clients and the skills of oral and written communication. The most significant skill is obtained from experience and the normal growth of the profession (Grippe, 2003, p.7).

2.2 The Importance of Forensic Accounting

The increasing interest in forensic accounting after many economic collapses of many international economic institutions due to financial fraud led to increased forensic proceedings before the courts . At present, forensic accounting services are no longer limited to the judiciary, banks, police, insurance companies, government institutions and others (Bhasin, 2007, p1002) . As they help to prepare a forensic accountant with high efficiency of scientific qualification and experience and contribute to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of external auditing and increasing confidence in the profession of accounting and auditing and the discovery of cheat and fraud in the financial statements. Forensic accounting represents an integration between accounting and law to work together to provide more in-depth investigations and more related to forensic claims (Sisi, 2006, p45).

2.3 Forensic Accounting Objectives

The main objectives of forensic accounting can be explained as follows: (Jubouri, 2013, p.461).

1. Verification of claims by relevant parties.
2. Investigation and detection of cheat and fraud.
3. Determining the amount of economic losses incurred or potential and collecting financial evidence that serves as strong evidence to support legal claims.
4. Conducting all investigations and verifying the correctness of the calculation of amounts of compensation and others in court
5. Reducing the expectations gap by integrating them with audits.
6. Giving the highest level of assurance and reliability of the financial statements.



2.4 Mechanisms of Forensic Accounting for Cases of Fraud and Financial Corruption:

Skills are mechanisms that must be in the forensic accountant who should have the following: (Ahmed1,2013, p.19).

- Specialized skills, capabilities and knowledge in the prevention of fraud cases, reduction of fraud cases, detection of fraud cases, examination and investigation of fraud cases, disclosure and reporting of fraud cases.
- Skills, abilities and knowledge needed to deal with fraudulent methods of corruption, use of modern IT methods to combat fraud and corruption in the electronic business environment.
- Skills of checking, discovering, and extracting electronic evidence of cases of fraud and corruption in the electronic business environment.
- Skills of providing legal, forensic, and investigative services in relation to specific cases.
- Skills of examining and resolving disputes related to cases of fraud and corruption.
- Negotiation skills to resolve forensic disputes related to cases of fraud and corruption
- Skills of providing services in the unethical cases of fraud and corruption.
- Skills specialized in the examination of crimes of Internet piracy, organized crime, and money laundering.
- Skills of collecting information from different sources of fraud and corruption and conducting interviews to obtain evidence of cases of fraud and corruption and the skills of forensic or inspection accounting associated with creative thinking to examine and detect cases of fraud .

One of its methods is auditing after the completion of operations, the examination to determine the risks of fraud, and personal interview with the official and investigation of the truth by means of necessary investigations of illegal and suspect activities (Owojori & Asaolu, 2009, p.186).

2.5 Audit Responsibility And the Expectation Gap

Accounting firms face difficulties through business failures rather than audit failures . For example, if a company has been declared bankrupting and has proved unable to pay the debt, it is common for the users of the financial statements to be called upon to fail the audit, especially if the auditor's latest report clarifies his opinion of the fairness of the financial statements. Even if there is a failure in the economic unit and the existence of deviations in the financial statements, users may be called upon to neglect the auditor and prove his compliance with the accepted auditing standards. This difference of opinion arises between auditors and



users, as explained above by the so-called expectations gap. Most auditors believe that the performance of the auditors must be within the framework of the accepted auditing standards, while many users believe that the auditor is a guarantor of the accuracy of the financial statements. The auditor is the guarantor of the financial integrity of the audited economic unit, and the expectation gap usually results from undue issues arising from external auditors' expectations (Sundos, 2011, p.16).

Since it is not the duty of the auditor to detect errors and that when rescheduling the annual audit or what they call the ongoing audit. Some believed that these duties of the auditor and called the gap expectations that the auditor has a specific task according to the text of the contract with the institution, but some believe otherwise. Therefore, the auditor shall review the financial statements prepared by the management of the institution at the end of each financial year, after reviewing and evaluating the internal control system. Sometimes, however, the auditor may check the irregularities such as cheating or a fatal error affecting the outcome of the activity. In this case, the attention of the administration is brought to this fraud or error so error detection task lies with the institution and that it should prevent or minimize them (Khaldi, 2014,p.30).

