CAST CONSULT LTD QUALIFYING EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Qualifying Explanatory Statement (QES) to demonstrate and achievement of carbon neutrality for the period of January to December 2023 in alignment with the PAS 2060 Standard.

Validation Statement

In accordance with BSI PAS 2060:2014, this document presents a standard-compliant declaration of achievement of neutrality through a set of Qualifying Explanatory Statements and public disclosure of documentation supporting Cast Consultancy's carbon neutrality claim.

Cast Consultancy commissioned Greengage Environmental Ltd. to verify the methodology and data as part of an 'other party' validation process for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023.

The following activities were conducted:

1. Review of emissions footprint methodology and results;
2. Review of carbon management plan and verified emissions;
3. Documentation of carbon offset sourcing; and
4. Issuance of validation statement and completion of PAS 2060 validation process.

Carbon neutrality for Cast has been achieved in alignment with PAS 2060 Standard for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 dated 20-12-2024 as verified by Greengage Environmental Ltd. The PAS 2060 scope for 2023 includes Scope 1, Scope 2 (market-based) and Scope 3 categories (like-for-like emissions) including Category 1: Purchased goods and services, Category 3: Fuel and energy (not included in Scope 1 and 2), Category 5: Waste, Category 6: Business travel, Category 7: Employee commuting and work from home).

Apeksha Gupta

Principal Consultant - on behalf of Greengage Environmental Ltd

----

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Qualifying Explanatory Statement (QES) demonstrates Cast Consult Ltd commitment to achieve carbon neutrality of its operations in accordance with PAS 2060. Please see Appendix D for a summarised list of the scope all activities and associated emissions. This QES provides details on how the carbon emissions of the activities in scope were assessed, Cast Consult Ltd carbon management plan inclusive of emission reduction initiatives and the carbon offset process which will be used to achieve carbon neutrality.

Table 1.1 General information

PAS 2060 Requirement	Cast Response
Entity making declaration	Cast Consult Ltd
Individual responsible for the evaluation and provision of data necessary for the substantiation of the declaration including that of preparing, substantiating, communicating, and maintaining the declaration	Jeff Endean, Director
Subject of PAS 2060 declaration	Scope 1, Scope 2 (market-based) and Scope 3 categories (like-for-like emissions) including Category 1: Purchased goods and services, Category 3: Fuel and energy (not included in Scope 1 and 2), Category 5: Waste, Category 6: Business travel, Category 7: Employee commuting and work from home).
Chosen consolidation approach	Financial control
Description of subject	Cast Consult Ltd. is a specialist construction consultancy providing solutions for developers, investors, policymakers and the supply chain.
Rationale for selection of the subject and boundary	Cast Consult Ltd is not a subsidiary, nor has subsidiaries. The boundaries selected align with the GHG Protocol reporting guidelines and aligns with our financial reporting and wider ESG strategy, including our Science-Based Targets which are under review by the SBTi.
Type of conformity assessment	I3P-1 Independent third-party verified - commitment

Baseline year for Cast Consultancy's carbon footprint	01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019
Baseline year for PAS 2060 programme	01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
Achievement period	01/01/2023 -31/12/2023

1.2 PAS 2060 APPROACH

Cast Consultancy will demonstrate carbon neutrality as set out in PAS 2060:2014 using an independent 3rd party certification in accordance with 10.3.2. For the application period following the baseline date, declaration I3P-1 from Appendix A shall be used. For the second and all subsequent periods with an unchanged subject, declaration I3P-3 modified as per A.2 shall be used.

Cast Consult Ltd timeline for carbon neutrality in accordance with PAS 2060 carbon neutrality declaration periods. This is the second application for the commitment to carbon neutrality for this selected period. The baseline period is calendar year (CY) 2023, the subject has been defined (as described in Table 1.1) and its carbon footprint quantified. The QES is officially released to the public after the independent third-party assurance of Cast Consult Ltd carbon neutral program and will be updated accordingly to reflect any changes and actions that could affect the validity of the declaration of commitment.

A carbon management plan has been initiated to reduce emissions across the carbon impact of Cast Consult Ltd business activities, and any residual emissions within the carbon neutral portfolio will be mitigated through the purchase and retirement of offsets.

1.3 DECLARATION OF ACHIEVEMENT OF CARBON NEUTRALITY

Carbon neutrality of company-wide emissions has been achieved by Cast Consultancy in accordance with PAS 2060 at 29/03/2023 for the period commencing 01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023 assessed by Greengage Environmental Ltd.

