

**The Company Monitoring Framework -**

**Statement of Risks, Strengths and Weaknesses**

**Consultation Document**

**30 November 2016**

**The Company Monitoring Framework -**

**Consultation on Portsmouth Water’s Statement of Risks, Strengths and Weaknesses**

**About this document**

**Background**

Our shared industry vision for the water sector is one where customers, stakeholders and wider society have trust and confidence in vital water services. As a water company we are committed to being accountable to customers and stakeholders for delivering high quality services. We report information about our performance in a number of different ways including our Statutory Accounts and the Ofwat Annual Performance Report.

We recognise that having information that is easy to understand and accurate helps everyone have trust and confidence in our performance. Our Board takes overall responsibility for the quality and transparency of the information that we provide on our performance. The Company continues to review what information our customers and other stakeholders want and need on an ongoing basis. We do this through direct consultation and by considering other feedback such as feedback from our regulators.

The performance information that we publish is based on a range of different data; both operational and financial. We undertake checks on this data to make sure that it is appropriately accurate. Some of this checking is performed by the company and some is performed by external parties. We call this “data assurance”.

It is important that we take a proportionate approach to how much assurance we need over the data and we want to be transparent about our plans for data assurance. Our approach to data assurance is summarised in section 2 of this consultation. When we assess how much data assurance we are likely to need we assess the risk that the data we report contains errors or is materially misstated. To do this we look at the different types of data that we report and consider the risks, strengths and weaknesses associated with providing that information.

**About this document**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this consultation is to invite views on a statement we have prepared on the risks, strengths and weaknesses associated with providing information to our customers and other stakeholders.

This will form the basis of an Assurance Plan we will prepare (and consult further on) ahead of the publication of our 2016/17 Annual Performance Report in the summer 2017.

On 30 November 2016, Ofwat published its assessment of our reporting in 2015/16. This looked at eleven areas of assessment and concluded that we had met the majority of Ofwat’s expectations for assurances practices. We shall review this assessment further in preparing our plan for 2016/17 and specifically address any areas of concern.

Thank you for making the time to review and respond to this consultation. It will help the Company ensure that we provide information to all stakeholders which is customer-led, transparent and timely.

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**Heather Benjamin**

**Non-Executive Director and Chair of Audit Committee**

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**Helen Orton**

**Finance & Regulation Director**

**Who we are**

We have been supplying water to Portsmouth and the surrounding area since 1857. The area supplied by the Company extends through South East Hampshire and West Sussex from the River Meon in the west to the River Arun in the east, encompassing 868 sq. km.

**Our vision**

To supply high quality drinking water whilst providing excellent levels of service for our customers at the lowest price in the country.

**Our values**

Our values underpin how we behave in delivering all aspects of our work. These are Excellence, Respect & Integrity.

**Contents**

Responding to this consultation page 5

Overview and consultation questions page 6

1. Background page 7

2. Our Approach to Risk Assessment page 8

3. The Outcome of our Risk Assessment page 11

4. Next Steps page 14

Appendix One: Definition of Performance Measures page 16

Appendix Two: Risk Rating page 17

Appendix Three: Detail of Risk Assessment page 19

**Responding to this consultation**

We welcome your response to this consultation by close of business on **12 December 2016**.

You can email your responses to s.morley@portsmouthwater.co.uk or post them to:

Monitoring Plan Consultation

Portsmouth Water

PO Box 8

Havant

Hampshire

PO9 1LG

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information may be published or disclosed in accordance with access to information legislation – primarily the Data Protection Act 1988 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you would like the information you provide to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that we can maintain confidentiality in all circumstances.

**Overview and consultation questions**

**Overview**

In this document we set out the background to this consultation and explain the importance of providing information which is of appropriate quality and transparent for the needs of our customers and other stakeholders.

We also explain;

* how we have approached the assessment of “risk, strengths and weaknesses” of data reporting, which is required by Ofwat as part of the “Company Monitoring Framework”;
* the outcomes of the work we have performed; and
* our next steps.

