



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

The Council of the University of Cambridge engaged us to obtain limited assurance on the specified environmental sustainability data (together the “Subject Matter Information”) as defined below and marked with the symbol **(A)** on page 48 in the University of Cambridge’s Environmental Sustainability Report 2022-23 for the year ended 31 July 2023 (the “Report”).

Our assurance conclusion does not extend to information in respect of earlier periods or to any other information included in, or linked from, the Report including any images, audio files or videos.

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 Subject Matter Information in the University of Cambridge’s Report for the year ended 31 July 2023, has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria set out on page 48 of the Report and referenced in the ‘Subject Matter Information and Reporting Criteria’ section below.

Subject Matter Information and Reporting Criteria

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

Subject Matter Information	Year ended 31 July 2023	Reporting Criteria
Total Scope 1 and 2 Location-based carbon emissions (energy and fuel use) (tCO ₂ e)	50,690 tCO ₂ e	Link to Reporting Criteria: university of cambridge methodology statement fu23.pdf
Total Scope 1 and 2 Market-based carbon emissions (energy and fuel use) (tCO ₂ e)	23,229 tCO ₂ e	
Waste mass generated per FTE staff and student (tonnes/FTE)	0.10 tonnes/FTE	

Inherent limitations

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, evaluation and measurement techniques that can affect comparability between entities and over time.

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

Responsibilities of the Council of the University of Cambridge

As explained in the Statement of the responsibilities of the Council on page 48 of the Report, the Council of the University of Cambridge are 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 maintenance and integrity of the University of Cambridge’s website is the responsibility of the 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.

- 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; and
- producing the Report, including underlying data and a statement of Council responsibility, which 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.

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.

Professional standards applied

We performed a limited assurance engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) 'Assurance Engagements other than Audits or 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.

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 Ethics Standards Board for Accountants International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards).

We apply the 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.

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.

Based on our professional judgement, we determined materiality for the Subject Matter Information as follows:

Overall materiality	<p>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 of the subject matter information may use the information.</p> <p>Based on our professional judgement, the materiality has been set for the Subject Matter Information as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Total Scope 1 and 2 Location-based carbon emissions (energy and fuel use) (tCO₂e) - This metric is an absolute number. A benchmark materiality of 5% has been applied to the reported metric number.</i> - <i>Total Scope 1 and 2 Market-based carbon emissions (energy and fuel use) (tCO₂e) - This metric is an absolute number. A benchmark materiality of 5% has been applied to the reported metric number.</i> - <i>Waste mass generated per FTE staff and student (tonnes/FTE) - This metric measures intensity, which is calculated as a ratio between two different numbers. A benchmark of 5% has been applied to both the numerator and denominator used in the calculation.</i> <p>These thresholds mean that a misstatement of an applicable amount, as above, either as an individual misstatement, or as an aggregate of smaller misstatements, would lead us to conclude that the relevant element of the Subject Matter Information had not been prepared in all material respects in accordance with the Reporting Criteria.</p>
----------------------------	--

Summary of work performed

We performed a limited assurance engagement. Limited assurance can cover a range of assurance from low (i.e. just above assurance that is likely to enhance the intended user's confidence about what has been assured to a degree that it is clearly more than inconsequential) to just below reasonable assurance. Because the level of assurance in a limited assurance engagement varies in this way, we give more detail about the procedures performed, so that the intended users can understand the 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 than 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:

- considered 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;
- 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 or operating effectiveness of control activities;
- undertook site visits at three buildings within the University of Cambridge's academic estate in Cambridge to understand the greenhouse gas emission sources and waste generation at those sites; we selected these sites based on their inherent risk and materiality to the University, unexpected fluctuations in the site Subject Matter Information since the prior period, and sites not visited in the prior period;
- evaluated the appropriateness of measurement and evaluation methods, reporting policies used and estimates made by the University of Cambridge, 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;
- performed limited substantive testing on a selective basis of the Subject Matter Information, which is aggregated from information submitted by the University of Cambridge's operational sites. Testing included: comparing year on year movements and obtaining explanations from management for significant differences we identified, agreeing arithmetical accuracy 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
- considered the disclosure and presentation of the Subject Matter Information.

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 is responsible for the other information. As explained above, our assurance 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 and, in doing so, 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.

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 30 August 2023 (the "agreement"). To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility or liability to anyone other than the Council and the University of Cambridge for our work or this report except where terms are expressly agreed between us in writing.



PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants
Watford
20 March 2024