Table 1.2 Declaration of achievement

PAS 2060 Requirement	Cast Response
Period during which the entity is demonstrating carbon neutrality of the subject has been achieved.	01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023
Reported carbon footprint of the PAS 2060 subject during the period stated above.	82.2 tCO_2e
Which defined PAS 2060 methodology has been followed to achieve carbon neutrality?	Method 1: Demonstrating carbon neutrality PAS 2060 scope has been outlined in Section 1.2
How have the reductions in GHG emissions during the period been achieved?	The reductions in GHG emissions have been achieved due to improvement in data quality and calculation methodology for following:

	• Purchased goods and services including like-for-like emissions including IT hardware, cleaning, couriers, food and drink (consumed in offices). • Fuel and energy (not included in Scope 1 and 2) due to update in calculation methodology. Additionally, there has been a reduction in business travel leading to a reduction in carbon emissions as compared to the previous year.
Location of information supporting claims.	Appendix A
Location of the details describing internal reductions achieved.	Appendix B
Location of the details describing the carbon mitigation credits.	Appendix C
Location of emissions inventory.	Appendix D
UK economic growth rate over the application period (World Bank GDP data)	2023 +0.1% 2022 +4.1%
Person responsible for evaluation and provision of data	Jeff Endean, Director
Jeff Endean, Director	

APPENDIX A CAST CONSULT LTD CARBON FOOTPRINT

The below table summarises the emissions contributing to Cast Consult Ltd carbon footprint for CY 2022 and 2023. It also provides the differences in carbon for each business activity, determining the overall net carbon savings of 54.81 tCO_2e.

Table A.1 Cast Consult Ltd Carbon Footprint

Scope	Description	2022 Carbon Emissions (tCO_2e)	2023 Carbon Emissions (tCO_2e)	Difference (+/-tCO_2e)
Scope 1	Gas	n/a	n/a	-
	Fuel usage from company-owned vehicles	n/a	n/a	-
	F-gas losses	0.00	0.00	(-) 0.00
Scope 2	Electricity (M.B)	0.00	13.29	(+) 13.29
	Electricity (L.B)	7.35	8.26	(+) 0.91
Scope 3	Purchased goods and services	88.80	24.73	(-) 64.07
	Capital goods	n/a	n/a	-
	Energy and fuel (T&D and WTT)	12.20	2.72	(-) 9.48
	Delivery of purchased goods	n/a*	n/a*	-
	Waste	0.29	0.33	(+) 0.04
	Business travel	29.20	7.85	(-) 21.35
	Employee commuting Work from Home	0.7 6.0	16.0 17.3	(+) 26.6
	Sold product processing, use and end-of life	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Leased Assets (Upstream and Downstream)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Scope 3		137.11	68.95	(-) 68.11
Total reported emissions (L.B)		144.4	77.20	(-) 67.20
Total reported emissions (M.B)		137.11	82.25	(-) 54.81

** The delivery of purchased goods and services have been included in Category 1 (Purchased goods and services) consistent with previous year 2022.*

A.1 METHODOLOGY

Cast Consultancy categorises its GHG emissions as Scope 1, 2 and 3 as described in the WBCSD/WRI Greenhouse Gas Protocol Reporting standard. Emissions have been calculated as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e) for Scope 1, 2 and selected Scope 3 sources (see Appendix D) using the latest conversion factors listed in the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Conversion Factors 2023. The PAS 2060 scope for 2023 outlined in Section 1.2

A.2 EXTERNAL VERIFICATION

Cast Consult Ltd carbon footprint has been calculated and verified by Greengage Environmental Ltd in September 2023. Greengage Environmental Ltd employees have undergone training and are officially qualified in undertaking PAS 2060:2014 verification assessments in line with BSI requirements. Greengage Environmental Ltd. have concluded that "Overall, based on the extent of our investigations, Cast Consult Ltd. systems are shown to be compliant with PAS 2060:2014".

Apeksha Gupta - on behalf of Greengage Environmental Ltd

APPENDIX B CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN

B.1 COMMITMENT

Cast Consult Ltd is committed to achieve carbon neutrality of the subject for the period of 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 in accordance with PAS 2060:2014. This commitment can be broken down as follows:

- Offset GHG emissions for the commitment period based on 2023 actuals sales data, to be completed at the end of 2023.
- Continue to define and implement its carbon reduction plan during the commitment period.

B.2 PAS 2060 SCOPE FOR 2023

For the reporting year 2023, Cast has reported additional Scope 3 emissions data for Category 1 (Purchased goods and services) and Category 6 (business travel). Incorporation of additional data has led to an increase in the overall 2023 carbon footprint (compared to 2022). However, when comparing like-for-like Scope 3 categories across consistent data sources with the baseline, a reduction of 49.7% in Scope 3 (like-for-like emissions) and 40.0% reduction in total Scope 1, 2, and 3 (as compared to 2022). Therefore, PAS 2060 emissions scope for 2023 involves Scope 1, Scope 2 (market-based) and Scope 3 (like-for-like categories[1]), and excludes emissions from additional Scope 3 categories purchased goods and services and business travel.

