

# INDEPENDENT LIMITED ASSURANCE REPORT TO ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS

KPMG LLP ('KPMG' or 'we') were engaged by Associated British Foods plc ('ABF') to provide limited assurance over the Selected Information described below for the year ended 31 July 2015.

## Our qualified conclusion

Based on the work we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the basis for qualified conclusion paragraph below, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Selected Information has not been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria.

This conclusion is to be read in the context of the remainder of this report, in particular the basis for qualified conclusion and inherent limitations explained below and this report's intended use.

## Basis for qualified conclusion

A significant proportion of the non-hazardous waste figure of 219,000 tonnes set out in the Report on page 12, which forms part of the Selected Information, is calculated using an estimation methodology. Owing to the nature of ABF's waste data measurement procedures and records in the year ended 31 July 2015, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to assess whether the estimation methodology is a reasonable basis for the determination of the non-hazardous waste figure. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether the non-hazardous waste figure has been properly prepared in accordance with the Reporting Criteria.

## Selected Information

The scope of our work includes only the information included within ABF's Corporate Responsibility Update ('the Report') for the year ended 31 July 2015 marked with the symbol Δ ('the Selected Information').

We have not performed any work, and do not express any conclusion, over any other information that may be included in the Report or displayed on ABF's website for the current year or for previous periods unless otherwise indicated.

## Reporting Criteria

The Reporting Criteria we used to form our judgements are ABF's Corporate Responsibility Reporting Guidance 2015 as set out at [www.abf.co.uk](http://www.abf.co.uk) ('the Reporting Criteria'). The Selected Information needs to be read together with the Reporting Criteria.

## Inherent limitations

The nature of non-financial information; the absence of a significant body of established practice on which to draw; and the methods and precision used to determine non-financial information, allow for different, but acceptable evaluation and measurement techniques and can result in materially different measurements, affecting comparability between entities and over time.

## Directors' responsibilities

The Directors of ABF are responsible for:

- designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Selected Information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- selecting and/or developing objective Reporting Criteria;
- measuring and reporting the Selected Information in accordance with the Reporting Criteria; and
- the contents and statements contained within the Report and the Reporting Criteria.

## Our responsibilities

Our responsibility is to plan and perform our work to obtain limited assurance about whether the Selected Information has been prepared in accordance with the Reporting Criteria and to report to ABF in the form of an independent limited assurance conclusion based on the work performed and the evidence obtained.

## Assurance standards applied

We performed our work in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 – 'Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information' ('ISAE 3000') and, in respect of the greenhouse gas emissions information included within the Selected Information, in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3410 – 'Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements' ('ISAE 3410'), issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

The work performed in a limited assurance engagement varies in nature and timing from, and is 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.

## Independence, professional standards and quality control

We comply with the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants and we apply International Standard on Quality Control (UK and Ireland) 1, 'Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements'. Accordingly, we maintain a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements and professional standards (including independence, and other requirements founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour) as well as applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

## Summary of work performed

Considering the level of assurance and our assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the Selected Information, whether due to fraud or error, we conducted assurance procedures at seven ABF facilities/companies including visits to Africa, China, Ireland, Australia, South America and the UK and undertook remote assurance procedures over three further sites from the UK as well as performing assurance procedures at ABF's Group Head Office. Our work included, but was not restricted to:

- assessing the appropriateness of the Reporting Criteria for the Selected Information;
- conducting interviews with ABF management to obtain an understanding of the key processes, systems and controls in place over the preparation of the Selected Information;
- agreeing a selection of the Selected Information to the corresponding source documentation;
- considering the appropriateness of the carbon conversion factor calculations and other unit conversion factor calculations used by reference to widely recognised and established conversion factors;
- re-performing a selection of the carbon conversion factor calculations and other unit conversion factor calculations;
- performing analytical review procedures over the Selected Information, including a comparison to the prior periods' amounts having due regard to changes in business volume and the business portfolio; and
- reading the Report and narrative accompanying the Selected Information in the Report with regard to the Reporting Criteria, and for consistency with our findings.

## This report's intended use

This assurance report is made solely to ABF in accordance with the terms of the engagement contract between us. Those terms permit disclosure to other parties, solely for the purpose of ABF showing that it has obtained an independent assurance report in connection with the Selected Information.

We have not considered the interest of any other party in the Selected Information. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we accept no responsibility and deny any liability to any party other than ABF for our work, for this assurance report or for the conclusions we have reached.

**Paul Holland**  
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP  
Chartered Accountants, London  
3 November 2015