The expectations gap arose as a result of the auditor's varying services and responsibilities for the expected disclosure of fraudulent types of financial statements and immoral and illegal practices by the Chartered Accountants of the United States of America. In spite of the efforts to narrow the gap in expectations, the audit is still suffering from them. However, it can be said that the new accounting field can be used. Forensic accounting can contribute to narrowing the expectations gap (Ghaneem,2014, p 29).

2.6 The Relationship Between Forensic Accounting and Auditing

The relationship between internal and external auditing, forensic accounting, and auditing of financial fraud and cheat can be clarified by determining the difference between the forensic accountant and the auditor. The first gives a technical opinion neutral about the fact of the activity. The second is deeper and less extensive as the forensic accountant requires knowledge. The real motives behind its creation are to meet the needs of judges to experts and advisers who give their views on financial waste and to meet the needs of investors, shareholders, and lenders of proven and honest information (Jones, 2007, p.5).

The forensic accounting is the appropriate accounting of the legal point of view in providing the highest level of assurance and benefit from accounting and auditing and investigative skills when the investigation is



important both to communicate financial information clearly and accurately when preparing financial statements and ensure of its the credibility (Crumbly , 2006)

Big four audit firms (KPMG, PWC, E & Y and Deloitte) provide international services as well as auditing services. KPMG provides anti-money laundering services. Although money laundering is governed by specific legislation, the complexity of these legislations in assessing the flow of funds into the business environment requires forensic accounting services and provides the intelligence services of institutions where they clarify the identity of units, individuals, and founders. The role of the forensic accountant is a part of the investigation. It provides legal advice in resolving disputes where it disputes and resolves commercial disputes either judicially or forensic support services by providing accounting advice in claims of loss results offered and the service of the expert witness. In Price water house Coopers firm (PWC), the legal specialists work with clients throughout the dispute resolution process to address quantitative issues or to present accounting evidence in forensic proceedings. Judicial investigation services include many services, such as professional investigators which have experience in criminal investigations, disciplinary procedures, forensic accounting, financial regulation, evidence discovery and fraud risk management. Deloitte is a division that provides forensic accounting services to the forensic services department which provides the following services: analytical and judicial technology. This service is used to obtain digital evidence, analysis of business processes, business intelligence and discovery. This service helps clients identify suspicious financial transactions and training in fraud detection, investigation of fraud, financial conflict and money laundering monitoring (Romburg, 2008, p.34) .It has been concluded from this that forensic accounting is the integration of accounting, auditing and investigative skills (Joshi, 2003, P 6).

2.6 Forensic Accounting and the Audit Expectations Gap

The study of the efficiency and effectiveness of forensic accounting has been studied by accounting researchers (Owojori & Asaolu , 2009). Because of the failure of the traditional auditor to perform legal scrutiny and the failure to identify fraud effectively (Zimblem et al. 2012,P.429), the responsibility of forensic accountability involves an analysis of the types of fraud that can occur and its causes. The insurer considers a fraud detector to enhance analysis of financial transactions and helps to detect errors, fraudulent activities and omissions that can be presented to the judge or sent to an audit committee to assess the accuracy of financial statements. This integration of forensic accounting and auditing will



narrow the expectations gap among the users of the financial statements (Temitope et .al, 2016,p.28)

Forensic accountability is the complementarity between accounting and auditing of investigative skills that simply gives the highest level of assurance and reliability to the accounting information presented to internal and external users and thus reduces the expectations gap for users (Crumbly, 2006)

Forensic accounting combines financial experience with investigative skills and work within a legal framework that provides sufficient evidence to control fraud and to confirm the credibility of financial statements (Al-Jaleeli, 2012,P.13).

3. Analysis and discussion of Survey Findings

3.1 Data Analysis

This section will try to determine the level of the variables of the research and analyse the results in the sample examined for the sample of the research, which is the academic center and the auditors of the accounts in some of the Iraqi universities .Work on tabulating the data / information on the responses of the sample members of the paragraphs of the questionnaire adopted in order to address them statistically. This aims at knowing the level of research dimensions of independent variables (forensic accounting and external audit) and the dependent variable the audit expectations gap) by using the minimum and maximum responses, the arithmetic mean, and the standard deviation, as each dimension gets the arithmetic mean less than (3) and default mean is rejected .

For this purpose, the researcher used the questionnaire method which contains five- level likert item strongly disagree, disagree, (neutral), (agree), (strongly agree) respectively.

The study community is composed of 42 categories:

- Auditors and accountants working in Iraqi universities.
- Teaching staff with specialists in Iraqi universities.

