



Independent Limited Assurance Report

to the Directors of Southern Water Services Limited

Southern Water Services Limited (“Southern Water”) commissioned DNV Business Assurance Services UK Limited (“DNV”, “us” or “we”) to conduct a limited assurance engagement over Selected Information presented in the Sustainable Bond Impact Report 2021-22 (the “Report”) for the reporting year ended 31st of March 2022.



Our Conclusion: Based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Selected Information is not fairly stated and has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Criteria.

This conclusion relates only to the Selected Information, and is to be read in the context of this Independent Limited Assurance Report, in particular the inherent limitations explained overleaf.

Selected information

The scope and boundary of our work is restricted to the key performance indicators included within the Report for the 2022 reporting year (the “Selected Information”), listed below:

- Number of Category 1-3 pollution incidents (number)
- Number of Category 1-3 pollution incidents per 10,000km of sewers (number)
- Compliance Risk Index (CRI) (CRI score)
- Wastewater Treatment Works Compliance (number)
- Total leakage (MI/d)
- Total leakage- three years rolling average (MI/d)
- The claims and assertions relating to the allocation of funds under the “Southern water Operations Social Bond Framework

To assess the Selected Information, which includes an assessment of the risk of material misstatement in the Report, we have used Southern Water’s reporting criteria [“PR19 Final determinations- Southern Water- Outcomes performance commitment appendix](#) and the [Sustainable Financing Framework 2020](#) (the “Criteria”).

We have not performed any work, and do not express any conclusion, on any other information that may be published in the Report or on Southern Water’s website for the current reporting period or for previous periods.

Basis of our conclusion

We are required to plan and perform our work in order to consider the risk of material misstatement of the Selected Information; our work included, but was not restricted to:

- Conducting interviews with Southern Water management to obtain an understanding of the key processes, systems and controls in place to generate, aggregate and report the Selected Information;
- Performing limited substantive testing on a selective basis of the Selected Information to check that data had been appropriately measured, recorded, collated and reported;
- Reviewing that the evidence, measurements and their scope provided to us by Southern Water for the Selected Information is prepared in line with the Criteria;
- Assessing the appropriateness of the Criteria for the Selected Information; and
- Reading the Report and narrative accompanying the Selected Information within it with regard to the Criteria.

Our competence, independence and quality control

DNV established policies and procedures are designed to ensure that DNV, its personnel and, where applicable, others are subject to independence requirements (including personnel of other entities of DNV) and maintain independence where required by relevant ethical requirements. This engagement work was carried out by an independent team of sustainability assurance professionals. DNV holds other audit and assurance contracts with Southern Water, none of which conflict with the scope of this work. Our multi-disciplinary team consisted of professionals with a combination of environmental and sustainability assurance experience.

Inherent limitations

All assurance engagements are subject to inherent limitations as selective testing (sampling) may not detect errors, fraud or other irregularities. Non-financial data may be subject to greater inherent uncertainty than financial data, given the nature and methods used for calculating, estimating and determining such data. The selection of different, but acceptable, measurement techniques may result in different quantifications between different entities. Our assurance relies on the premise that the data and information provided to us by Southern Water have been provided in good faith. DNV expressly disclaims any liability or co-responsibility for any decision a person or an entity may make based on this Independent Limited Assurance Report.



Standard and level of assurance

We performed a **limited** assurance engagement in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 revised – ‘Assurance Engagements other than Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information’ (revised), issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. This standard requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the assurance engagement to obtain limited assurance.

DNV applies its own management standards and compliance policies for quality control, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021:2015 - Conformity Assessment Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems, and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement; and the level of assurance obtained is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. We planned and performed our work to obtain the evidence we considered sufficient to provide a basis for our opinion, so that the risk of this conclusion being in error is reduced but not reduced to very low.

Responsibilities of the Directors of Southern Water and DNV

The Directors of Southern Water have sole responsibility for:

- Preparing and presenting the Selected information in accordance with the Criteria;
- Designing, implementing and maintaining effective internal controls over the information and data, resulting in the preparation of the Selected Information that is free from material misstatements;
- Measuring and reporting the Selected Information based on their established Criteria; and
- Contents and statements contained within the Report and the Criteria.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform our work to obtain limited assurance about whether the Selected Information has been prepared in accordance with the Criteria and to report to Southern Water in the form of an independent limited assurance conclusion, based on the work performed and the evidence obtained. We have not been responsible for the preparation of the Report.

DNV Business Assurance Services UK Limited

London, UK
17th April 2023



DNV Business Assurance

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