



ESG sustainability report FY 2023





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The report is disclosures performance on issues material to Weightmans and using the applicable SASB sector standards for 'professional services' (VERSION 2023-12). We confirm that the voluntary disclosures in this report are in line with the UK Limited Liability Partnerships Climate-related Financial Disclosure Regulations 2022

weightmans.com ESG sustainability report

We're a top 40 UK law firm, with more than 1,500 people working from our offices in Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester and Newcastle.

Largest office – 100 Old Hall Street, Liverpool, L3 9QJ

Ownership – Limited Liability Partnership formed in 2007. Further details can be found here

Countries of Operation – UK and Ireland

Our Structure

The Board Legal operations Client relationships Business services

Risk and compliance

Financials FY 2022/23

Please refer the Annual Report 2022/23 for our financial performance. Our accounts are audited by competent external auditors and overseen by our Risk & Compliance Committee.



Introduction by Peter and John

We are extremely pleased to present our ESG report for FY 2022-23 to our stakeholders and take this opportunity to thank all our clients, suppliers, charity partners and our people who have been contributing to the all-round growth of Weightmans. Our vision is to become one of the most socially responsible and environmentally conscious national law firms of the UK and to realise this vision, we are looking to enhance our key policies and procedures. Through this ESG report, we have disclosed our processes in governance, procurement and contracting, climate action, support for communities, diversity and inclusion with focus on gender equity and health, safety and well-being of our people.

We have taken a management system approach towards identified material issues wherein we periodically review our plans for advancing actions on material issues with lens of resourcing, competency enhancements, KPIs setting and assurance & review processes to drive continuous improvement. Our firm wide learning programme on ESG and then undertaking team-wise bespoke sessions on ESG for legal professionals have been instrumental in putting material ESG issues for collective action of our people.

Climate action is a concern for most of our stakeholders especially our clients and for our people. The report highlights our progress on integrating climate related risks into our firm-level risk matrix – both physical and transition related risks. At operational level, we are pleased to report progress through our management system certifications – ISO 14001 (environment management system) and ISO 50001 (energy management system). For our clients, we recognise that being a supplier of legal services, we essentially form scope 3 carbon emissions of their overall footprint. And our commitment to become net zero by 2030 and initiatives like partnering through Greener Litigation Pledge (GLP) will certainly be of assistance to our clients who have similar commitment towards climate action.

We also recognise that diversity is a challenge for the legal sector but we are constantly evolving through the work done by leadership led by four employee groups on gender equity; race, ethnicity and cultural heritage; support for LGBTQ+; and disability and mental well-being. We remain committed to sharing the relevant information material to our stakeholders, but we also recognise that there are data gaps related to material issues, and we are working to resolve them for the future disclosures.

Undertaking external sustainability rating through Ecovadis or similar will continue to be a Board KPI for the firm as it enables us to benchmark ourselves within the markets we operate and provides us an assurance on the progress made in ESG integration into the firm's operating model. Going forward, through our ESG Advisory Group, we intend to drive internal and external collaboration on our ESG strategy and action plans.

John Schorah, Managing Partner Peter Wake, Senior Partner



John Schorah, Managing Partner



Peter Wake, Senior Partner



About us

We are a law firm with a long and proud heritage. Founded in 1827, we've grown from our Liverpool roots to become a leading national law firm. As a progressive firm, we're committed to our clients and our people, as well as constantly looking at ways of improving the service we provide.

Our vision and values

We aim to be a top 30 law firm with clients at the heart of everything we do. We will invest in our people to take care of our clients and excel at meeting client needs.

As a socially and environmentally conscious company, **corporate social responsibility** and **environmental responsibility** are important to us and we are proud to have a thriving programme in each of these areas.

Our values





Radical Transparency

Teamwork & Respect

Ent

Enterprise

Recent awards won

Large Law Firm of the Year — Manchester Legal Awards 2024

Private Client Team of the Year — Manchester Legal Awards 2024

Best Apprenticeship Programme in Professional Services — Apprenticeship Guide Awards 2024

Mental Health & Wellbeing Initiative of the Year — Legal 500 UK ESG Awards 2024

Law Firm of the Year — Legal 500 Northern Powerhouse Awards 2024

The Problem Solver Award for North East England Chamber of Commerce — British Chambers Awards 2023

Debt Recovery — Yorkshire Legal Awards 2023

Private Client — Yorkshire Legal Awards 2023

Corporate Law Firm of the Year — Insider North East Dealmakers Awards 2023

Private Client Team — Wills & Probate — Private Client Modern Law Awards 2023

Best Law Firm for Work/Life Balance — Legal Cheek Awards 2023

Business Diversification Award — North East Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2023

Our Purpose

At Weightmans, we believe thinking differently allows us to see the possibilities others don't. We see the possibility for envisioning a better future, for better relationships and in people, whoever they are. We see the possibility in everything.