Table B.1 PAS 2060 Scope for 2023

Scope	Categories	Carbon Emissions 2023 (tCO_2e)
Scope 1	Gas[1]	n/a
	Company-owned vehicles[2]	n/a
	F-gas losses	0.0
Scope 2	Electricity (location-based)	8.3
	Electricity (market-based)	13.3
Scope 3	Category 1: Purchased goods and services	24.7
	Category 3: Energy and fuel services (not included in Scope 1 and 2)	2.7
	Category 5: Waste	0.3
	Category 6: Business travel	7.8

[1]*Scope 3 (like-for-like categories) include consistent data points and sources as compared to previous reporting year. The PAS 2060 scope for 2023 does not include additional data shared for Category 1: Purchased goods and services and Category 6: Business travel).*

	Category 7: Employee commuting and work from home	33.3
	Total Scope 3 (like-for-like categories)[3]	68.9
	Total emissions (location-based)	77.2
	Total emissions (market-based)	82.2

[1]There is no gas in Cast office.

[2]Cast do not own any company owned vehicles.

[3]Scope 3 (like-for-like categories) include consistent data points and sources as compared to previous reporting year. The scope does not include additional data shared for Category 1: Purchased goods and services and Category 6: Business travel).

The residual carbon emissions for 2023 amount to 82.2 tCO_2e for Scope 1, Scope 2 (market-based) and Scope 3 (like-for-like categories).

B.3 CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

Cast ambitions to reduce their emissions by 55% by 2030 and carry on reducing, with up to a 90% reduction target by 2050 for achievement of carbon neutrality in alignment with PAS 2060 Standard (from a 2019 base year).

Although setting a near-term target which accounts for Scope 3 emissions is not a formal requirement for SME's, Cast's ambition to include these aligns with, and exceeds, Cast's Science-based target approved and validated by SBTi in 2024. The Science-based target commits Consult Ltd to reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions 46% by 2030 from a 2019 base year, and to measure and reduce its Scope 3 emissions. Cast Consult Ltd commits to reach net zero by 2050. As part of this, Cast Consult Ltd commits to reduce Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 90% by 2050 from a 2019 base year.

Key initiatives that Cast Consult Ltd have committed to are as follows:

Energy

Short-term actions

- Move towards procurement of a 100% from renewable energy (backed by REGO certificate).
- Conduct an energy audit using a third-party energy auditor to carry out a review of Cast office in London to understand what equipment is currently being used and to highlight opportunities for improved energy efficiency. This will involve a review of lighting, heaters, boilers, meters, and refrigerant. The energy audit will outline further feasible initiatives such as:
    - Installing Passive Infrared Sensor (PIR) lighting sensors in office by March of 2025
    - Replacing all installed compact fluorescent, halogen, and other non-LED lighting to LED equivalents by March of 2025 include energy efficiency criteria in equipment purchasing by June 2025 and replace equipment with energy efficient equipment (A rated) at end of life.

Explore functionality such as daylight dimming with new LED lighting. Review the lighting controls and zones and whether these could be optimised for further energy reductions.

- ○ Installing smart meters to review energy consumption profiles and highlight opportunities for further reduction.

- Conduct regular capacity building staff engagement sessions each quarter and incentivise staff for sharing new ideas for reducing carbon emissions.
- Monitor and adjust office temperatures to minimise unnecessary energy consumption for heating and cooling. Progress will be tracked through regular analysis of energy consumption.
- Prioritise purchasing energy efficient devices (A-rated) which are durable and will last a long time. Cast to ensure that these devices have sleep modes and or turned off when not in use and in unoccupied hours.

Long-term actions

- Engage with landlord to explore the feasibility of on-site electricity generation by using solar panels. This will contribute to additionality[2].

Procurement of goods and services

Short-term actions

- Ensure the sourcing of food products for meetings and events is sustainable.
- Select suppliers that demonstrate ethical environmental practices and measure and report their annual carbon footprint.
- Procure goods and services from suppliers that utilise low carbon energy in their manufacturing processes and adopt low carbon transportation methods for delivery.
- Prioritise suppliers that use reusable materials or incorporate recycled content into their products.
- Favour procurement from suppliers engaged in the development of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for their materials.
- Work with suppliers who have conducted their corporate carbon footprints, have established decarbonisation targets and are actively making progress towards achieving them.
- Increase supply chain engagement by:
  - ○ Review annual carbon footprint to identify the most significant Tier 1 suppliers, particularly those with higher carbon emissions.

