

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP Corporate Social Responsibility Report 2010

Assurance methodological notes

The assurance work was commissioned in February 2010 and was completed on 29th November 2010. Detailed records were kept of meetings, assurance visits and correspondence relating to the inclusivity, materiality and responsiveness of the report, as well as to technical matters relating to the accuracy and presentation of data. A team of five, led by an associate director, undertook the assurance and commentary process. A director acted as adviser to the group. The team has a variety of professional and technical competencies and experience. For further information please refer to our website www.corporate-citizenship.com.

Our external assurance and commentary process has involved, but not been limited to, the following elements:

- Understanding Freshfields, its culture and approach to corporate social responsibility and how it identifies issues material to its operations.
- Benchmarking against peers, competitors, best practice and internationally recognised standards to identify the basis on which to judge Freshfields' performance.
- Analysis of Freshfields' stakeholder engagement activity, including employee surveys.
- Review of national and international published sources of information about the views and opinions of external stakeholders, including inter-governmental and governmental agencies, media, academics and special interest groups.
- Examination of report drafts, testing of selected assertions, drawing from evidence and supporting documentation.
- Examination of management and reporting systems, notably for environmental, diversity and community and pro bono data, including checks on a sample basis to underlying records. We also conducted assurance against the LBG model of the community and pro bono data.

- Meetings and discussions with a cross-section of Freshfields departments about the firm's approach to corporate responsibility. This included interviews with a senior partner, the lead partners for diversity, HR, environment and pro bono as well as partners and managers in international offices including China, the US and Germany. These were used to obtain evidence to validate data and statements made in the report.

Our work did not extend to a complete audit of the report's contents. We have not been responsible for the preparation of Freshfields' *Corporate Social Responsibility Report 2010* nor in devising the internal management and reporting systems that yielded the data contained therein.

The opinions expressed in this external assurance statement and commentary are intended to extend understanding of Freshfields' non-financial performance and should not be used or relied upon to form any judgments, or take any decisions, of a financial nature.

Corporate Citizenship is a leading assessor of corporate responsibility reports. The company is a member of AccountAbility (Institute for Social and Ethical AccountAbility).

During the 2009/2010 reporting period, our work with Freshfields focused on assurance, research and stakeholder engagement. Our fees for this work did not exceed 1% of our total fee income.

Corporate Citizenship
Holborn Gate
330 High Holborn
London WC1V 7QG
Tel: +44 (0)20 7861 1616
www.corporate-citizenship.com