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Carbon Footprint and SECR Verification Statement

Ricardo Energy & Environment has been working with YBS Group (YBS) to independently assure the Group's carbon footprint for 2020. Alongside this, Ricardo Energy and Environment have verified YBS Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) calculations against primary SECR requirements. This statement summarises the outcome of the review. Ricardo Energy & Environment's findings and recommendations are given in the *YBS Group Carbon Footprint Verification* report, which is provided as a separate document.

Verification period

The verification review of YBS' carbon footprint has been carried out for the carbon footprint year, 2020 covering the period from January 1st to December 31st 2020. It should be noted that consumption for December was based upon reasonable estimates. This was done in order to meet the required YBS annual reporting deadline.

The verification of SECR against reporting criteria has been carried out for the same period.

Level and scope of verification

Carbon footprint

Ricardo Energy & Environment has carried out a limited level verification review, which included the review of the data input into the footprint and a sample of the primary data on which the footprint is based.

The verification exercise has been carried out for the YBS' carbon footprint, which covers the following emissions associated with its activities.

	2020 tCO ₂ e	
	Location based	Market based
Scope 1	1,630	1,630
Generation of heat (natural gas)	1,528	1,528
Diesel (Back-up Generators)	28	28
Company vehicles used on company business	72	72
Refrigerant & other (air con gases)	2	2
Scope 2	2,803	0.02
Electricity consumption	2,803	0
Electricity for Electric Vehicles	0.02	0.02
Scope 3	1,012	739
Well to Tank (WTT) Fuels	206	206
Well to Tank (WTT) UK Electricity	420	387
Transmission and Distribution (UK electricity consumption)	241	0
Water consumption and waste water generated	29	29
Waste	9	9
Business travel by air (including WTT)	12	12

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	2020 tCO ₂ e	
	Location based	Market based
Business travel by land (including (WTT)	82	82
WTT Delivery Vehicles	0.4	0.4
Hotel stay	13	13
Total	5,445	2,369

It should be noted that no visits were made to YBS premises to review on-site data and systems.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

Ricardo Energy & Environment have reviewed YBS SECR calculations against the following top level SECR requirements:

- UK energy use (at least gas, electricity and transport). Transport is only where the organisation is responsible for purchasing the fuel is required for mandatory reporting
- Associated greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)
- Previous year's figures for energy use and GHG emissions (except in the first year)
- At least one intensity ratio (e.g. emission per full time equivalent (FTE) staff numbers or turnover)
- Information about energy efficiency action taken in the organisation's financial year
- The methodology used in the calculation of disclosures

This applies to the YBS draft, dated 12/01/2021.

Methodology

In undertaking the verification exercise, Ricardo Energy & Environment has reviewed YBS' carbon footprint data collection and calculation methodologies against the requirements of ISO 14064-3 (Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions) and the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard.

A material error is defined in the verification plan as a 5% error in an emissions source.

Full details of the scope of verification and methodology used are given in the separate document *YBS Group Carbon Footprint Verification* report.

Ricardo Energy & Environment's verification opinion

- YBS continues to make good progress in calculating its carbon footprints and has set up credible processes for collating data and calculating emissions. It should, therefore, be commended for the efforts that it has made.
- The data sources used to calculate the footprint are robust and, in instances where future improvements can be made, it is clear that YBS will work towards these as part of the on-going improvement of its footprint calculation process. YBS has implemented some of the improvements from last year's verification exercise, such as capturing refrigeration data.

- In accordance with the points above, we can provide the following final opinion¹:

Based on the process and procedures conducted, there is no evidence that the 2020 GHG assertion:

- is not materially correct and is not a fair representation of GHG data and information, and
- has not been prepared in accordance with the ISO 14064-1 and the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard.

YBS should keep up this good effort and Ricardo Energy & Environment recommends that YBS undertakes a similar carbon footprint verification, for its 2021 footprint, in 12 months' time.

Independence and competence

Ricardo Energy & Environment is one of the world's leading energy and climate change consultancies, with over 1,000 internationally respected experts in the fields of energy, air quality, resource efficiency, transport, sustainability and economics. It has been involved in ground breaking technical and policy development across the environmental spectrum for the last 40 years, and continues to play a lead role as advisor to governments and major corporations.

Validity of statement

This statement is valid for the carbon footprint verification review, for the periods from January 1st to December 31st 2020.

Ricardo Energy & Environment accepts no liability whatsoever to any third party for any loss or damage arising from any interpretation or reliance upon this assessment.

Ricardo Energy & Environment

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