**Consultation questions**

|  |
| --- |
| We welcome your views on the following consultation questions by close of business on **12 December 2016**. |
| **Q1 Do you have any comments on our overall approach to this Risk Assessment?** |
| **Q2 Do you agree with our assessment of the “Risks, Strengths and Weaknesses” summarised in this Statement?** |
| **Q3 Which particular performance measure is of greatest importance to you?**  **Q4 Is there any data not included in this assessment which you do rely upon and would like us to consider including in our reporting?** |

**1. Background**

1.1. This consultation is part of the process by which Portsmouth Water will determine how it will continue to ensure that the non-financial information we provide to stakeholders is relevant, reliable, complete, accurate and timely. It is the latest in a suite of documents we have published on the company monitoring framework and follows on from our assurance plan which was published in February 2016. It is the annual review of our risks, strengths and weaknesses in our data assurance processes.

1.2. Historically, we have published information on the Company performance in the “Risk & Compliance Statement” and in July 2016 we reported in the new “Annual Performance Report”. The report included details of our performance during the first year of the AMP6 period (2015-2020) and enables stakeholders to assess how we have performed against those measures of success that are regarded by our customers as being the most important factors (the “Performance Measures”). The targets for the Performance Measures were agreed with customers as part of an extensive customer engagement exercise carried out when we were preparing our business plans for the 2015-2020 period.

1.3. In 2015 Ofwat published guidance, “The Company Monitoring Framework” which formalised the process through which they will oversee that stakeholders can have confidence in companies’ published Performance Measures.

1.4. The Company and Board recognise the importance of providing information to customers and other stakeholders that is; customer-led, relevant, reliable, complete, accurate and timely. Our ongoing objective is to make information available that is easy to understand and navigate and which enables stakeholders to see how we are performing; this helps build trust and confidence in the business.

1.5. Ofwat have acknowledged that Companies and their Boards are best placed to identify the risks, strengths and weaknesses associated with providing such information.

1.6. In preparing this report we have engaged with our Customer Challenge Group (CCG). Specifically in July 2016 we discussed the detail of our Performance Measures for 2015-2020 in the context of performance in the year 2015/16. This provided members with a better understanding of the data and related assurance processes that we already have in place.

1.7. Further, at our October 2016 CCG meeting we introduced this consultation process in addition to a presentation on our performance against the Performance Measures as at the end of September 2016.

1.8. We will continue our ongoing reporting to other regulators;

* The Consumer Council for Water
* The Drinking Water Inspectorate
* The Environment Agency

1.9. The information that we publish on our performance will therefore be assured to maintain and build a high level of trust and confidence from our customers and other stakeholders. We will adopt a risk based approach to assurance, and use internal and external reviews to provide robust challenge and scrutiny of our performance.

1.10 In November 2016 a new website was launched called “Discover Water.” This allows stakeholders to compare company performance against a large number of levels of service.

**2. Our Approach to Risk Assessment**

**Introduction**

2.1. As we have noted our objective is to ensure that we report Performance Measures (data) that are relevant, reliable, complete, accurate and timely.

The steps involved in the process are set out in the diagram below.

2.2. We have performed a risk assessment for each of the Performance Measures (and the data used to calculate them) using methodology set out by Ofgem and recommended by Ofwat as best practice. This is consistent with our approach last year.

2.3. Following this risk assessment we will design an appropriate data assurance plan (the “Annual Assurance Plan”). This will set out Company plans for assurance of our Performance Measures and the underlying data that drives them.

2.4. As part of this risk based approach, we have carried out an internal assessment of our risks, strengths and weaknesses in reporting of the Performance Measures. We have initial feedback from our CCG and are now engaging further with our key stakeholders. shareholders.

**The Total Risk Rating**

2.5. When reporting data it is necessary to consider both the **impact** and **probability** of errors arising. The riskof errors in reportingis assessed by looking at the combination of both of these factors. This drives a Total Risk Rating score.

2.6. The overall Total Risk Rating for each Performance Measure is therefore derived by combining the Impact Score and the Probability Score which is presented in a Risk Matrix (see pages 9 & 11).

2.7. Our five-stage process in assessing the overall Risk for each Performance Measure is as follows:-

The Impact Score and Probability Score are determined as follows;

2.8. To establish the Impact Score we look at 4 measures and score each between 1 and 4 where 1 is low impact and 4 is high impact. More detail on this can be found in Appendix 2.