[2] *'Additionality' is a concept within renewable energy that refers to organisations directly adding new capacity for renewable energy to the National grid.*

  - Distribute a questionnaire to the top 10 Tier 1 suppliers to assess their environmental credentials, focusing on those that measure and report their carbon footprint, demonstrate ethical practices, and are working towards net-zero targets.
  - Use the questionnaire as part of the pre-qualification process (PQQ) for selecting alternative suppliers.
  - Request activity-based data from suppliers, including physical weights and volumes, or Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for purchased goods, along with apportioned carbon emissions for purchased services, specifically for the additional categories reported under purchased goods and services in 2023.
- Review purchased goods and services to minimise unnecessary expenditures. Invest in durable, long-lasting products and integrate circular economy principles to reduce the frequency of item replacement.

Waste

Short-term actions

- Minimise paper use by transitioning to digital documents whenever possible. When printing is necessary, opt for 100% recyclable paper and use double sided printing option to the reduce carbon impact.
- Work with suppliers to ensure zero waste ends up in landfill.
- Improve data capture processes and record activity-based data for all types of waste streams for inclusion in annual carbon footprint (including operational waste, waste from water, waste from project refurbishments etc).
- Provide staff training to encourage behavioural changes that reduce waste and incentivise them to reuse and recycle IT equipment. Additionally, motivate staff by rewarding new ideas aimed at testing and reducing waste and emissions.

Business Travel

Short-term actions

- Establish tracking mechanisms to log number of nights stayed in hotel, number of staff stayed per night and location of hotel.
- Continue to reduce domestic air travel by prioritising train journeys for trips within 400 miles of London and increase the use of virtual meetings to minimise environmental impact, avoiding in-person meetings (where in-person meetings can be avoided).
- Maintain efforts to encourage and incentivise staff to commute by bicycle by promoting it as a healthier and more sustainable travel option, supported through the existing cycle-to-work salary sacrifice scheme.

APPENDIX C CARBON MITIGATION STRATEGY

Cast Consult Ltd appointed Carbon Footprint Ltd as its partner for the selection and purchasing of a portfolio of high-quality carbon credits to mitigate the company's residual carbon emissions.

Carbon Footprint Ltd supports organizations including corporations, SMEs and public sector bodies in tracking and reducing carbon emissions at the source while offsetting unavoidable emissions to achieve net-zero carbon or carbon neutrality. This approach helps organizations align with sustainability goals, mitigate environmental impact, and strengthen their operational and reputational outcomes.

Carbon credits purchases are purchased and retired by Carbon Footprint Ltd on behalf of Cast Consult Ltd. Details of carbon credits required to mitigate emissions for the period of carbon neutrality is shown on Table C.1 below.

Cast Consult Ltd purchases carbon credits in advance, and either purchase additional credits if needed to match its reported emissions or carry forward any unused credits to the following year.

Table C.1 Details of Carbon Credit Purchases

Carbon Footprint (January-December)	Certification Scheme	Project Name	Country	Purchase Date	Registry Retirement Date and Link	Carbon Credits Purchased
2023	Verified Carbon Standard	Zhangye Improved Grassland Management Carbon Removal Project	China	10-01-2025	15/01/2025 https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&h=267642	83.0

- Certification scheme: External certification held by the project.
- Project name: Name the project is commonly referred to.
- Country: Country where the project is taking place.
- Registry retirement: Date and link to the public registry where the credits are retired by Cast Consult Ltd.
- Project type: Nature of the carbon reduction or removal project.
- Carbon credits purchased: Volumes of carbon credits purchased to offset residual carbon emissions on behalf of Cast Consult Ltd.

APPENDIX D EMISSIONS INVENTORY

Scope 1 and 2 emissions		
GHG Protocol emissions category	Cast reporting	Cast comments
Scope 1 Gas	Excluded	No gas supply
Scope 1 Fuels	Excluded	No fleet vehicles
Scope 1 F-Gas	Included	F-gas leakage was not reported in 2023, hence does not contribute to emissions inventory for 2023. Data source: maintenance logs, F-Gas register
Scope 2 Electricity	Included	Electricity supplied to London office by Engie. In 2023, a standard market-based tariff has been applied to calculate market-based emissions. This is due to Cast not being able to provide satisfactory evidence from electricity provider ENGIE to verify the source of electricity to be 100% renewable. Data source: meter readings; invoices Conversion Factors: DESNZ 2023

