

# Aviva Investors Strategic Bond Fund



LEI	FUND SIZE	AS AT
549300ZLRNTMWVAQ5411	GBP 206m	31/12/2023

## TCFD Fund Disclosures

**This Climate-related Disclosure report outlines the potential climate impact of this investment fund based on the climate metrics recommended by the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD).**

## Fund Objectives & Policy

**Objective:** The Fund will aim to grow your investment through a combination of income and capital returns by investing in bonds issued by companies, governments or supranational organisations, whilst aiming to provide a net return greater than the benchmark over the long term (5 years or more).

The benchmark (the "Index") is a Bloomberg® Composite Index, as detailed below.

**Core investment:** At least 80% of the Fund will be invested in bonds, issued in Sterling or hedged to Sterling, and no more than 60% of the Fund will be invested in bonds which have been independently rated as sub-investment grade with a credit rating below BBB-/Baa3.

Sub-investment grade bonds are typically regarded as being of lower quality and therefore higher risk than "investment grade" bonds, but typically offer a higher yield.

**Other investments:** The Fund may also invest in shares of companies, other funds (including funds managed by Aviva Investors companies), cash and deposits.

Derivatives may be used for investment purposes or to gain a particular market exposure which would otherwise be difficult or costly to achieve, or to manage the Fund's cash flows in a cost-effective manner. Derivatives may also be used to reduce risk, such as foreign currency risk within the Fund.

**Strategy:** The Fund is actively managed, with a flexible asset allocation approach across global bond markets. The Investment Manager will seek to blend the key asset classes including government, investment grade and sub-investment grade bonds to effectively manage the overall risk and reward profile of the Fund.

The Fund's allocation to these asset classes will vary over time, reflecting the Investment Manager's view of both the changing longer-term market outlook and shorter-term opportunities. The Investment Manager will focus on identifying what they judge to be higher quality investment grade or sub-investment grade bonds through assessment of the business strengths and risks associated with the underlying companies, the valuation of the bonds relative to the market, the views of independent risk rating agencies, and any other relevant factors, whilst also taking advantage of short-term opportunities when they arise.

The benchmark provider does not endorse the product, nor confirm the accuracy of the information in this report.

## Climate Risk Strategy

Climate factors are integrated into the investment process and are considered alongside a range of financial metrics and research. The Fund integrates these factors by use of the exclusions based on Aviva Investors' UK Responsible Investment policy including, unconventional fossil fuels and thermal coal which form a key part of the climate mitigation strategy. We manage climate risk across our investments but the fund does not have a specific net zero objective or target and can be exposed to significant climate risks.

For the investments selected within the portfolio we actively engage with these companies and use voting rights with the aim of positively influencing their climate risk strategy and helping to create competitive returns.

## Climate Risk Management

Aviva Investors Global Services Limited, the funds appointed Investment Manager, has ESG-specific controls to perform ongoing oversight and compliance, which contributes to, and supports, the investment functions in the delivery of strong first-line risk and controls management and governance.

Climate change activity for Aviva Investors is incorporated within key business operations such as, Investment and asset management, Engagement and voting, Product development, Client take-on and engagement and Supplier selection and oversight.

Climate factors have the potential to cause harm to our clients by reducing the value of their investments. Inefficient allocation of capital to companies with high external costs, such as those engaged in highly polluting or socially disruptive activities, can lower asset values over time, reducing returns to investors.

For further information on how these risks are mitigated please see page 90 of [Aviva's Climate-related Financial Disclosure](#).

## Climate Risk Governance

Aviva Investors has a strong system of governance, with effective and robust controls.

Aviva Investors UK Fund Service Limited, the funds Authorised Corporate Director, has an independent governance structure to Aviva Investors which allows the Board, management committee and senior management to integrate climate related risks and opportunities into its strategy, decision making and business processes.

When Aviva Investors UK Fund Service Limited appoints an investment manager to manage a product they are required to demonstrate that effective Climate, ESG and responsible investment policies are in place and climate risk management is embedded into the investment process.

For further information on how we integrate ESG please refer to the Aviva Investors UK Fund Service Limited's Responsible Investment policy which is available on our website and in the prospectus. Please see our Responsible Investment Policy available here. [Responsible Investment Policy](#).

Please see page 90 of [Aviva's Climate-related Financial Disclosure](#).

## Fund Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The table below show the key measures used to evaluate the Greenhouse Gas emissions impact of the fund.

Climate Metrics	Unit of measurement	31 Dec 2022		31 Dec 2023		Trend
		Data Coverage %	Amount	Data Coverage %	Amount	
Total scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions	tCO2e - shown in thousands	80%	4.47	75%	3.04	▼ -31.92%
Total carbon emissions	tCO2e - shown in thousands	80%	4.47	75%	3.04	▼ -31.92%
Total carbon footprint	tCO2e / £million invested	80%	43.83	75%	30.38	▼ -30.69%
Weighted average carbon intensity	tCO2e / \$million Revenue	88%	75.03	87%	46.06	▼ -38.61%
Sovereign absolute GHG emissions	tCO2e - shown in thousands	100%	26.05	100%	20.11	▼ -22.79%

Climate Metrics	Unit of measurement	31 Dec 2022		31 Dec 2023		Trend
		Data Coverage %	Amount	Data Coverage %	Amount	
Sovereign Intensity	tCO2e / £million PPP adjusted GDP	100%	296.44	100%	319.79	▲ +7.88%

Trend analysis may not always be available, meaningful or relevant depending on the basis of the data and the comparison. There are various factors that could influence trends and direction including macro-economic factors.