2.9. To establish the Probability Score we look at factors that increase the risk of errors or misstatement in the data and offset against these factors that would increase the quality of data reported (i.e. factors that would decrease risk of misstatement). More detail is shown in Appendix 2.

Each of these categories are assigned a score as given in the table in Appendix 2. The Probability Score is the average of the two offsetting elements and is calculated using a formula.

2.10. Combining these Impact and Probability Scores in a Risk Matrix (below) results in an overall Total Risk Rating: low; medium; high; and critical. The Total Risk Rating is used to inform our choice of data assurance activities to be applied to our Performance Measures and reporting in the Annual Performance Report. It is our responsibility to demonstrate to Ofwat, our customers and other stakeholders the robustness and suitability of our Annual Assurance Plan and the strength of our control environment.

**Total Risk Rating - Impact and Probability Risk Matrix**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| **Impact Score** | **4** | Medium | High | Critical | Critical |
| **3** | Medium | Medium | High | Critical |
| **2** | Low | Medium | Medium | High |
| **1** | Low | Low | Low | Low |
|  |  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
|  |  | **Probability Score** | | | |

**3. THE OUTCOME OF OUR RISK ASSESSMENT**

**3.1. Scale of the risk assessment**

The Company has undertaken a full exercise of over 130 pieces of data it places in the public domain including in our Annual Report & Accounts and our Annual Performance Report. Typically the impact score for this data is one.

The figure below demonstrates the scale of the risk assessment undertaken.

A full description of the 24 data items is given in Appendix 1 and details of the risk assessment for each of these measures is shown in Appendix 2.

**3.2. Outcome of Risk Assessment**

The chart below shows the proportion of the 134 risks that were assessed to be in each total risk category. The risk assessment found that there were no critical risks, 3 high risks and the majority of risks were either medium or low.

The summary results from our risk assessment are shown in the matrix overleaf.

**3.3. New data items in the 2016 Risk Assessment**

**Social Tariff**

In July 2016 the Company introduced its Social Tariff. This is a new tariff for customers who have a low income. Successful applicants have their water bill capped at our minimum charge for the year. As this is a new data item it has yet to be audited. The number of customers on this tariff is reported to CCWater quarterly.

**Meters renewed**

In the summer of 2016 Ofwat requested specific data on the company’s wholesale costs and performance. The audit of the reporting process [[1]](#footnote-1) found that the company fulfilled its obligations of the submission with one minor exception, the number of meters renewed annually. This consists of two data pieces; meters replaced proactively as part of a Company programme and those replaced reactively. We were only able to report the number replaced proactively.

**Communication Pipes**

In the return discussed above, we also provided the number of communication pipes by material as requested, however, the data had a low confidence grade associated with it, indicating uncertainty with the data.

We are expected to provide communication pipe and meters renewed data as part of an annual regulatory requirement and have therefore included this in our assessment.

The matrix below shows our assessment of each of the 24 data items



3.4. Our analysis classifies the following items of data being at high risk and we recognise we need to provide all stakeholders with the confidence that the planned assurance and related control frameworks we have for these items are appropriate. These items are:-

* Developers Satisfaction Survey
* Leakage
* Per Capita Consumption

3.5. The reasons for these 3 measures being assessed as high risk are explained in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Performance Measure** | **Risk** |
| Developer Satisfaction Survey | This was a new measure introduced in April 2015 and has not yet been a process for two years. |
| Leakage | This was classified as an ‘amber’ issue at the audit by WS Atkins in 2016. This means it is a ‘significant issue that is worthy of comment at the Audit Committee level, and may need to be addressed in order to mitigate the risk to the business in the longer term.’[[2]](#footnote-2) The issue is a ‘discrepancy between the Strategic Meter Area based night flow calculations and the reservoir meter based calculations’.[[3]](#footnote-3) This indicates uncertainty and risk with the data. |
| Per Capita Consumption | This was classified as an ‘amber’ issue at the audit by WS Atkins in 2016. The risk relates to uncertainty caused by assumptions made with the per capita consumption model. |

3.6. All items in the matrix will require varying degrees of assurance, and we will present this in our draft Annual Assurance Plan, which we will publish in January 2017. The Company will prioritise the two issues classified as ‘amber’ status in the year ahead.

