Understanding our climate reporting continued

Financed emissions reporting challenges
The methodologies and data used to assess financed emissions and set targets continue to evolve alongside changes to industry guidance, market practice and regulation. We plan to refine our analysis using appropriate data sources and current methodologies available for the sectors we analyse. We have developed an internal recalculation policy (see page 56) to define the circumstances under which a recalculating of financed emissions is necessary to help support the consistency, comparability and relevance of our reported emissions data over time.

We have now set combined on-balance sheet financed emissions and facilitated emissions targets for two emissions-intensive sectors: oil and gas, and power and utilities, and report the combined progress for both sectors. We continue to report on-balance sheet financed emissions and targets for cement, iron, steel and aluminium, aviation, automotive and in 2023 we added thermal coal mining financed emissions.

Emissions related to our insurance business are partially captured within the disclosures of HSBC Asset Management, which manages the vast majority of our insurance assets. The Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials ('PCAF') standard for insurance associated emissions (part C) is not applicable to our insurance business as HSBC Insurance focuses on the manufacturing of life insurance products.

In November 2023, our asset management business updated its 2022 thermal coal phase-out policy and released a new energy policy. It continues to focus on its portfolios' scope 1 and scope 2 decarbonisation target for 2030 with the aim of aligning with net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner. The commitment covers listed equity and corporate fixed income where data is most reliable and methodologies are most mature.

In January 2023, we withdrew our commitment to the Science Based Targets initiative ('SBTi'), which we had made in 2016, because we determined that it would not be feasible for us to meet SBTi's requirement to submit a complete set of sector targets for validation by its deadline. We continue to engage with SBTi on guidance for financial institutions and we participated in SBTi's consultation process on its revised standards during the year.

Disclosure revisions
We are committed to timely and transparent reporting. However, we recognise that challenges on data sourcing, as well as the evolution of our processes and industry standards, may result in us having to restate certain disclosures. In 2023, there has been an impact on certain climate disclosures, as follows:

- Financed emissions: we improved our methodology for calculating financed emissions using more granular product identification to isolate exposure in scope, more consistent emission factors for estimates, and a revised aggregation method for emission intensity. Previously reported on-balance sheet numbers included non-lending exposures for market products in error. The more granular product identification will help ensure these are not included in future.
- Financed emissions: to reflect these enhancements we have set out the recalculated metrics for the oil and gas, and power and utilities sectors in the financed emissions section. The oil and gas baseline for on-balance sheet financed emissions is now 28.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ('Mt CO_2e') for 2019 versus 33.0 Mt CO_2e reported in the *Annual Report and Accounts 2022*. The power and utilities baseline for on-balance sheet financed emissions is now 537.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per gigawatt hour ('tCO_2e/GWh') for 2019 versus 589.9 tCO_2e/GWh reported in the *Annual Report and Accounts 2022*. For other sectors, changes were not material enough to warrant a recalculation.
- Thermal coal exposures: we have now revised the basis of preparation for our thermal coal exposures. Aligned with our thermal coal phase-out policy, we applied a risk-based approach to identify clients and report on relevant exposures. Our thermal coal financing drawn balance exposure was approximately $1bn† as at 31 December 2020. We continue to work on our 2021 and 2022 numbers based on our revised basis of preparation and expect to report on these in future disclosures.
- Thermal coal power financed emissions: we have discontinued separate tracking and reporting of thermal coal power financed emissions. A review of the counterparties included within the on-balance sheet financed emissions calculation showed that the majority of thermal coal power entities in scope are included in other financed emission sector targets. We previously set separate targets to reduce on-balance sheet financed emissions for thermal coal power and thermal coal mining aligned to our thermal coal phase-out policy. We plan to maintain a financed emissions target for thermal coal mining only, and have set an absolute on-balance sheet reduction target for 2030 from a 2020 baseline. We used 2020 as a baseline to align with those applied to our drawn balance exposure targets. These targets reflect the percentage reduction that the IEA indicates in its net zero emissions scenario for global emissions to 2030.

Continuing to evolve our climate disclosures
We understand the need to provide early transparency on climate disclosures but we must balance this with the recognition that our existing data and reporting processes require significant enhancements. Due to ongoing data availability and quality challenges, we continue to assess our financed emissions for our real estate and agriculture sectors.

We are engaging with standard setters to support the development of transparent and consistent climate-related industry standards in areas such as product labelling, sustainability disclosures, sustainable finance taxonomy and emissions accounting. Voluntary industry initiatives can also help shape action and collaboration, and often form the basis of future climate policy and regulation. For example, we supported the TCFD, which is now referenced in climate disclosure rules around the world.

In 2024, we will continue to review our approach to disclosures, and enhance as appropriate.

- Shipping: following a reduction in our exposure to the shipping sector after the strategic sale of part of our European shipping portfolio in 2023, and work undertaken to assess the materiality of our remaining portfolio from a financed emissions perspective, we have concluded that the remaining exposure as of year-end 2023 is not material enough to warrant setting a stand-alone target. This aligns with Net-Zero Banking Alliance ('NZBA') guidelines on sector inclusion for target setting.

For details of assurance over our ESG data, see page 43.

For details of our approach to calculating financed emissions and the relevant data and methodology limitations, see page 55.

For details of our sustainable finance and investment ambition, see page 49.

