

Auditor's report



To the Supervisory Board of SpareBank 1 SMN

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SpareBank 1 SMN, which comprise:

- The financial statements of the parent company SpareBank 1 SMN (the Company), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, the income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and
- The consolidated financial statements of SpareBank 1 SMN and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, the income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion:

- The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the law and regulations.
- The accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2020, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU.
- The accompanying consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2020, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with laws, regulations, and auditing standards and practices generally accepted in Norway, including International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company and the Group as required by laws and regulations, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in

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Independent Auditor's Report - SpareBank 1 SMN



accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

The business activities are largely unchanged compared to last year. We have not identified regulatory changes, transactions or other events that qualified as new Key audit matters for our audit of the 2020 financial statements. *Value of loans to customers* carry the same characteristics and risks this year and remain a focus area also in our audit for 2020.

Key Audit Matter	How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter
<p><i>The value of loans to customers</i></p> <p>Loans to customers represent a considerable part of the company's total assets. The assessment of loan loss provisions is a model-based framework which includes assessments with elements of management judgment. The framework, is complex, includes considerable volumes of data and judgmental parameters.</p> <p>We focused on this area due to the significance of the impairment considerations for the value of loans in the financial statements, and the fact that the use of judgement has a potential to affect the profit for the period. Furthermore, there is an inherent risk of errors because of the complexity and quantity of data involved in the modelling.</p> <p>The use of models to determine expected credit losses entails judgement, specifically with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • classification of the various credit portfolios by risk and asset type; • identification of impaired loans or loans presenting a significant increase in credit risk; • the categorization of loans into stages; and 	<p>In our audit of expected loss allowance, we evaluated and tested the design and effectiveness of controls for quality assurance relating to the applied assumptions and models used in the calculations. Furthermore, we tested the input used in the model-based calculation of allowances as well as the individually calculated allowances.</p> <p>For loans considered on a collective basis the calculation is based on a framework model. We tested the model and considered the relevance and the reasonableness of important assumptions used in the calculation.</p> <p>We obtained a detailed understanding of the process and tested relevant controls directed at ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculations and the applied method; • That the applied model is designed according to the framework, and working as planned; • The reliability and accuracy of the data used in the model. <p>Our controls testing gave no indication of material misstatements in the model, or deviations from IFRS 9.</p> <p>Our work included tests of the company's financial reporting systems relevant to financial reporting. The company uses external service providers to operate some of the important IT systems. The auditor at the relevant service organization are used to evaluate the design and efficiency of the established control systems, and tests the controls designed to ensure the</p>

(2)

Independent Auditor's Report - SpareBank 1 SMN



- the parameters such as the probability of default and loss given default and loss scenarios.

In the case of loans where there is objective evidence of impairment, an individual allowance for credit loss is recognized. For the offshore portfolio, separate assessments are made with regard to probability of default under various scenarios and associated realization values. The assessments require management to use judgement.

Please refer to note 2, 3, 6 and 10 in the annual report for a description of the company's impairment model and how the company estimates their expected credit losses using IFRS 9.

integrity of the IT system that are relevant to financial reporting. The auditor issued a report that included testing of whether central calculations performed by core systems was performed according to expectations, hereunder interest calculations and mortifications. The testing included the integrity of data, changes of and access to the systems.

To assess whether we could rely on the work performed by other auditors, we satisfied ourselves regarding the auditors' competence, capacity and objectivity and examined the reports received and assessed potential weaknesses and remediation initiatives. Our assessments showed that we could rely on the data handled and calculations performed within the IT systems that are relevant to financial reporting.

For loans with objective evidence of impairment and where the impairment amounts were individually calculated, we tested a sample by assessing the estimated future cash flows used by management to substantiate the impairment calculation. We challenged management's assumptions by interviewing key credit personnel and management both to assess the information received from customers and to assess how the reliability of the information were evaluated. We compared the assumptions made by management to external documentation when available.

We obtained a detailed understanding of the scenario modelling for the offshore portfolio and the calculation methodology used. It is explained in the annual report that the increase in other doubtful loans mainly is due to a few loans within the offshore portfolio. We assessed the assumptions for loss provisions under the different scenarios and challenged management and credit personnel about these. We made our own sensitivity analyses. Further, we tested important factors in the model, such as rates and utilization, towards external sources.

In addition, we tested the appropriateness of the classification within the model and evaluated the reasonableness of the total allowance for credit losses. The result of the testing showed that management's assumptions in the calculation of impairment amounts were reasonable.

We have read the notes and found that the information provided was sufficient.

(3)

Independent Auditor's Report - SpareBank 1 SMN



Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises information in the annual report, except the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the Managing Director for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors and the Managing Director (Management) are responsible for the preparation in accordance with law and regulations, including a true and fair view of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's and the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with laws, regulations, and auditing standards and practices generally accepted in Norway, including ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with laws, regulations, and auditing standards and practices generally accepted in Norway, including ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. We design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one

(4)

Independent Auditor's Report - SpareBank 1 SMN



resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's or the Group's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company and the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company and the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves a true and fair view.
- obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Board of Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the Board of Directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the Board of Directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

(5)

Independent Auditor's Report - SpareBank 1 SMN

*Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements*

Opinion on the Board of Directors' report

Based on our audit of the financial statements as described above, it is our opinion that the information presented in the Board of Directors' report and in the statements on Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility concerning the financial statements, the going concern assumption and the proposed allocation of the result is consistent with the financial statements and complies with the law and regulations.

Opinion on Registration and Documentation

Based on our audit of the financial statements as described above, and control procedures we have considered necessary in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000, *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*, it is our opinion that management has fulfilled its duty to produce a proper and clearly set out registration and documentation of the Company's accounting information in accordance with the law and bookkeeping standards and practices generally accepted in Norway.

Trondheim, 4 March 2021
PricewaterhouseCoopers AS

Rune Kenneth S. Lædre
State Authorised Public Accountant

(This document is signed electronically)

Note: This translation from Norwegian has been prepared for information purposes only.