



Independent Limited Assurance Report to the Directors of SSE plc

The Board of Directors of SSE plc ("SSE") engaged us to provide limited assurance on the information described below and set out in SSE's Annual Report and Sustainability Report 2019 and disclosed online at www.sse.com/sustainability¹ for the year ended 31 March 2019.

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 for the year ended 31 March 2019 has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria.

This conclusion is to be read in the context of what we say in the remainder of our report.

Selected Information

The scope of our work was limited to assurance over the information marked with the symbol **A** in SSE's Annual Report and Sustainability Report 2019 (the "Selected Information"). The Selected Information and the Reporting Criteria against which it was assessed are summarised in the table below. Our assurance does not extend to information in respect of earlier periods or to any other information included in the Annual Report and Sustainability Report 2019 or disclosed online at: www.sse.com/sustainability¹.

Selected Information	Total
Scope 1 carbon emissions (emissions from operations owned or controlled by the organisation) (ktCO ₂ e)	8,814
Scope 2 carbon emissions (emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heating and cooling consumed by the organisation) (ktCO ₂ e)	719
Scope 3 carbon emissions (emissions that occur outside of the organisation in support of its activities) (ktCO ₂ e)	9,291
Total water abstracted (million m ³)	25,131
Total water consumed (million m ³)	5.6
Total water returned (million m ³)	25,126
Carbon intensity of electricity generation (gCO ₂ e/kWh)	284
Total electricity consumption in non-operation buildings (kWh)	111,490,109
Total gas consumption in non-operation buildings (kWh)	7,468,250
Total water consumed - buildings (million m ³)	0.09
Business travel	
o Fuel used in operational plant and vehicles (litres)	14,247,005
o Flights - distance travelled (km)	15,773,216
o Train - distance travelled (km)	8,789,446
o Company cars - distance travelled (km)	30,161,374

Professional standards applied and level of assurance

We performed a limited assurance engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) 'Assurance Engagements other than Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information' and, in respect of the greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3410 'Assurance engagements on greenhouse gas statements', issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. A limited assurance engagement is substantially less in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement in relation to both the risk assessment procedures, including an understanding of internal control, and the procedures performed in response to the assessed risks.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We applied the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) Code of Ethics, which includes independence and other requirements founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour. We apply International Standard on Quality Control (UK) 1 and accordingly maintain a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Our work was carried out by an independent team with experience in sustainability reporting and assurance.

Understanding reporting and measurement methodologies

The Selected Information needs to be read and understood together with the Reporting Criteria (SSE's GHG criteria and water criteria that can be

found online at www.sse.com/sustainability¹), which SSE is solely responsible for selecting and applying. The absence of a significant body of established practice on which to draw to evaluate and measure non-financial information allows for different, but acceptable, measurement techniques and can affect comparability between entities and over time. The Reporting Criteria used for the reporting of the Selected Information are as at 31 March 2019.

Work done

We are required to plan and perform our work in order to consider the risk of material misstatement of the Selected Information. In doing so, we:

- obtained an understanding of the assessment criteria and their suitability for the evaluation and/or measurements of the Selected Information;
- made enquiries of SSE's management, including the sustainability team and those with responsibility for sustainability management and group sustainability reporting;
- evaluated the design and operation of the processes and controls in place for managing, recording and reporting the Selected Information, including controls over third party information (if applicable) and performing walkthroughs to confirm our understanding;
- assessed the risks that the selected information may be materially misstated and determined the nature, timing and extent of further procedures;
- performed limited substantive testing on a selective basis of the Selected Information to check that data had been appropriately measured, recorded, collated and reported; and
- considered the disclosure and presentation of the Selected Information.

SSE's responsibilities

The Directors of SSE are responsible for:

- designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls over information relevant to the preparation of the Selected Information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- establishing objective Reporting Criteria for preparing the Selected Information;
- measuring and reporting the Selected Information based on the Reporting Criteria; and
- the Selected Information content of the Annual Report and Sustainability Report 2019.

Our responsibilities

We are responsible for:

- planning and performing the engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the Selected Information is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- forming an independent conclusion, based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained; and
- reporting our conclusion to the Directors of SSE plc.

This report, including our conclusions, has been prepared solely for the Board of Directors of SSE in accordance with the agreement between us, to assist the Directors in reporting SSE's sustainability performance and activities. We permit this report to be disclosed in the Annual Report and Sustainability Report 2019 for the year ended 31 March 2019 and disclosed online at www.sse.com/sustainability, to assist the Directors in responding to their governance responsibilities by obtaining an independent assurance report in connection with the Selected Information. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Board of Directors and SSE plc for our work or this report except where terms are expressly agreed between us in writing.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants
London
24 May 2019

¹The maintenance and integrity of SSE website is the responsibility of the Directors; the work carried out by us does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, we accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the reported Selected Information or Reporting Criteria when presented on SSE website