**3.7. Changes since 2015 risk assessment**

There were two items of data that were classified as being high risk in 2015. The recent risk assessments are discussed below:

* **Leakage**

In 2015 leakage was assessed as “high risk” as a change to the methodology was planned. Leakage was audited as part of the assurance process provided by WS Atkins in 2016. This was a change of auditor from previous years. The audit identified elements of “uncertainty and risk” in part of the leakage calculation and stated this as having ‘amber’ status. The Company has decided not to change the methodology during the period 2015-20 as the ODI was based on the old methodology. Leakage, therefore, remains high risk during this year but for differing reasons than last year.

* **Developer Satisfaction Survey**

We have conducted the first survey and this was audited in 2016 which identified no material issues. The process is however less than two years old resulting in the developer survey remaining as high risk for the year. We expect this to become lower risk in 2017.

**3.8. Risks, strengths and weaknesses**

The risk assessment we performed and the engagement with key stakeholders has provided the Company with a deep insight to the risks, strengths and weaknesses associated with data provision.

**Risks**

* A new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, installed in October 2016, will change data collection methodologies.
* As a small company we are in reliant on key individuals to compile our data

**Strengths**

* Robust processes and systems of control that provide the necessary assurance in respect of the reliability and completeness of the information published.
* The new ERP system provides more integrated information and makes reporting easier and more customisable.
* Continual programme to improve reporting procedures.
* Strong board involvement and leadership.
* Customer focussed as demonstrated by best in the industry SIM and complaint results in 2015-16.
* External data assurance activity.

**Weaknesses**

* Some of the reporting processes are not fully covered by formal procedure documents.
* Lower confidence and elements of estimation uncertainty associated with a small proportion of our data.

**4. NEXT STEPS**

4.1. We invite comments and further discussion with all of our customers and stakeholders. This survey will be distributed to all members of our CCG and made available on our website.

4.2. We welcome your response by **12 December 2016.**

4.3. Based on your feedback to this consultation we will then publish a draft audit plan on **18 January 2017.** There will be an opportunity at this stage to ensure we have reflected any observations you may have appropriately.

4.4. We will engage further with stakeholders before publishing our proposed 2016/17 Annual Assurance Plan on **8 February 2017.**

**APPENDIX ONE - DEFINITIONS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Retail ODIs** |  |
| Service Incentive Mechanism (SIM) | SIM is a measure introduced by Ofwat to establish customer satisfaction with the service they receive. |
| Developer Survey | A new initiative, similar to SIM above, which will establish the developers’ satisfaction with the service they receive. |
| Per capita consumption (pcc) | The volume of water used each day by our household customers. |
| **Wholesale ODIs** |  |
| Number of bursts | The number of bursts on the network which result in a loss of supply to our customers. |
| Mean Zonal Compliance (MZC) | Published annually by the Drinking Water Inspectorate – it is the primary measure of water quality compliance in England & Wales. It covers 39 parameters, such as iron, lead and aluminium which are tested to establish the quality of water received by customers. |
| Water quality contacts | The number of customer contacts we receive relating to the appearance, taste or odour of the water provided. |
| Temporary Usage Bans (TUB) | A restriction on customer use (typically during a dry summer) in accordance with the Company approved Drought Plan |
| Leakage | A measure of the volume of water which is extracted and treated by the Company that is not delivered to the customer – it is the volume lost in transport. |
| Total Interruptions to supply | The number of minutes that our customers are without water within our supply area (includes both planned and unplanned activities by the Company). |
| Biodiversity | An agreed programme with our stakeholders to enhance the biodiversity of the sites we won and operate upon and other appropriate sites in the area. |
| Water Framework Directive (WFD) | Obligations under the Water Framework Directive which are required to be completed by 2021. We have three schemes under this requirement. |
| Carbon commitment | An increase in the amount of electricity sourced by renewables. |
| RoSPA | Keeping our colleagues and customers safe. The Company will apply for RoSPA accreditation annually. |
| **Other metrics** |  |
| AIM - Abstraction Incentive Mechanism | A new initiative promoted by Ofwat. AIM identifies key rivers in the Company area and reposts our abstraction in the catchment area relative to the flow in the river. |
| Meter optants | The number of unmeasured household customers who have had a meter installed. |
| Abstraction compliance | A regulatory requirement for the Environment Agency to report our actual abstraction of water for the year is relative to our licences. |
| Guaranteed Standards of Service (GSS) | A legal requirement to provided compensation for failures of service. |
| WaterSure | The number of customers on this support tariff. |
| LOS - New development | A new initiative – to publish the levels of service we provide to developers. |
| Greenhouse Gas | A quantification, used approved Defra methodology, of the carbon impact of the operation of the business. |
| Social Tariff | A tariff for customers who have a low income or are in receipt of certain benefits. Successful applicants have their water bill capped at our minimum charge for the year. |
| Written Complaints | This covers any written communication from a customer or a customer's representative alleging that an action or inaction of the company, or a service or lack of service provided by the company or agent/contractor has fallen below his/her expectation, even if written in mild and friendly terms. |
| Meters renewed | The number of meters renewed reactively and proactively. |
| Communication Pipes | The number of communication pipes in the company area by material including lead, galvanised and other. |