The number of questionnaires we obtained was 50, of which 42 were valid. We can show the features of the study samples by the following table:



Table (1) Distribution of Demographic Characteristics of the Study Sample

Features	Distribution of attributes	Recurrence	Frequency Ratio
gender	female	11	26.19
	Male	31	73.81
Age	25-29	7	16.667
	30-34	10	23.81
	35-39	11	26.19
	40-44	8	19.048
	45-49	4	9.5238
	More than 50	2	4.7619
	Educational Qualification	BA	23
M.A.		15	35.714
Ph.D.		4	9.5238
current work	Accountant Helper	11	26.19
	Account Manager	7	16.667
	finance audit	10	23.81
	Professor	14	33.333
Experience	Less than 5	4	9.5238
	From 6_10	20	47.619
	More than 10	18	42.857

Table (2) The Arithmetic Mean and the Standard Deviation of the Variables of Forensic Accounting, External Auditing, and the Expectations Gap N=42

	Forensic Accounting	Minimum	Maximum	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Centric weight
1	Forensic accounting adds value to companies by protecting the owners of institutions from cheat and financial fraud.	1.00	5.00	3.05	1.33	0.61
2	Forensic accounting activates the role of internal control and improves the efficiency of the regulatory system and thus adds value to the company.	1.00	5.00	3.32	1.23	0.66
3	Forensic auditing is one of the pillars of the system of detecting cheat and financial fraud in the Iraqi environment.	1.00	5.00	3.82	1.27	0.76
4	Non-material errors in the accounting records of companies can be estimated efficiently by the forensic accountant.	1.00	5.00	3.74	0.86	0.75
5	The forensic accountant helps to discover and evaluate risks more effectively.	2.00	5.00	4.03	0.75	0.81
6	Lack of awareness of the importance of stakeholders and the role of the forensic accountant in the detection of cheat and financial fraud.	1.00	5.00	3.39	1.10	0.68
7	Expert experience in the forensic accountant combines accounting, legal, auditing, research and investigation skills that enable them to detect fraud	2.00	5.00	3.82	0.83	0.76



and financial corruption.						
At the macro level of forensic accounting				3.6	1.05	0.72
External Audit	minimum	maximum	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	Centric weight	
1	The audit profession cannot, in the current situation, play its role in detecting fraud and errors with the required efficiency	2.00	5.00	4.11	0.98	0.82
2	The current reality of scientific and practical qualification and professional competence required for external auditors do not allow them to carry out their duties and responsibilities in detecting cheat and financial fraud with the required competency.	2.00	5.00	4.11	0.86	0.82
3	The current external audit procedures are insufficient to detect fraud as they are intended only to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement.	2.00	5.00	3.68	1.07	0.74
4	The auditor's sole opinion on the fairness of the financial statements does not allow them to detect all cases of cheat and fraud efficiently.	1.00	5.00	3.42	1.11	0.68
5	The users of the financial statements expect the auditor to detect fraud, errors and irregularities that affect the financial statements.	2.00	5.00	3.87	0.84	0.77
6	The audit does not give absolute assurance that the financial statements are free from fraud and material misstatement.	2.00	5.00	3.71	0.77	0.74
7	The auditor examines samples of financial operations in accordance with the strength and weakness of the internal control system.	1.00	5.00	4.08	1.12	0.82
At the macro level of external audit				3.85	0.96	0.77
Expectations gap	minimum	maximum	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	Centric weight	
1	The accounting departments in the universities to allocate a separate approach to accounting and forensic auditing . And appropriate guidance to the members of the faculty to discuss the practical cases that dealt with cases of fraud and financial corruption in institutions that detect cheat and cases of financial fraud and thus increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the audit.	2.00	5.00	4.13	1.23	0.83
2	The auditor should not only detect fraud as well as the use of individuals with the skills of investigation, legal examination and investigative skills and other skills and this leads to reduce the gap expectations for auditing.	2.00	5.00	4.13	0.74	0.83
3	The current audit procedures are not sufficient to detect fraud because they are intended only to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are	2.00	5.00	3.74	0.98	0.75



	free of material misstatement, requiring recourse to the forensic auditor and thereby reducing the expectations gap for auditing.					
4	Lack of external audit procedures in the detection of fraud and errors leads to possible complicity of auditors with the perpetrators of cheat and aggravated fraud and widening audit gap.	1.00	5.00	3.58	1.15	0.72
5	A high level of professional uncertainty can lead to more risk identification fraud and sufficient to obtain a quality report and thus narrow the expectations gap.	3.00	5.00	3.87	0.66	0.77
6	The accountability of forensic accountants can enhance the reliability of the information presented in the financial statements and thus reduce the audit expectations gap.	2.00	5.00	4.05	0.66	0.81
7	The fact that forensic accountants in the investigation of the numbers of records and beyond the accounting records of companies can increase public confidence and thus reduce the audit gap expectations.	1.00	5.00	4.13	0.66	0.83
At the macro level of expectations gap				3.95	0.87	0.79

