

ANNEX 2.1

DATA ASSURANCE

Our process

We applied our usual data assurance arrangements to the production of our 2023-28 business plan, such that it was subject to our policy for production and submission of regulatory information returns. This sets out the framework within which all regulatory returns are prepared, checked, cleared and submitted. It also specifies the requirement for documentation of relevant processes and procedures in respect of individual returns and is designed to ensure compliance with Ofgem's data assurance guidance (DAG).

The main elements of our data assurance process for our 2023-28 business plan were:

- A senior lead and an executive owner were allocated responsibility for the preparation of each section of the plan;
- The senior lead conducted a risk assessment of the relevant section of the plan, which was reviewed and signed-off by the executive owner;
- The senior lead and executive owner determined the proposed data assurance activity to be applied to the relevant section of the plan;
- A methodology statement and submission plan was created for each section of the plan; and
- An affirmation was completed by the senior lead and that affirmation was formally signed-off by the executive owner confirming that the relevant section had been subject to the identified data assurance activities and was fit for inclusion in the plan.

Our annual network data assurance report ('NETDAR')

We included in our NETDAR submitted to Ofgem on 26 February 2021, the results of our risk assessments of each of the sections in our 2023-28 business plan together with information on the main assumptions applied, the main causes of the critical and high total risk ratings, and the data assurance activities to be carried out. We will, in the past submissions section of our NETDAR, to be submitted to Ofgem by 28 February 2022, report on the data assurance work done, as required by the DAG.

Our irregular submission assurance report

We noted in our NETDAR submitted to Ofgem on 26 February 2021 that we had not been able to fully risk assess the business plan data templates or the engineering justification papers at that time and we would conduct the risk assessments of the business plan data templates and the engineering justification papers once the business plan data templates were finalised and that we would apply the irregular submission process to them.

Consequently, we are submitting an irregular submission assurance report in respect of the business plan data templates and the engineering justification papers alongside our 2023-28 business plan.

As with the NETDAR, the irregular submission assurance report sets out the results of the risk assessments of each of the tables in the business plan data templates and the engineering justification papers. It also includes information on the main assumptions applied, the main causes of the critical and high total risk ratings, and the data assurance activities carried out. We will, in the past submissions section of our NETDAR to be submitted to Ofgem by 28 February 2022, also report on the data assurance work done in respect of the business plan data templates and the engineering justification papers.