

Report on the Regulatory Tables for the year ended 31 March 2010

Accounting requirements

The financial year 2009/10 is the first year that Scottish Water has had to prepare its statutory financial statements under the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The regulatory tables (M & N) comply with the Regulatory Accounting Rules 1 to 5 issued by the Water Industry Commission for Scotland in March 2010 and exclude all of the statutory adjustments required under IFRS, including IAS 19 'Employee benefits'. The reconciliation of the regulatory results to the statutory IFRS financial statements is provided in Appendices 1.1 and 2 to the M table commentary.

The accounting policies used are the same as those adopted in Scottish Water's statutory historical cost (HCA) financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2010, except as set out below:

(a) Infrastructure renewals accounting

The infrastructure renewals charge is based on the strategic assessment of the capital expenditure required to maintain the serviceability of the infrastructure assets over a 20 year horizon. The difference between the cumulative capital expenditure (IME) on maintaining the serviceability of the infrastructure network and the cumulative infrastructure renewals charge (IMC; long term nominative charge) is taken to the balance sheet as an infrastructure renewals prepayment or accrual.

(b) PFI / PPP

All costs incurred in relation to the development of PFI schemes are charged to the income and expenditure account as incurred. However, costs relating to other tangible assets belonging to Scottish Water and transferred to the PFI operator, or financed by Scottish Water, are treated as a debtor and amortised over the length of the service contract. PFI land transferred to the operator is not amortised. Rental costs arising under PFI operating leases are expensed to the income and expenditure account over the terms of the lease.

(c) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when there is a present obligation for a past event, for which it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions currently relate to onerous property rental costs, income uncertainty, redundancy costs associated with employees who will leave Scottish Water under the voluntary severance scheme and early retirement, and pension related liabilities associated with employees who have left Scottish Water.

(d) Current cost accounting (CCA) policies

Tangible fixed assets

Assets acquired in operational use are valued at the gross equivalent replacement cost of their operating capability. Redundant assets are valued at their recoverable amounts.

The current cost depreciation charge is based on the gross replacement costs and the average remaining useful lives of the assets. Infrastructure assets are not depreciated but have an IMC as detailed above.

Grants and third party contributions

Grants and third party contributions are carried forward to the extent that any balance has not been credited to revenue. The balance carried forward is restated for the change in the Retail Price Index (RPI) for the year and treated as deferred income.

Working capital adjustment

The change in the RPI over the year is applied to the opening operating working capital balance.

Financing adjustment

The change in the RPI over the year is applied to the opening balance of net finance.

Results

The HCA surplus for the year after taxation amounted to £140.7 million for the regulated activities of Scottish Water. On a CCA basis, the surplus for the year before taxation was £90.7m. Details of the financial results are detailed in the regulatory M and N tables.

Declaration

The regulated business has sufficient financial resources to enable it to carry out, for at least the next twelve months, its regulated activities and sufficient management resources to enable it to carry out its functions.

There have been no changes in Scottish Water's activities which will have any material impact on its ability to finance its regulated activities.

Transactions and activities entered into with associated companies were made on an "arms length" basis.

The fundamental accounting records, on which the regulatory tables are based, comply with the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002.

Douglas Millican
Finance and Regulation Director
11 June 2010