Discover how we live and breathe our purpose every day: See the Possibility | Weightmans

4 in weightmans



Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy

Scope

Our vision is to become one of the most socially responsible and environmentally conscious UK-based law firms. We believe that focus on good governance, responsible sourcing, health, safety & wellbeing, diversity, equity & inclusion at workplace and environmental footprints reduction across our offices is paramount to our business success. We will maintain an ESG policy which is regularly reviewed and updated, and communicated to key stakeholders – staff, key clients, contractors, and suppliers. Support for the implementation of this policy is sought from all employees and value-chain partners. As a minimum, we will conform to all the applicable legal and regulatory requirements of the UK

Environmental Responsibility

We are committed to achieving 'Net Zero' across our legal services value-chain by 2030, to help in keeping global warming below 1.5°Celsius. Through our environment and energy policy, we will reduce our environmental impacts by:

- Measuring and taking actions to reduce all organisational carbon emissions within the scope 1, 2 and 3 of greenhouse gases boundary.
- Measuring and applying principles of 'Reduce-Reuse-Recycle' for continuous improvements in the waste management.
- Using energy resources mindfully and pursue our best efforts to reduce our environmental footprints.

Diverse, Equal, Inclusive & Healthy Workplace

Guided by the United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Bill of Human Rights and the ILO's Declaration on fundamental principles and Rights at Work, we will always strive to be a fair, respectful, and inclusive business, encouraging an organisational culture that values teamwork, mutual respect and transparency, by:

- Maintaining policies such as our diversity & inclusion policy, dignity at work policy and modern slavery policy, recognising that all forms of harassment and modern slavery are unacceptable.
- Continuing to maintain a complaints policy and a grievance procedure for all our people and contractors, to access the right channels for any issues, concerns, or suggestions, supported by our speak-up and whistle-blower protection policies.
- Maintaining health & safety policy supplemented by initiatives for mental wellbeing and policies such as flexible and hybrid working suiting the needs of people and their families.
- Hiring without prejudice, as per our recruitment policy, and providing a platform for learning and career progression for all our colleagues.



Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy

Community relations

We are committed to making a positive contribution to the communities close to our operations, and maintaining cordial relationship with our stakeholders, by:

- Maintaining a CSR Policy to engage and add value to local communities and charities close to our operations.
- Encouraging people to volunteer time and skills for identified community support activities.
- Providing employment and training opportunities to locals, where possible in business operations.

Good governance

We will continue to demonstrate radical transparency and good governance by:

- Maintaining a business ethics policy to build a relationship of trust with our stakeholders.
- Informing our stakeholders transparently on our progress to tackle material ESG topics and related UN Sustainability Development Goals.
- Maintaining holistic risk matrix and mitigation plans and policies to address business risks including risks due to climate change, human rights issues, corruption & bribery, money laundering, fraud, conflict of interest, information security and privacy.
- Undertaking internal and third-party assurance activities for good governance on financial and material non-financial aspects.

Responsible Procurement

We will source products and services for delivering our own legal services to our clients in a responsible way, by:

- Engaging our suppliers and contractors on our expectations on environmental, social and governance aspects through our Supplier Code of Conduct or by assessing Suppliers' equivalent procedures.
- Recognising that bribery and corruption in any form is unacceptable and check supplier risks related to environmental impact, data protection & privacy, money laundering, labour rights, and compliance to our modern slavery statement.
- Undertaking measures to support our suppliers to improve their social and environmental performance; and move away from the suppliers who do not demonstrate commitment to comply to our standards, in line with our Supplier Management Policy.

Peter Wake, April 2024 (Senior Partner on behalf of Weightmans LLP)



Our Structure



Weightmans is structured into three essential divisions: Client relationships, Legal operations and Business services.

Client relationships is supported by marketing and business development, and is organised into seven segments, namely built-environment, corporates, health, insurance, public bodies, owner-managed businesses and individuals.

Legal operations teams are responsible for litigation, transactions, advisory and claims work we do. They are organised into 10 sectors, namely, regulatory, large loss, litigation, healthcare, disease, corporate commercial, real estate, casualty, motor and EPI (employment, pensions and immigration). **Business services** provides support to the firm by managing facilities, information systems, data services, HR, learning and development, knowledge management and finance functions (credit control, billing & revenue assurance, legal/management accounts, accounts payable and financial management). Risk & compliance and ESG functions are mapped into business services as they work across departments.

