

Gate three query process

Strategic solution	London Water Recycling
Query number	LWR001
Date sent to company	23/12/2024
Response due by	06/01/2025

Query

The guidance requires the board to clearly set out the evidence, information and external and/or internal assurance that the Board has considered in providing the assurance.

Thames Water has not set out any information relating to the external assurance or who provided the service. Please provide a copy of the external assurance letter or additional information such as the extract or summary of the external assurance.

Solution owner response

This response has been written in line with the requirements of the RAPID Gate 3 Guidance and to comply with the regulatory process pursuant to Thames Water's statutory duties. The information presented relates to material or data which is still in the course of completion. Should the solution presented be taken forward, Thames Water will be subject to the statutory duties pursuant to the necessary consenting process, including environmental assessment and consultation as required. This response should be read with those duties in mind.

Section 10 in the LWR Gate 3 report outlines the assurance process completed for the Gate 3 submission. This follows the same approach as previous gates, with assurance undertaken on a risk-based approach using three lines of assurance. These are aligned with Ofwat's Company Monitoring Framework and comply with the criteria defined by RAPID.

- First Line of Assurance: Undertaken by technical consultants, as detailed in paragraph 10.4.
- Second Line of Assurance: Undertaken by Thames Water subject matter experts.
- Third Line of Assurance: AECOM, appointed as independent external assurers, assessed the submission against the RAPID criteria and selected high-risk reports.

Thames Water’s second line assurance findings are provided in paragraph 10.5 in the main Gate 3 report. The wording provided by AECOM summarising the external assurance conducted for the LWR RAPID Gate 3 submission is outlined below:

AECOM has challenged and independently assured the Gate 3 submission, and that the submission represents a checkpoint on the way to a solution being prepared for planning and consenting. At the completion of the assurance work AECOM confirm that:

- *The Gate 3 work appropriately summarises the breadth and comprehensiveness of activities undertaken in preparation for submission of pre-planning and DCO applications for a single solution.*
- *The Gate 3 work for Teddington DRA has been of sufficient scope, details and quality which is expected for a large infrastructure project and follows the key requirements set out in RAPID’s Gate 3 guidance and template.*
- *Gate 3 expenditure (Annex H) meets the objectives of RAPID’s submission template in that the costs incurred are broken-down per activity and are appropriately evidenced as being approved, proportionate and efficient.*
- *Project costs have been generated using consistent methodologies and appropriate costing mechanisms, benchmarked where defined appropriate.*
- *There is evidence that carbon values have been updated and ongoing work is investigating ways of reducing carbon impacts.*
- *The scheme delivery programme presented in the submission aligns with being construction-ready in AMP8 and there is a clear programme and plan through the consenting process.*
- *Evidence of regular engagement with key regulators and stakeholders ensures the submission provides trust and confidence in the progress of the preferred solution.*

If RAPID requires further details about the external assurance beyond what is provided in Section 10 of our Gate 3 report and the board assurance outlined in our covering letter, please let us know.

Date of response to RAPID	02/01/2025
----------------------------------	------------