\* In 2023 we have updated our methodology for Total carbon footprint and Sovereign intensity to be reported in pounds sterling (£) rather than US dollars (\$). This reflects the functional and presentational currency of our Product reporting. The comparatives have been re-presented on a consistent basis.

PCAF score for scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions is 2 for Equities and Bonds & 2 for Sovereigns.

**Data sources** – please see information on data sources shown later in this document. **Note** – Zero balances may be a result of rounding.

**Carbon Emissions Metrics Explained:** We use the following metrics to measure the collective carbon impact of the fund's holdings, calculated according to TCFD standards, which in turn are based on the internationally accepted [GHG Protocol](#):

Metric	TCFD Definition, based on GHG Protocol
Scope 1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tonnes)	Direct GHG emissions that occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the company.
Scope 2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tonnes)	GHG emissions from the generation of purchased electricity consumed by the company.
Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tonnes)	GHG emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the company, but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the company. For Scope 3 see below.
Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tonnes)	Total of Scopes 1 and 2. For Scope 3 see below.
Total Carbon Footprint (Metric Tonnes per £1M AUM Contribution)	Total carbon emissions for a fund, expressed in in tCO2e / £million invested.
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (Metric Tonnes per \$1M Revenue)	Volume of carbon emissions per million dollars of revenue (carbon efficiency of a portfolio), expressed in tonnes CO2e/\$M revenue.
Sovereign absolute GHG emissions	Attributed ownership of the sovereign's PPP-adjusted GDP in tonnes.
Sovereign Intensity	The issuing country's GHG intensity tCO2e / £million invested.

## Top 3 Carbon Emitting GICS sectors

**For Equities and Corporate Bonds, we can break emissions down by sector. We use the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) system, and measure all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, not just carbon.**

Metrics have been prepared for £134m of the Equity and Corporate Bonds.

The 3 largest (scope 1 & 2) carbon emitting Global Industry Sectors of the fund in Equities and Corporate Bonds are:

GICS Sector	WACI tCO2e / \$m Revenue*	Contribution to Portfolio WACI%	Assets holding £m	Assets exposure %**
Utilities	262	29	6	4
Communication Services	27	13	27	20

GICS Sector	WACI tCO2e / \$m Revenue*	Contribution to Portfolio WACI%	Assets holding £m	Assets exposure %**
Energy	365	9	1	1

**Data sources** – please see information on data sources shown later in this document. **Note** – Zero balances may be a result of rounding.

\*Carbon Intensity data is available for scope 1 & 2 emissions only.

\*\*Sector information is unavailable for 14% of the fund’s Equity & Corporate Bonds Assets.