Table (2) shows the following:

- The forensic accounting sections of the sample were investigated with an average of 3.60, with a standard deviation of 1.05 and a percentage weight of 72%.
- The external audit paragraphs of the sample were investigated at a mean of 3.85, with a standard deviation of 0.96 and a percentage weight of 77%.
- The expectations gap sections of the sample were investigated at a mean of 3.95, with a standard deviation of 0.87 and a percentage weight of 79%.

3.2 The Analysis of Correlation Relationships

This study deals with the strength and direction of correlations between the variables (forensic accounting, external auditing and the expectations gap). The researchers used correlation coefficients Pearson to measure the relationship between their variables. The following is a detailed presentation and discussion of the results of the correlation relationships test between the research variables as follows: The first main hypothesis the existence of a significant statistical correlation relationship among the forensic accounting, the external audit, and the expectations gap. The results are as follows:

**Table (3) The correlation matrix.**

	Dependent dimension Independent Dimensions	Reasonableness Gap	
		Correlation coefficient	Moral level
1	Forensic Accounting	0.48	0.000
2	external auditor	0.64	0.000
		external auditor	
3	Forensic Accounting and external auditor	0.36	0.025

According to Table (3), the validity of the hypotheses will be ascertained as follows:

1- The first hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between forensic accounting and the expectations gap. It was found that there was a high and positive correlation (0.48). The level of significance was (0.000), which is less than the moral level determined by the researchers (0.05). Therefore, this hypothesis is accepted at the research level.

2 - The second hypothesis: There is a correlation relationship of significant indication between the external audit and the expectations gap. According to the data of table (3), there is a positive correlation relationship (0.64), while the significance level was (0.000) which is less than the level of significance determined by the researchers (0.05). Therefore, this hypothesis is accepted at the research level.

3. The third hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between forensic accounting and external auditing in the expectations gap. The correlation between (0.36) and the mean (0.025) is smaller than the level of significance determined by the researchers (0.05). Therefore, this hypothesis is accepted at the research level.

3.3 Testing and Analysing the Relationship of the Influence of Research Variables

The simple regression analysis was used in the tests to identify the effect of (forensic accounting and external auditing in the expectations gap). The Beta coefficient was also used to determine the expected change in the dependent variable (the expectations gap) due to the change in one of the independent variables (the forensic accounting and the external audit). The coefficient of determination R^2 was used to determine the ability of the model to interpret the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable. A comparison between the strength of the effect of each independent variable was measured by T-test, which indicates the significance of the results, as well as the use of (f) test to know the significance of regression sample. The research relied on a significant level (0.05) which was used to judge the significance of the effect. The calculated significance level was compared with the level of the moral value (0.05). The effects are significant if the calculated



level of morale is smaller than the moral level adopted and vice versa, and has developed three hypotheses which are as follows:

First: The first hypothesis: it informs of the existence of a relationship of positive significant statistical indication for forensic accountability in the gap expectations. Table (4) shows the results of the relationship test for forensic accounting in the expectations gap.

Table (4) Results of the Analysis of the Effect of Forensic Accounting in the Expectations Gap

Reasonableness Gap							
P.Value	Value T	coefficient regression Beta	P - Value	Value F	R ² Rate	Constant a	Variables
0.000	3.6	0.48	0.000	10.9	0.23	2.81	Forensic Accounting

According to Table 4, the determination coefficient Adjusted R² indicates that the explanatory rate of forensic accounting in the expectations gap is 23%, which is an acceptable percentage indicating that (23%) of the total differences in the expectations gap are determined by forensic accounting. The remaining percentage (77%) represents the percentage of the contribution of variables that are not included in the research model or random variables that cannot be controlled. In addition, the value of (F) calculated (10.9) and is significant at (0.05). This indicates that the regression model (regression equation) is acceptable and explains the relationship between forensic accounting and the expectations gap. The value of the coefficient of regression (Beta) between them (0.48) and tested its significance through the (T) test with a calculated value (3.6), which is significant at (0.05). Accordingly, the result confirms the validity and acceptance of this hypothesis, which states that there is an effect of positive statistical significance for the forensic accountability in the expectations gap.