Both these functions are overseen by Board members: Our General Counsel is the head of risk and compliance and firm's senior partner oversees ESG with support from our Head of ESG.

ESG Advisory group

Formalised by the Board in May 2024, the ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Advisory Group will help Weightmans pursue its long-held ambition to be one of the UK's most socially and environmentally conscious law firms. This includes ensuring the business meets its many strategic priorities in this area, such as its commitment to becoming Net Zero by 2030, as well as developing an understanding of how an evolving ESG landscape can be integrated in practice to its service offering for clients.

Read more on: Weightmans announce ESG Advisory Group

weightmans.com



The team with ESG responsibilities consists of the following

Managing Partner

John Schorah, Managing Partner at Weightmans is the sponsor of the ESG programme. John sits on multiple steering committees put in place to advance various ESG objectives for the firm.

Senior Partner

Pete Wake, has been the Senior Partner at Weightmans since April 2024 and has been with the firm since 2001. Peter's expertise involves acting for local authorities across the country, fire and rescue authorities, education establishments and housing providers. As Senior Partner, he is the Chair of the ESG Advisory Group and is the designated Board member to deliver the ESG integration.

Facilities Head

Lorraine Wells is responsible for health and safety management system and for delivering the firm's net zero action plan. She is supported by office managers, a competent external consultant and a number of internal stakeholders to drive actions related to Net Zero. She is also the custodian of our ISO 14001 (environmental management system) and ISO 15001(energy management system) certifications.

CSR Lead

Peter Forshaw, Partner leads our CSR works to support the communities we operate in. Peter is responsible for maintaining Weightmans's CSR policy and procedure. His key areas of focus in relation to CSR are partnering with charities to benefit under served, support young and disadvantaged people in our communities to enhance their vocational and personal development, engage and support staff on CSR and partnering with like-minded clients on common CSR objectives.

HR Director

Helen Taylor, leads the initiatives impacting our people. She has the responsibility for the HR, learning and development and knowledge management teams, at the firm. Helen and her team deliver the firm's agenda in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), mental well-being and ESG integration.

General Counsel and Risk & Compliance Lead

James Holman, has 30 years of experience representing legal professionals in litigation and regulatory matters. Over the last 15 years, he has developed the firm's risk management department, becoming Compliance officer for Legal Practice (COLP) in January 2013, a full-time role since 2018. James is our MLCO and ultimately responsible for our PI insurance programme, Lexcel, ISO27001, ISO22301 and all interactions with Regulators and Ombudsmen. James helped design our Audit and risk committee and sits as an advisory member. In 2022, he was appointed General Counsel and took up a position on the Board as strategic head of risk.

Lead for Legal ESG Services

Simon Colvin, Partner, heads the energy and utilities sector services and leads the firm's legal ESG services. Simon is a Fellow of IEMA and provides expert advice on concerning topics like Greenwashing and Corporate Sustainability. Simon and his team work closely with organisations including large utilities, project developers, funders, new energy services companies, local authorities, resource/waste companies, major energy consumers, and water/ waste water companies providing commercially focused legal advice to help them benefit from the opportunities created by market regulation, policy and other market drivers. Simon is also a member of the Global Alliance of Impact Lawyers (GAIL).

Head of ESG

Abhay Srivastava, is responsible for the firm's ESG strategy and integration into the firm's operating model. He supports all of the above stakeholders in advancing firm's ESG objectives. Abhay is a qualified Sustainability Professional with work experience on ESG strategy and impact investments, ESG assurance & disclosure/reporting, clean energy and transportation programme management, carbon management and infrastructure projects.



Commentary by Head of ESG

Having completed the review of materiality assessment based on the concepts of double materiality, we were able to identify strategic priorities for us as a firm. Unsurprisingly, strong governance and business ethics emerges as the most highly rated material issue by our stakeholders. In this report, we disclose our key processes and policies on driving governance elements relevant to our firm. I can comfortably say that I am pleased with the key governance processes at the firm.

Climate change is another top rated issue where we are improving continuously. We have been disclosing our emissions across scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 in the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report (SECR) for three years now, integrated into our Financial Statements. While we have committed to become Net Zero emissions by 2030 against our baseline of 2019, there are opportunities identified in data recording and management of all the significant Scope 3 emissions. Use of renewable energy at our offices continues to be a priority action item on which we have made progress, in addition to reducing carbon emissions from our business travel.