For details of our approach to thermal coal financing exposures, see page 67.

For further details of our asset management policies, see page 67.

† Data is subject to independent limited assurance by PwC in accordance with ISAE 3000/ ISAE 3410. For further details, see our Financed Emissions and Thermal Coal Exposures Methodology and PWC's limited assurance report, which are available at www.hsbc.com/who-we-are/esg-and-responsible-business/esg-reporting-centre.

Net zero in our own operations continued

Emissions from our energy and travel

We report our emissions following the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, which incorporates the scope 2 market-based emissions methodology. We report greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the energy used in our buildings and employees' business travel. Due to the nature of our primary business, carbon dioxide is the main type of greenhouse gas applicable to our operations. While the amount is immaterial, our current reporting also incorporates methane and nitrous oxide for completeness. Our environmental data for our own operations is based on a 12-month period to 30 September.

In 2023, we reduced emissions from our energy consumption and travel to 293,333 tonnes CO_2e, which represents a 57.3% reduction compared with our 2019 baseline. This was mainly attributed to:

- travel volumes remaining low compared with pre-pandemic levels;
- an increase in our consumption of renewable electricity to 58.4%; and
- the reduction of energy consumption as a result of strategic footprint reductions and the implementation of over 450 energy conservation measures, which amounted to an estimated energy avoidance in excess of 12 million kWh.

Emissions from business travel increased compared with 2022, due to the easing of pandemic-related travel restrictions which resulted in a return to travel. A decrease in scope 1 emissions was partly attributed to a correction in the classification of road-based business travel in the UK and India from scope 1 to scope 3.

In 2023, we collected data on energy use and business travel for our operations in 34 countries and territories, which accounted for approximately 96.0% of our full-time employees ('FTEs'). To estimate the emissions of our operations in entities where we have operational control and a small presence, we scale up the emissions data from 96.0% to 100%. We then apply emission uplift rates to reflect uncertainty concerning the quality and coverage of emission measurement and estimation. This is consistent with both the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and our internal analysis of data coverage and quality.

Emissions from our supply chain

Our calculation methodology uses supplier emissions data where we have it from suppliers, through CDP. Where we do not have actual emissions data, we use industry average carbon intensities and spend data to determine their contribution to our supply chain emissions. As more of our suppliers report their emissions, we should be able to include more accurate data and fewer industry averages in the calculation. We have applied a data quality score to the sources of data we used to determine counterparty emissions. For further details, see our GHG (Greenhouse Gas) Reporting Guidance at www.hsbc.com/esg.

In 2022, we disclosed our supply chain emissions for the first time, using supplier emissions data and industry averages where actual data was not available. This approach is heavily dependent on external data sources to calculate estimates of our supply chain emissions.

In 2023, emissions from our supply chain reduced by 3% compared with 2022. This is due to a reduction in spend and an increase in the availability of actual emissions data from our suppliers. Emissions have increased by 13% compared with 2019, as industry averages remain significantly elevated. Due to volatility in industry average data, we will undertake a review of our data sources and methodology during 2024. As supplier emissions reporting matures, we will be able to include more actual data and fewer industry averages in the methodology. Our initial supply chain emission figures may require updating as data availability changes over time and methodologies and climate science evolve.

For further details of our methodologies and relevant environmental key facts, see the ESG Data Pack *at www.hsbc.com/esg.*

Energy and travel greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes CO_2e

	2023	2022	2019 baseline
Scope 1[1]	**16,918**	19,329	22,066
Scope 2 (market-based)[1]	**167,174**	223,334	392,270
Scope 3	**1,090,280**	1,052,264	1,139,260
Category 1: Purchased goods and services[1,2]	**859,256**	865,747	829,635
Category 2: Capital goods[1,2]	**121,783**	144,232	37,617
Category 6: Business travel[1]	**109,241**	42,285	272,008
Total	**1,274,372**	1,294,927	1,553,596
Included energy UK	**5,909**	9,264	10,432

1 *Our data is now presented on an absolute value basis and not rounded values. Data in 2023 is subject to an independent limited assurance by PwC in accordance with International Standard on Assurance engagements 3410 (Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements). For further details, see GHG Reporting Guidance 2023 and third-party limited assurance report at www.hsbc.com/our-approach/esg-information/esg-reporting-and-policies. In respect of data in 2019 and 2022, see our relevant* Annual Report and Accounts.

2 *Supply chain emissions calculated using a combination of supplier emissions data and industry averages. A data quality score is applied to this calculation where 1 is high and 5 is low, based on the quality of emissions data. This is a weighted average score based on HSBC supplier spend and is in line with HSBC's financed emissions reporting methodology. Data quality scores can be found in the* ESG Data Pack.

For further details of our methodologies, our PwC limited assurance reports and relevant environment key facts, see our ESG Data Pack *at www.hsbc.com/esg.*

Greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes CO_2e per FTE

	2023	2022	2019 baseline
Scope 1, 2 and 3 (Category 6)	**1.3**	1.3	2.9
Scope 1, 2 and 3 (Category 1, 2 and 6)	**5.8**	5.9	6.6

Energy consumption in kWh in 000s

	2023	2022	2019 baseline
Total	**772,736**	797,264	913,556
UK only	**209,939**	222,322	281,271