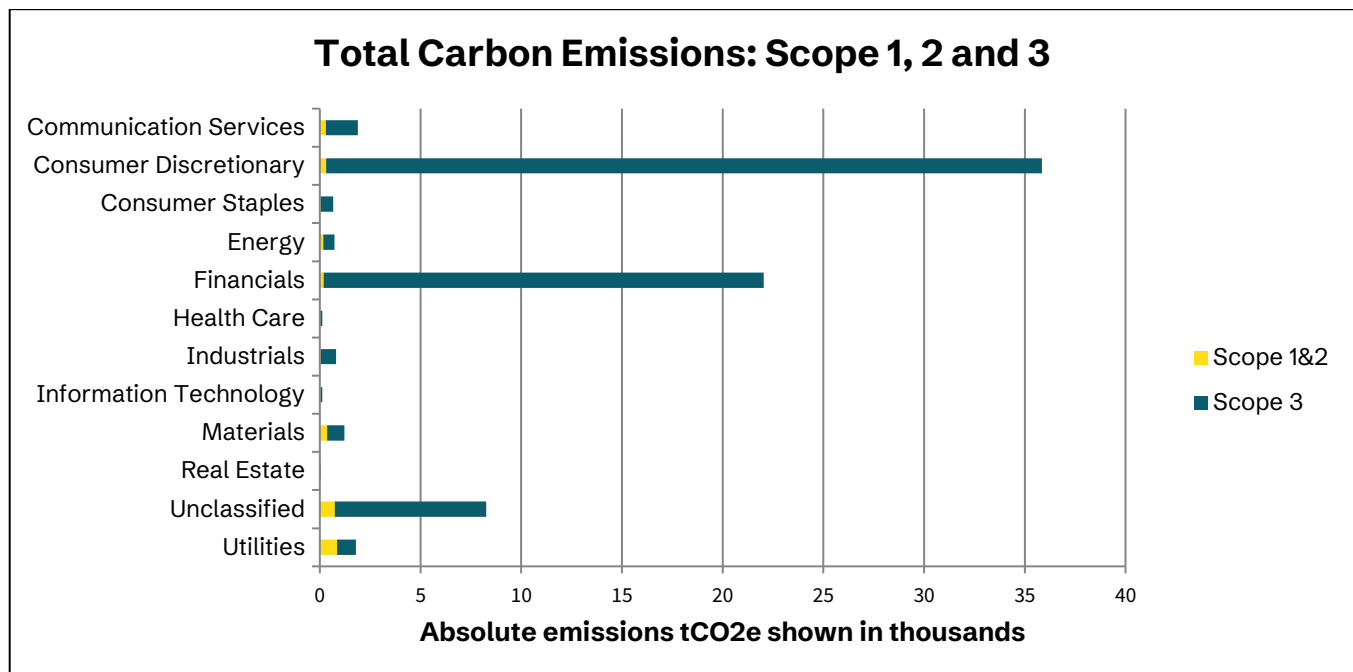
## Total Carbon Emissions: Scope 3

### Scope 3 Disclaimer

Estimating Scope 3 emissions of an investment fund is subject to a significant degree of measurement uncertainty. Scope 1 & 2, and Scope 3 metrics are calculated within the limits of available data. All the Scope 3 emissions data is estimated by MSCI, our market data provider. The majority of Scope 1 & 2 data is gathered from reported company data. The two metrics are reported separately to minimise the effects of double counting associated with Scope 3 emissions. Double counting occurs due to underlying investments being held in companies who may share value chains.

## Total Carbon Emissions: Scope 1, 2 and 3

This sector analysis of the Scope 1 & 2, and Scope 3 emissions data illustrates that the largest proportion of carbon emissions are Scope 3 emissions. Scope 3 emissions are outside of a single company’s direct control. Addressing Scope 3 emissions will need collective action from industry, governments and global organisation, as well as individual company action.



If all Scope 3 emissions associated with the Equities and Corporate Bonds held in this investment fund are added, they would amount to 70.49 tCO2e (shown in thousands), including double counting emissions across company value chains. The data coverage is 75%. The data quality score is 4, as all Scope 3 emissions are estimated.

## Product Scenario Alignment

Indicating the likely implied temperature rise associated with a fund's investments is inherently complex, it is a rapidly evolving metric which has to include a host of assumptions by its very nature, guidance on how best to calculate this forward looking indicator is improving all the time, but currently we do not feel it appropriate to publish this data as it risks being potentially misleading and in any event would be heavily caveated and only indicative of a range of potential temperature rises and subsequent associated scenario's given the uncertainty of forecasts for the global economy to decarbonise. We intend to publish the implied temperature rise (ITR) of our investment products in subsequent years once we have designed a suitably robust methodology to represent the most likely possible future decarbonisation pathway of a representative basket of assets for a fund based on its sector, asset class and/or investee company specific projected decarbonisation pathways and other relevant carbon intensity data such as the likes of progress against the Science Based Target Initiative.

In the meantime the most decision useful information to enable comparison between funds based on their implied temperature rise is to use independent research that compares funds using the same methodology, this is freely available from climate data providers such as MSCI as per their ESG fund ratings and climate search tool <https://www.msci.com/our-solutions/esg-investing/esg-fund-ratings-climate-search-tool>. Comparing funds ITR scores from different firms which may be using proprietary models and differing assumptions could produce misleading results in that near identical funds could show very different numbers based on the method and bullishness of the model used and assumptive inputs.

## Climate Value-at-Risk

Climate Value at Risk (Climate VaR) has emerged as a measure to estimate the potential financial losses that a company or portfolio of assets could incur as a result of climate change, we are currently evaluating the robustness of this measure and intend to publish it for future iterations of our fund level TCFD reports once we are comfortable the data has sufficient coverage and quality and once we have fully understood the potential limitations and weaknesses of the metric so we can present it in a suitable way. This includes ensuring the appropriate time horizon of the indicator and the appropriate scenarios are reflected in the output in a way that ensures it is not potentially misleading.

## Other Metrics

There are countless options rapidly developing that are designed to convey climate risks and opportunities, we will keep this metrics under review and where they are deemed to be decision useful we will endeavour to incorporate them into our future reporting suite in conjunction with formal adoption of additional data by TCFD and other disclosure standards boards and regulations.

## Climate Metrics

Our key climate figures show the carbon emissions for each investment fund. Metrics are disclosed for Equities and Corporate Bonds and Sovereigns. There are three types of emissions we consider: Scope 1 (direct), Scope 2 (indirect) and Scope 3 (from a company's value chain).

Climate metrics include estimates of emissions and climate change, for more details, our reporting approach and cautionary statements are provided in the Aviva plc Climate-related Financial Disclosure 2023 report available at <https://www.aviva.com/sustainability/reporting/>.

## Useful Link

[Aviva's Climate-related Financial Disclosure](#)

## Data sources

### Use of MSCI Data

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Refer to Aviva's reporting policies and criteria in note 14 of the Aviva plc Climate-related Financial Disclosure 2023 report, available at <https://www.aviva.com/sustainability/reporting/>, for further details on the use of MSCI data, we have used climate and other data from MSCI ESG Research LLC or its affiliates or information providers.

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