

Bureau Veritas' Independent Assurance Statement



To: The Stakeholders of AstraZeneca plc

Introduction and objectives of work

Bureau Veritas has been engaged by AstraZeneca plc (AstraZeneca) to provide limited assurance over sustainability activities reported in its 2015 Annual Report and form 20-F (the Report). The objectives of our work are to inform AstraZeneca's stakeholders whether the reported information is a reliable account of AstraZeneca's sustainability activities and impacts during 2015. The Report has been prepared by AstraZeneca's management, who are responsible for the collection and presentation of information.

Scope of work

The scope of this assurance engagement included reviewing sustainability performance data and information over the reporting period from January 1st to December 31st 2015. A limited level of assurance was applied based on Bureau Veritas' internal assurance protocol which is based on the principles of the ISAE3000 and AA1000AS standards.

The sustainability performance data and information that have undergone assurance are as follows:

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Opinion and commentary

Based on the evidence available during the assurance engagement and the limited sampling of data, nothing has come to Bureau Veritas' attention to indicate that the sustainability information set out above is materially misstated.

See page 3 for our methodology, which explains the work undertaken to inform the above opinion.

Errors and misstatements identified during our work were amended prior to publication of the report.

Key observations

Bureau Veritas have noted a number of changes within the business during 2015, these include:

- The rebranding of Responsible Business to Sustainability.
- Sustainability management has been reorganised within AZ from the Corporate Affairs to the Compliance function.
- New Human Resources and Supplier Management systems were implemented.
- An internal sustainability awareness campaign was run towards the end of the year.

Additionally, a number of significant activities have occurred in 2015

- New sustainability targets were set for 2016 through to 2025
- An External Sustainability Advisory Board was established (formerly an Environmental Advisory Board) which is yet to meet)
- A materiality review was instigated during 2015 and is ongoing

Commentary on alignment with AA1000 AS¹

Throughout the assurance engagement we considered whether AstraZeneca was undertaking its activities in-line with the principles of the AA1000APS. However, this was carried out at a limited level considering the fact that the outcomes of the materiality review will inevitably have an impact on this area. We make the following observations:

Inclusivity: The business has a range of mechanisms for engaging with stakeholders, internally and externally; however, there is no formal process for capturing and sharing information from all engagements. There is a need for more focussed and comprehensive engagement and collaboration with stakeholders (both internal and external) to capture and feed into the businesses materiality processes in the interests of inclusivity.

Materiality: The relevant structures are in place to support recognition, understanding and management of material risks. These have been enhanced by the introduction of the external Sustainability Advisory Board. It is our opinion that the material issues are addressed within the report but that the level of focus and priority varies across material issues. The materiality review, which was undertaken during 2015, should provide greater guidance to AZ to ensure that it remains aware of and is responding and reporting appropriately on its material issues, which are constantly evolving.

Responsiveness: A full assessment of responsiveness was not undertaken during the 2015 due to the forthcoming results of the materiality review which should provide an informed approach to how AZ will better respond to stakeholders going forward.

Exclusions and Limitations

The following are excluded from our scope of work:

- Activities outside the defined reporting period;
- Company position statements (including any expression of opinion, belief, aspiration, expectation, aim or future intent);

¹ The three accountability principles, Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness require a defined process of stakeholder engagement that provides comprehensive and balanced involvement and results in outcomes that address and respond to issues and impacts in an accountable way. AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard 2011 Accountability 2008 P13

- Financial data;
- Additional data and information relating to sustainability activities beyond that identified in the 'Scope of Work' section of this statement ;
- Web-based information and data
- Targets, objectives and KPIs set beyond 2015

There are inherent limitations in a limited review of sustainability information and data, which means it is not possible to reduce the risk of the failure to identify material misstatements down to zero. The degree of sampling is not sufficient to detect all errors, omissions or misstatements, and in most instances data was not traced back to its original source. Therefore, this independent statement should not be relied upon to detect all errors, omissions or misstatements.

Methodology

We undertook the following activities to inform our assurance engagement:

- Interviewed 17 AstraZeneca personnel with responsibility for the sustainability content and/or data.
- Interviewed one external supplier responsible for undertaking the materiality review
- Conducted a review of all reported performance data by applying a limited sampling approach for each dataset;
- Reviewed supporting evidence to validate claims made within the report, including external websites, email information, databases, training documents, presentation materials and policy documents;

Responsibilities

The preparation, presentation and content of the 2015 Sustainability content in the Report are the sole responsibility of AstraZeneca. The responsibility of Bureau Veritas is to provide assurance to AstraZeneca's stakeholders on the reliability of the information therein and to express our overall opinion as per the scope of assurance.

Statement of Bureau Veritas Independence, Impartiality and Competence

Bureau Veritas is an independent professional services company that specialises in quality, environmental, health, safety and social accountability with over 180 years history in providing independent assurance services, and an annual turnover in 2015 of 4.6 billion euros.

Our assurance team does not have any involvement in any other projects with AstraZeneca and we believe there to be no conflict between any other services provided by Bureau Veritas and that of our assurance team. Bureau Veritas has implemented a Code of Ethics across its business and for which all our staff has undergone comprehensive training. Our Code of Ethics ensures that all our staff maintain high ethical standards in their day to day business activities. Our assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes in accordance with established guidelines and best practice.



London, March 2016