Independent Limited Assurance Report to the Council of the University of Cambridge on selected environmental sustainability metrics

Our limited assurance conclusion

Based on the procedures we have performed, as described under the "Summary of work performed", and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the information marked with the symbol Ⓐ in the University of Cambridge's 'Annual Report and Financial Statements 2025' for the year ended 31 July 2025 (the "Report") and summarised below (together, the "Subject Matter Information"), has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the University of Cambridge's Reporting Criteria (the "Reporting Criteria") set out in the 'What we were engaged to assure' section below.

What we were engaged to assure

The Subject Matter Information needs to be read and understood together with the Reporting Criteria which the Council of the University of Cambridge is solely responsible for selecting and applying. The Subject Matter Information and the Reporting Criteria are as set out in the table below:

Subject Matter Information	*For the year ended 31 July 2025*	*Location of subject matter*	*Reporting Criteria*
Total Scope 1 and 2 Market-based carbon emissions (energy and fuel use) (tCO_2e) [2]	25,140 tCO_2e	Page 5 of the University of Cambridge Annual Report and Financial Statements 2025	Reporting Criteria is the 'University of Cambridge Environmental Sustainability Data Assurance Methodology Statement for the 2024/25 reporting year' available on the University of Cambridge's website at: https://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/university_of_cambridge_methodology_statement_fy25.pdf [1]
Total Scope 1 and 2 Location-based carbon emissions (energy and fuel use) (tCO_2e) [2]	48,142 tCO_2e		

[2] refers to our assessment of materiality discussed in the 'Materiality' section of this report

The scope of our work did not extend to information in respect of earlier periods or to any other information included in, or linked from, the Report.

Our work

Professional standards applied

We performed a limited assurance engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3410 'Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements', issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Our independence and quality control

We have complied with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales 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, that are at least as demanding as the applicable provisions of the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA Code).

We apply International Standard on Quality Management (UK) 1 and accordingly maintain a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Summary of work performed

We performed a limited assurance engagement. Because the level of assurance obtained in limited assurance can vary, we give more detail about the procedures performed, so that the intended users of the Subject Matter Information can understand the

[1] The maintenance and integrity of the University of Cambridge's website is the responsibility of the Council of the University of Cambridge Council; 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 Subject Matter Information or Reporting Criteria when presented on the University of Cambridge's website.

nature, timing and extent of procedures we performed as context for our conclusion. These procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

In performing our assurance procedures, which were based on our professional judgement, we performed the following:

- evaluated the suitability in the circumstances of the University of Cambridge's use of the Reporting Criteria as the basis for preparing the Subject Matter Information including the associated reporting boundaries;
- through inquiries, obtained an understanding of the University of Cambridge's control environment, processes and systems relevant to the preparation of the Subject Matter Information. Our procedures did not include evaluating the suitability of design, obtaining evidence about their implementation or testing operating effectiveness of particular control activities;
- undertook site visits at three of the University of Cambridge's operational sites to understand the greenhouse gas emissions sources at those sites. We selected these sites based on their inherent risk and materiality to the University of Cambridge and whether they had been visited in the prior period;
- evaluated whether the University of Cambridge's methods for developing estimates are appropriate and had been consistently applied, noting that our procedures did not involve testing the data on which the estimates are based or separately developing our own estimates against which to evaluate the University of Cambridge's estimates;
- compared year on year movements and obtained explanations from management for significant differences we identified;
- performed limited substantive testing of the Subject Matter Information, which is aggregated from information submitted by the University of Cambridge's operational estate. Testing involved agreeing arithmetical accuracy of calculations and agreeing data points to or from source information to check that the underlying subject matter had been appropriately evaluated or measured, recorded, collated and reported; and
- evaluated the disclosures in, and overall presentation of, the Subject Matter Information.

Materiality

We are required to plan and perform our work to address the areas where we have identified that a material misstatement of the Subject Matter Information is likely to arise. We set certain quantitative thresholds for materiality. These, together with qualitative considerations, helped us to determine the nature, timing and extent of our procedures in support of our conclusion. We believe that it is important that the intended users have the information they need to understand the concept and the level of materiality to place our conclusion in context. Based on our professional judgement, we determined materiality for the Subject Matter Information as follows:

Overall materiality	Materiality may differ depending upon the nature of the Subject Matter Information. We apply professional judgement to consider the most appropriate materiality benchmark for each aspect of the Subject Matter Information, having considered how the intended users may use the information. The benchmark approach for each aspect of the Subject Matter Information is indicated in the table by one of the following numbers; [2] This metric is an absolute number. A benchmark materiality of 5% has been applied.

We also agreed to report to the Council misstatements ("reportable misstatements") identified during our work at a level below overall materiality, as well as misstatements below that lower level that in our view warranted reporting for qualitative reasons. The Council is responsible for deciding whether adjustments should be made to the Subject Matter Information in respect of those items.

Areas of Assurance Focus

The Areas of Assurance Focus are those areas of our work that, in our professional judgement, require additional procedures. In the case of limited assurance, that means our procedures may be towards the upper end of those that might be expected for limited assurance. These areas were identified as part of our risk assessment and result of the assurance procedures performed, and include those areas of significant risk, areas that involved significant judgement or other areas where significant assurance effort was needed. This approach provides transparency about where we deemed it necessary to perform extra work. However, this does not imply - for limited assurance - the same level of assurance as would have been obtained under a reasonable assurance engagement.

We have determined that there are no areas of assurance focus to communicate in our report.

Challenges of non-financial information

The absence of a significant body of established practice upon which to draw to evaluate and measure non-financial information allows for different, but acceptable, evaluation and measurement techniques that can affect comparability between entities, and over time.

Non-financial information is subject to more inherent limitations than financial information, given the characteristics of the underlying subject matter and the methods used for measuring or evaluating it. The precision of different measurement techniques may also vary.

Reporting on Other Information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Report other than the Subject Matter Information and our assurance report. The Council of the University of Cambridge is responsible for the other information. As explained above, our conclusion does not extend to the other information and, accordingly, we do not express any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our assurance of the Subject Matter Information, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Subject Matter Information or our knowledge obtained during the assurance engagement, or otherwise appears to contain a material misstatement of fact. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement of fact, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the Subject Matter Information or a material misstatement of the other information, and to take appropriate actions in the circumstances.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council of the University of Cambridge is responsible for:

- determining appropriate reporting topics and selecting or establishing suitable criteria for measuring or evaluating the underlying subject matter;
- ensuring that those criteria are relevant and appropriate to the University of Cambridge and the intended users of the Report;
- the preparation of the Subject Matter Information in accordance with the Reporting Criteria including designing, implementing and maintaining systems, processes and internal controls over the evaluation or measurement of the underlying subject matter to result in Subject Matter Information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- documenting and retaining underlying data and records to support the Subject Matter Information;
- producing the Report that provides a balanced reflection of the University of Cambridge's performance in this area and discloses, with supporting rationale, matters relevant to the intended users of the Report; and
- producing a statement of the Council of the University of Cambridge's responsibility.

Our responsibilities

We are responsible for:

- planning and performing the engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the Subject Matter 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 Council of the University of Cambridge.

Use of our report

Our report, including our conclusion, has been prepared solely for the Council of the University of Cambridge in accordance with the agreement between us dated 8 July 2025 (the "agreement"). To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility or liability to anyone other than the Council of the University of Cambridge for our work or our report except where terms are expressly agreed between us in writing.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants
Watford
25 November 2025