**APPENDIX TWO – RISK RATING**

**Impact Metric: assessment of impact by inaccurate, incomplete or late submission**

The Impact Score is the maximum score in any of the 4 classifications below.

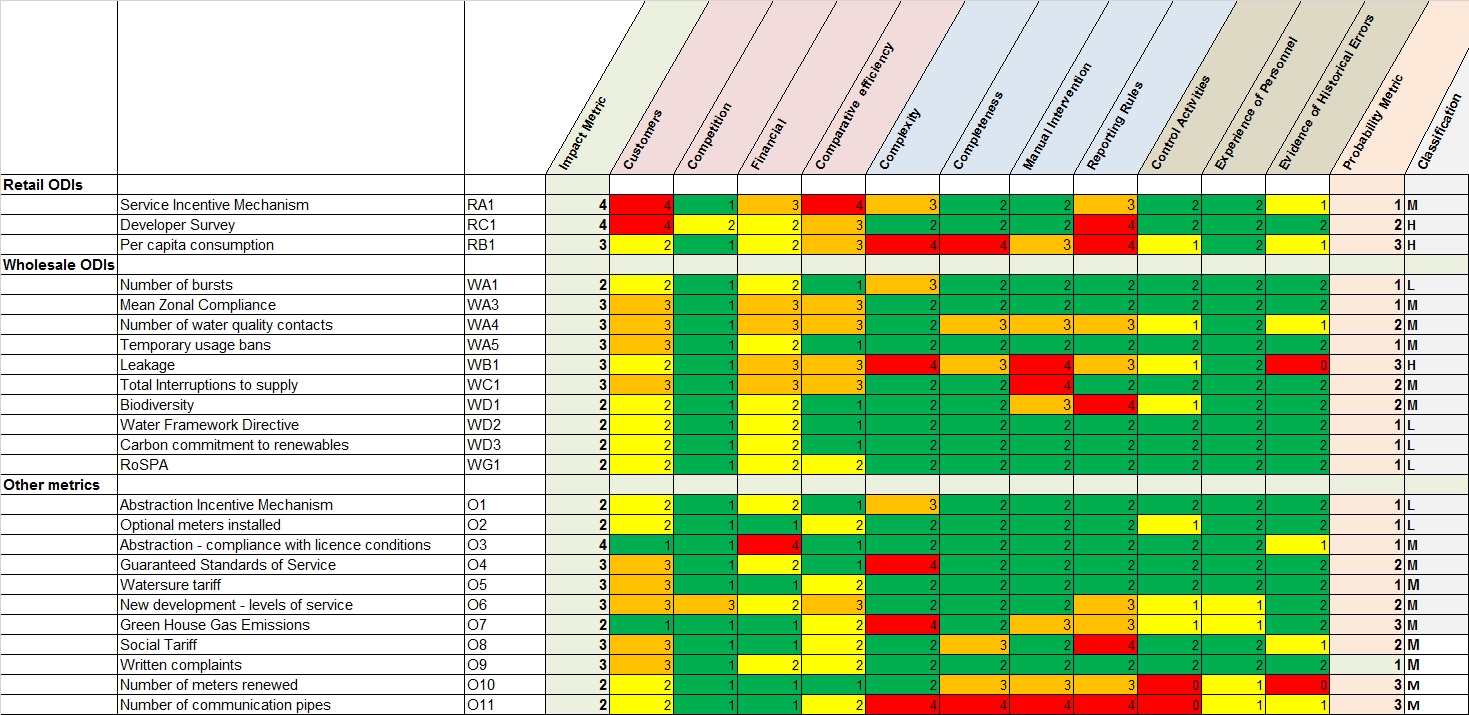
|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Impact on** |  | **Score** |
| **Customers** | Impact on level of service to | 4 - all customers  3 - individual customers  2 - indirect impact  1 - no direct impact |
| **Competition** | Impact on competition | 4 - direct impact on competition  3 – comparison by use of “league tables”  2 - an indirect impact on customers  1 - no direct impact |
| **Financial** | Impact on financial performance | 4 - direct impact on company revenues  3 - significant rewards and penalties  2 - either small rewards & penalties or an individual customer impact  1 - no impact |
| **Comparative Efficiency** | Impact on the regulatory regime | 4 - impact on customer bills  3 - the publication of league tables  2 - challenges made on relative performance  1 - no impact |