Abhay Srivastava

Head of ESG

Responsible procurement that has been identified as a material issue for the firm and its stakeholders involves looking at our own consumption patterns of goods and services, and our engagements with suppliers. While aspects like basic ESG due-diligence is in place along with an integrated Code of Conduct for Suppliers, support for smaller and strategic suppliers has been identified as an area requiring further work along with establishing a baseline of ESG performance of our suppliers. Some work is being done to partner with suppliers having good ESG credentials and put a process in place to conduct performance reviews incorporating ESG aspects with the contract holders.

Our materiality assessment led us to the three topics related to our people and the communities we operate in: gender equity, other diversity and inclusion aspects (LGBTQ+, race/ethnicity, social mobility and disability) and health, safety and wellbeing. Within Weightmans, gender initiatives are integrated into the wider DE&I group, which includes groups supported by the leadership, working on race, ethnicity and cultural heritage, along with support groups for LGBTQ+ and for focusing on disability and mental health. In this report, we have disclosed our performance on these material topics. Through our pro bono and CSR programme, we continue to support vulnerable and less resourced people on aspects such as health, wellbeing, protecting rights of women and girls and homelessness.



Material issues and our Strategic priorities

We conducted a materiality assessment with the objective of establishing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) topics that are relevant and a priority for us and our stakeholders.

We identified and prioritised ESG topics in two ways to address double-materiality:

- Topics that have a particular economic, environmental, or social impact on our business; and
- Topics that our stakeholders value when making a decision to work with or for us.

Our process

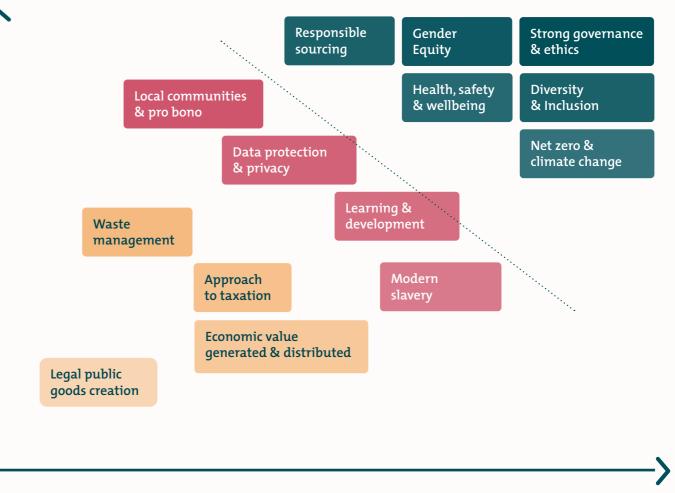




Material issues and our Strategic priorities

We recognise that all the ESG topics identified are important to the various stakeholders' groups consulted namely our suppliers, clients (inclusive of public bodies), our people and community partners. We have taken their feedback and highlighted the following areas as the material topics for our legal services business in terms of either risk, opportunity or potential to make a significant ESG contribution.

Importance to Stakeholders

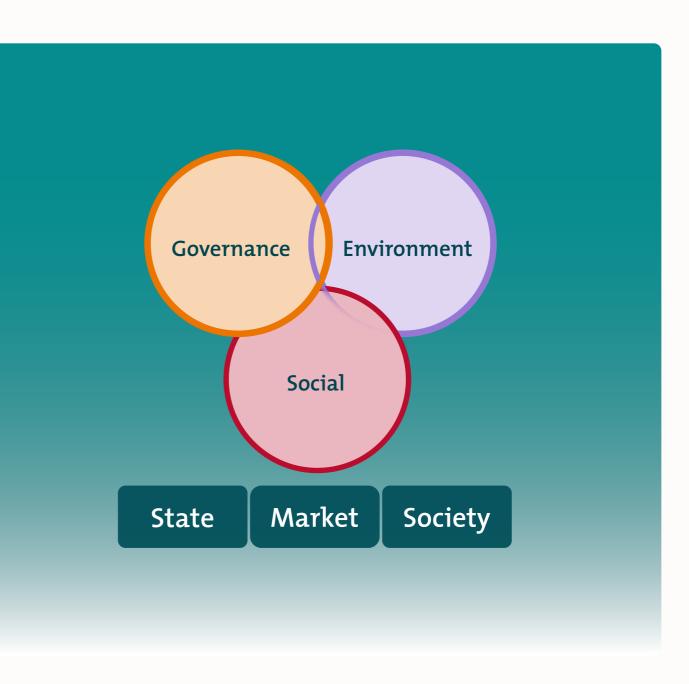


Impact on Weightmans



Our ESG Principles

- ESG factors are becoming increasingly important and are attracting a huge focus when it comes to the deliverability of business activity. Our stakeholders are attaching more importance to the ESG performance and commitment of firms like ours before partnering with them.
- Our ESG principles are the foundation of our legal services offering, to enhance stakeholder value and to help us contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We partner with stakeholders in each of the categories identified by the UN, namely 'State', 'Market' and 'Society', as part of our commitment to contribute to the SDGs.





