



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 statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the income statement, other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and
- the consolidated financial statements of SpareBank 1 SMN and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the income statement, total comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion

- the financial statements comply with applicable statutory requirements,
- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as adopted by the EU, and
- the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as adopted by the EU.

Our opinion is consistent with our additional report to the Audit Committee.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with 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 relevant laws and regulations in Norway and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, no prohibited non-audit services referred to in the Audit Regulation (537/2014) Article 5.1 have been provided.

We have been the auditor of the Company for 5 years from the election by the Supervisory Board on 22 November 2018 for the accounting year 2019.

#### 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.



## Key Audit Matters

## How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter

### The value of loans to customers

Loans to customers represent a considerable part of 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.

We focused on this area due to the significance of the impairment considerations for the value of loans, 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.

The use of models to determine expected credit losses entails judgement, specifically with respect to:

- Classification of the various credit portfolios by risk and asset type;
- Identification of loans with a significant increase in credit risk;
- The categorization of loans into stages; and
- The parameters such as the probability of default, 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. The assessments require management to use judgement.

Please refer to note 3, 6, 8 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.

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.

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.

We obtained a detailed understanding of the process and tested relevant controls directed at ensuring:

- 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.

Our controls testing gave no indication of material misstatements in the model, or deviations from IFRS 9.

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 integrity of the IT system that are relevant to financial reporting. The auditor have issued a report that included testing of whether central calculations performed by core systems were 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 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. 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.

### **Other Information**

The Board of Directors and the Managing Director (management) are responsible for the information in the Board of Directors' report and the other information accompanying the financial statements. The other information comprises information in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the information in the Board of Directors' report nor the other information accompanying the financial statements.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the Board of Directors' report and the other information accompanying the financial statements. The purpose is to consider if there is material inconsistency between the Board of Directors' report and the other information accompanying the financial statements and the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or whether the Board of Directors' report and the other information accompanying the financial statements otherwise appears to be materially misstated. We are required to report if there is a material misstatement in the Board of Directors' report or the other information accompanying the financial statements. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Based on our knowledge obtained in the audit, it is our opinion that the Board of Directors' report

- is consistent with the financial statements and
- contains the information required by applicable statutory requirements.

Our opinion on the Board of Director's report applies correspondingly to the statements on Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRS Accounting 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 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 ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism 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 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 and 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's 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 Audit Committee 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, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

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.

## **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

### **Report on Compliance with Requirement on European Single Electronic Format (ESEF)**

#### *Opinion*

As part of the audit of the financial statements of SpareBank 1 SMN, we have performed an assurance engagement to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements included in the annual report, with the file name SB1SMN-2023-12-31-nb, have been prepared, in all material respects, in compliance with the requirements of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/815 on the European Single Electronic Format (ESEF Regulation) and regulation pursuant to Section 5-5 of the Norwegian Securities Trading Act, which includes requirements related to the preparation of the annual report in XHTML format, and iXBRL tagging of the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements, included in the annual report, have been prepared, in all material respects, in compliance with the ESEF regulation.

#### *Management's Responsibilities*

Management is responsible for the preparation of the annual report in compliance with the ESEF regulation. This responsibility comprises an adequate process and such internal control as management determines is necessary.

#### *Auditor's Responsibilities*

For a description of the auditor's responsibilities when performing an assurance engagement of the ESEF reporting, see: <https://revisorforeningen.no/revisjonsberetninger>

Trondheim, 29 February 2024  
**PricewaterhouseCoopers AS**

Rune Kenneth S. Lædre  
State Authorised Public Accountant

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