**Probability Metric**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Increase risk – increase score** | |
| **Complexity of data used to establish data** | 2 – Single data system  3 – One numerical and one financial system  4 - Two or more numerical systems |
| **Incomplete data** | 2 – Complete data routinely captured for 2 years or more  3 – Routinely captured but for less than 2 years or some elements based on extrapolation  4- Not routinely captured or is based on extrapolation |
| **Manual intervention** | 2 – Data collection fully automated  3 – Less than 60% manually collated  4 – More than 60% manually collated |
| **Complexity and maturity of reporting rules** | 2 – Rule set is complete and has not changed for 2 years  3 – Rule set is complete, but requires some interpretation or judgement  4 – Rule set is less than 2 years old or significant judgement is required |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reduce risk – reduce score** | |
| **Controls applied** | 2 – Extensive validation and prevention controls which have been in place for two years with systems and processes fully documented  1 - Adequate validation and prevention controls which have been in place for one year with systems and processes substantially documented  0 - Limited validation and prevention controls which have been in place for less than one year with limited systems and processes documented |
| **Experience of personnel** | 2 – Data collated by staff with prior experience of completing it and prior years method statement  1 – Either data collated by staff with no prior experience of completing it but using prior years method statement or experienced staff with no method statement  0 - Data collated by staff with no prior experience of completing it and no prior years method statement |
| **Historic errors identified and addressed** | 2 – Audit undertaken in the last two years and no material errors identified  1 – Either no audits within the last two years or material issues which have not been remediated  0 – Material issues identified in the last two years or no audit undertaken |

**APPENDIX THREE – DETAIL OF RISK ASSESSMENT**



The impact score is the maximum score in any of the 4 classifications below.

**Customers** – where 4 is a measure which reflects overall service to all customers, 3 a measure that impacts individual customers, 2 an indirect impact on customers and 1 has no direct impact.

**Competition** – where 4 has a direct impact on competition, 3 reflects the use of “league tables” with associated challenge from stakeholders, 2 an indirect impact on customers and 1 has no direct impact.

**Financial** – where 4 has a direct impact on company revenues, 3 significant rewards and penalties, 2 either small rewards & penalties or an individual customer impact and 1 no impact.

**Comparative Efficiency** – where 4 results in an impact on customer bills, 3 the publication of league tables, 2 challenges made on relative performance and 1 no impact on comparative efficiency.

To establish the Probability Score we look firstly at how complex establishing the data is, the number of systems for example, and how complete it is, for example is it a total data set we are reporting against or a sample set from which we extrapolate. Further we also recognise that there may be a manual intervention in the establishing the data and the complexity and maturity of the reporting rules. Each of these 4 categories are assigned a score 1 and 4. The issues here can be offset by the degree of control activities applied by the Company, the experience of the personnel and of historical issues in its reporting.

**See detail in Appendix 2.**

1. Report to the Board on the 2016 Wholesale Cost Submission to Ofwat [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. WS Atkins Report to the CCG on Annual Reporting 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. WS Atkins Report to the CCG on Annual Reporting 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)