

ASSURANCE REPORT



Independent limited assurance report to AIB Group Plc (“AIB”) on the preparation of the 2020 Detailed Sustainability Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (the “Report”), in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative Standards: Core Option (the “GRI”).

What we looked at: scope of our work

AIB has engaged Deloitte to perform limited assurance procedures on their self-declaration of preparing the Report in accordance with the GRI.

What standards we used: basis of our work, criteria used and level of assurance

We carried out limited assurance procedures over AIB’s compliance with core level reporting in respect to the application of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) (“Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information” (“ISAE 3000”). To achieve limited assurance, ISAE 3000 requires that we review the processes, systems and competencies used to compile the Report, on which we provide limited assurance. It does not include detailed testing for each of the indicators reported, or of the operating effectiveness of processes and internal controls. 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. 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.

We are not required to carry out an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland). Consequently, our conclusion is not expressed as an audit opinion.

What we did: key limited assurance procedures

To form our conclusion, we undertook the following procedures:

- Interviewed management and those with operational responsibility for sustainable business performance to assess the application of the GRI in the preparation of the Report;
- Understood, analysed and assessed the key structures, processes, procedures and controls relating to the preparation of the Report;
- Evaluated whether the management approach for the material sustainability issues presented in the Report are consistent with our overall knowledge and experience of sustainability management and performance at AIB;
- Assessed the completeness and accuracy of the GRI Standards content index with respect to the GRI, including review of reasons for omission; and
- Reviewed the content of the Report against the findings of the aforementioned procedures.

Limitations

The process an organisation adopts to define, gather and report information on its non-financial performance is not subject to the formal processes adopted for financial reporting. Therefore, data of this nature is subject to variations in definitions, collection and reporting methodology, often with no consistent, accepted external standard. This may result in non-comparable information between organisations and from year to year within an organisation as methodologies develop.

In relation to our work performed on the Report, we note the following specific limitation:

- Our testing did not include assurance of, or detailed testing of the underlying data for each of the indicators reported, or of published assertions. As such, our work does not involve procedures to verify the accuracy of the performance data or assertions published.

Our independence and competence in providing limited assurance to AIB

- We complied with Deloitte’s independence policies, which address and, in certain cases, exceed the requirements of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants in their role as independent auditors, and in particular preclude us from taking financial, commercial, governance and ownership positions which might affect, or be perceived to affect, our independence and impartiality, and from any involvement in the preparation of the report.
- We have confirmed to AIB that we have maintained our independence and objectivity throughout the year and in particular that there were no events or prohibited services provided which could impair our independence and objectivity.
- Our team consisted of a combination of Chartered Accountants with professional assurance qualifications and professionals with many years’ experience in providing corporate sustainability report assurance.
- In performing our work, we applied International Standard on Quality Control 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.

What we found: our assurance conclusion

Based on the scope of our work, limitations and the limited assurance procedures we performed, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Report has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the GRI.

Roles and responsibilities

AIB:

- The Office of Sustainable Business are responsible for the preparation of the Report and for the information and statements contained within. They are responsible for determining sustainability objectives, materiality, and establishing and maintaining appropriate performance management and internal control systems from which the reported information is derived.

Deloitte:

- Our responsibility is to provide a limited level of assurance on the subject matters as defined within the scope of work above to AIB in accordance with our letter of engagement, and report thereon. In conducting our limited assurance engagement, we have complied with the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA Code).
- We confirm that we apply International Standard on Quality Control 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 has been undertaken so that we might state to AIB those matters we are required to state to them in this limited assurance report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than AIB for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Eileen Healy
Partner
For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP
02 March 2021