Scope 3 emissions			
The Scope 3 emissions included are those that Cast Consult Ltd has the greatest level of control over and can report with confidence in their accuracy. All Scope 3 emissions relevant to Cast Consult Ltd are identified below against the Greenhouse Gases Protocol categories, with reasoning for those emissions which are not included.			
GHG Protocol emissions category	GHG protocol category description	Cast Consultancy reporting	Cast Consult Ltd comments
1. Purchased goods and services	Extraction, production, and transportation of goods and services purchased or acquired by the reporting company in the reporting year, not otherwise included in Categories 2 – 8.	Included	Products and services procured by the reporting company across operations. Data source: Annual expenditure data for products and services (spend £). Weights and

			volumes have been used for water supply (m^3), Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) for IT hardware, apportioned carbon emissions for couriers, activity-based data has been captured in weights for paper and stationery extracts (where granular information has been provided). Conversion Factors: DESNZ 2023; DEFRA 2021 (published in 2024).
2. Capital goods	Extraction, production, and transportation of capital goods purchased or acquired by the reporting company in the reporting year.	Excluded	No capital goods procured.
3. Fuel and energy related activities (not included in Scopes 1 or 2)	Extraction, production, and transportation of fuels and energy purchased or acquired by the reporting company in the reporting year, not already accounted for in Scope 1 or Scope 2.	Included	Electricity T&D; Electricity T&D WTT; Electricity WTT. Data source: See Scope 2 Conversion Factors: DESNZ 2023
4. Upstream transportation and distribution	• Transportation and distribution of products purchased by the reporting company in the reporting year between a company's tier 1 suppliers and its own operations (in vehicles and facilities not owned or controlled by the reporting company).	Excluded	All transport relating to this has been captured in Scope 3 Cat 1.

	• Transportation and distribution services purchased by the reporting company in the reporting year, including inbound logistics, outbound logistics (e.g., of sold products), and transportation and distribution between a company's own facilities (in vehicles and facilities not owned or controlled by the reporting company).		
5. Waste generated in operations	Disposal and treatment of waste generated in the reporting company's operations in the reporting year (in facilities not owned or controlled by the reporting company).	Included	Office waste in London office. Data source: Actual data provided for operational waste including details on disposal schemes. Conversion Factors: DESNZ 2023
6. Business travel	Transportation of employees for business-related activities during the reporting year (in vehicles not owned or operated by the reporting company).	Included	Flights; Rail Travel; Car and taxi mileage of employees for business purposes Data source: Expense claims; travel logs Conversion Factors: DESNZ 2023; DEFRA 2021 (published in 2024)
7. Employee commuting and working from home	Transportation of employees between their homes and their worksites during the reporting year (in vehicles not owned or operated by the reporting company).	Included	Employee commuting to London office; energy used while working from home. Data source: Company commuter survey; office occupancy rates;

			full time employee numbers Conversion Factors: DESNZ 2023
8. Upstream leased assets	Operation of assets leased by the reporting company (lessee) in the reporting year and not included in Scope 1 and Scope 2 – reported by lessee.	Excluded	The emissions from Cast's leased office have been reported under Scope 1 and 2.
9. Downstream transportation and distribution	Transportation and distribution of products sold by the reporting company in the reporting year between the reporting company's operations and the end consumer (if not paid for by the reporting company), including retail and storage (in vehicles and facilities not owned or controlled by the reporting company).	Excluded	Cast does not sell products; therefore, this category is not relevant.
10. Processing of sold products	Processing of intermediate products sold in the reporting year by downstream companies (e.g., manufacturers).	Excluded	Cast does not sell products; therefore, this category is not relevant.
11. Use of sold products	End use of goods and services sold by the reporting company in the reporting year.	Excluded	Cast does not sell products; therefore, this category is not relevant.
12. End-of-life treatment of sold products	Waste disposal and treatment of products sold by the reporting company (in the reporting year) at the end of their life.	Excluded	Cast does not sell products; therefore, this category is not relevant.
13. Downstream leased assets	Operation of assets owned by the reporting company (lessor) and leased to other entities in the reporting year, not	Excluded	Cast does not lease any assets; therefore, this category is not relevant.

	included in Scope 1 and Scope 2 – reported by lessor.		
14. Franchises	Operation of franchises in the reporting year, not included in Scope 1 and Scope 2 – reported by franchisor.	Excluded	Cast does not have any franchises; therefore, this category is not relevant.
15. Investments	Operation of investments (including equity and debt investments and project finance) in the reporting year, not included in Scope 1 or Scope 2.	Excluded	Cast does not have any investments; therefore, this category is not relevant.