



## 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 for the SSE Green Bond (ISIN XS1676952481) set out in SSE's Sustainability Report 2018 for the year ended 31 March 2018 and online at <http://sse.com/investors/>.

### 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 2018 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 shown in Appendix 1 (the "Selected Information"). The Selected Information and the Reporting Criteria against which it was assessed are summarised in the Appendix 1. Our assurance does not extend to information in respect of earlier periods or to any other information included in the Sustainability Report 2018 or disclosed online at: <http://sse.com/investors/>.

### 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 Green Bond criteria that can be found online at <http://sse.com/investors/>), 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 2018.

### 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:

- made enquiries of SSE's management, including the corporate sustainability management team and those with responsibility for Green Bond governance and reporting;
- evaluated the design of the key structures, systems, processes and controls for managing, recording and reporting the Selected Information;
- vouched the exchange rates used to independent, external sources and confirmed the accuracy of foreign exchange translation calculation;

- inspected minutes of the SSE Tax and Treasury Committee to confirm that the allocated projects had been considered and approved;
- obtained an internal listing of assets allocated to be refinanced by the Green Bond and confirmed that this was consistent with the proposed disclosure of the Reporting Criteria;
- considered the disclosure and presentation of the Selected Information; and
- performed limited substantive testing on a selective basis of the Selected Information to check that the identified assets were in line with the Green Bond criteria and had been appropriately measured, recorded, collated and reported including:
  - inspecting records maintained in SSE's project accounting systems to confirm the existence of the asset, and that the amount spent at the date of the bond issue is equal or more than the value of the Green Bond to qualify for its refinancing;
  - inspecting publically available information to confirm that the capacities reported are consistent with the ones reported; and
  - inspecting a sample of operational records to confirm the accuracy of the output of the assets refinanced.

### 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 content of the Sustainability Report 2018.

### 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.

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 relating to the green bond and its impact performance. We permit this report to be disclosed in the investor's website that can be found online at <http://sse.com/investors/> for the year ended 31 March 2018, 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 for our work or this report except where terms are expressly agreed between us in writing.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
London  
29 May 2018

\*The 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

### Appendix 1: Selected Information subject to limited assurance procedures

The Selected Information subject to limited assurance procedures are set out below. The Reporting Criteria “Green Bond reporting criteria” available at <http://sse.com/investors/> has been used to prepare and report the Selected Information. The Reporting Criteria also explains the definitions and terminology used to describe the Selected Information.

#### Statement of proceeds

List of eligible green projects refinanced by proceeds from the Green Bond at 31 August 2017 (details of qualifying criteria are outlined in the Green Bond Framework)

<b>Eligible Green Project (onshore wind farms)</b>	<b>Capex spend to August 2017 £ million</b>	<b>Date Fully Operational</b>	<b>Allocation of Green Bond Proceeds £ million</b>
Strathy North	102.9	Nov 15	102.9
Tievenameenta	41.5	Feb 17	41.5
Slieve Divena 2	26.5	Jun 17	26.5
Comhlach Gaoithe Teoranta (Galway Wind Park)	81.9	Jun 17	81.9
Dunmaglass	174.4	Aug 17	174.4
Clyde Extension	130.2	Sep 17	100.1
Bhlaraidh	103.5	Oct 17	21.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>660.9</b>		<b>548.4</b>

#### Impact reporting

The table below includes information relating to the capacity of onshore wind farms where the proceeds from the Green Bond has been invested. The table also includes electricity output data and potential carbon saved between the period of the Green Bond issuance (31 August 2017) and the financial year end (31 March 2018). Further details can be found at: <http://sse.com/investors/>

<b>Selected Information</b>	<b>Total</b>
• Renewable electricity capacity (MW)	389
• Energy output (Gwh)	715
• Estimated carbon emissions saved (ktCO <sub>2</sub> )	251