Second: The second hypothesis: the benefit of this hypothesis is the existence of a relationship of significant positive external audit in the gap expectations. Table (5) shows the results of the relationship test for external audit in the expectations gap.

Table (5) Results of the Analysis of the Impact of External Auditing on the Expectations Gap

Reasonableness Gap							
P.Value	value T	coefficient regression Beta	P -Value	value F	R ² Rate	Constant a	Variables
0.000	4.9	0.64	0.000	24.4	0.40	2.3	External Audit



As shown in Table 5, the determination coefficient Adjusted R² indicates that the explanatory rate of the external audit in the expectations gap is 40%, which is an acceptable percentage indicating that (40%). Of the total differences in the expectations gap are determined by the external audit. And the remaining percentage (60%) represents the percentage of the contribution of variables not included in the research model or random variables that cannot be controlled. In addition, the value of (F) calculated (24.4) is significant at (0.05). This indicates that the regression model (regression equation) is acceptable and explains the relationship between the external audit and the expectations gap. The value of the coefficient of regression (Beta) between them is (0.64) and tested its significance through the (T) test where the calculated value is (4.9), which is significant at (0.05). Accordingly, the result confirms the validity and acceptance of this hypothesis, which states that there is an effect of significant statistical significance for the external audit in the expectations gap.

Third: The third hypothesis: it informs the of existence of a relationship of significant statistical indication positive for forensic accounting in the external audit. Table (6) shows the results of the relationship test for forensic accounting in the external audit.

Table (6) Results of the Analysis of the Effect of Forensic Accounting in the External Audit.

External Auditor							
P. Value	Value T	Regression Coefficient Beta	P -Value	Value F	R ² Rate	Constant a	Variables
0.025	2.33	0.36	0.025	5.45	0.13	2.78	Forensic Accounting

According to Table 6, the determination coefficient Adjusted R² indicates that the explanatory rate of the forensic account in the expectations gap is 13%, which is an acceptable percentage indicating that 13% of the total differences in external audit are determined by forensic accounting .And the remaining percentage (87%) represents the contribution of variables not included in the research model or random variables that cannot be controlled. In addition, the value of (F) calculated (5.45) is significant at (0.05). This indicates that the regression model (regression equation) is acceptable and explains the relationship between forensic accounting and external auditing. The value of the coefficient of regression (Beta) between them is (0.36) and tested its significance through the (T)test, where the calculated value is (2.33) which is significant at (0.05). Accordingly, the result confirms the validity and



acceptance of this hypothesis, which states that there is an effect of significant statistical indication for the forensic accounting in the external audit.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Through the data analysis of this research, a high and positive correlation was found between forensic accounting and the expectations gap. The responsibility to protect and detect frauds and other unethical situations that cause the audit expectations gap, can be found through forensic accounting
2. It was found that there is a significant positive correlation between the financial audit and the forensic accounting in terms of the expectations gap.
3. The auditor's responsibility is to give a neutral opinion about the financial statements by evaluating the internal control system.
4. There is a lack of external auditing to meet user expectations. It is therefore recommended to draw the attention of the users about the responsibility and duties of the external auditor in the area of fraud prevention and disclosure to avoid the expectations gap between external auditors and users of financial reporting.
5. There is lack of interest in forensic accounting despite its importance in detecting fraud, errors and financial fraud through the accounting, auditing, and legal skills that the judiciary accountant can have to be complementary to the auditing profession.
6. The researcher suggests establishing a special institute for forensic accountants in which the accountants graduate from. He becomes familiar with all the accounting, legal, and auditing procedures that will support the auditing and thus narrow the expectations gap for external users.
7. Keeping on searching about forensic accounting because it will be an important transfer of the profession of accounting and its significance in the institutions.
8. Identifying and adjusting the scope and responsibility of auditing for financial errors and fraud in order to absorb forensic accounting.
9. Achieving cooperation and integration between forensic accounting and external auditing to activate the role and reduce the expectations gap audit.
10. Narrowing the expectations gap by reducing misunderstanding between management and investors and reassuring the public confidence through the qualification of judicial accounting alongside the external



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