Key ESG Priorities

For 2022-25, we have established the following ESG priorities around which we are building key initiatives, metrics and targets that will make our performance measurable, so that we can be held to account by our stakeholders.

Environment Environmental considerations are becoming fundamental to the provision of legal professional services, with Net Zero and climate change ranking as material issue with most of our clients $: \bigcirc \stackrel{\sim}{\ominus} \bigoplus \bigoplus$ **Strategic priorities** Progress on Net Zero emissions plan • Net zero emissions ISO 14001 & ISO 50001 management . **Circular economy** Collaboration for low carbon future. . **Social** Enhancing social value for the communities we operate in, and care and wellbeing of our people will continue to remain high on our agenda °°°° ♥♥ ♪ × **Strategic priorities** Further enhance diversity and inclusion in the workplace • Support our people with a safe and healthy work environment **Gender equity** Health, safety & wellbeing Enhance gender equity at all levels within the firm • **Diversity & inclusion** Support our local communities. • Maintaining trust with our stakeholders is vital to our success. Our processes Governance and internal controls help us conduct our business with integrity and provide guidance for our staff to do the right thing at all times. We recognise the importance of integrating such high standards across our value chain. **Strategic priorities**

Strong governance & ethics Responsible sourcing

- Ensure effective governance function across the firm
- Conduct in transparent and ethical manner
- Responsible sourcing.



Material topic

At Weightmans, we have put sustainability at the heart of our business. Our ambition is to be one of the most socially and environmentally conscious national law firms in the UK. We have chosen to adopt the SDG framework to help us achieve our goal. Achieving the SDGs will be the outcome of our focus on the identified material ESG topics. The image below explains our approach to mapping the relevant SDGs to our identified material ESG topics.



Good governance and ethics

Good governance and risk management is central to the regulatory regime under which we operate. We are committed to ensuring effective risk management within the firm and all our people have a role to play because the integrity with which we achieve success is as important to us as the success itself.

Weightmans is committed to results for our clients and success for our people. Our Board leads discussions on topics which are a mix of the triple bottom line, concerning our clients, our people, suppliers, community and the financial sustainability of the firm. We achieve this agenda of integrating corporate sustainability by the means described below, with clear ownership and accountability from our Board members and senior leaders at the firm.

Relationship with our people and contractors:

Our commitment to our people is that they should feel respected, well managed, understood and able to do their best. Our people are provided with appropriate information and training where necessary.

The firm maintains multiple policies and procedures to:

- Treat people fairly and respect their rights.
- Promote direct communication and consultation.
- Promote equality of opportunity in our workforce.
- Aim to achieve high levels of employee satisfaction through encouragement, development and training where required.
- Maintain clear disciplinary and grievance procedures.
- Endeavour to ensure that dignity at work and mutual respect are enshrined in our working practices, particularly in the way we behave towards each other.
- We encourage anyone to raise any concerns for the firm to look at, and there will be no repercussions for raising concerns in good faith.

Key policies & procedures: Dignity at work policy, terms & conditions of employment, grievance procedure, health & safety policy, diversity & inclusion policy and flexible working policy.



Good governance and ethics

Relationship with our clients

Our objective is to build relationships of trust, value and affinity with our clients. To achieve this, the firm has implemented the following practices:

- Have in place a Client Listening Programme to understand our clients' needs and expectations and to improve the way we work with our clients' and a Client Matter Feedback programme to enable clients' to feedback on individual matters.
- Aim to anticipate the future requirements of clients and promote innovation and technical excellence whilst providing the best possible value for money.
- Plan for contingencies and address any problems in an urgent and professional manner.
- Respond promptly to client requirements and continually strive to further improve our performance.

Key policies & procedures: Quality policy/manual, risk management policy & compliance plan, terms and condition of sale/purchase, SRA code of conduct, Data Protection/Privacy Policy that is GDPR/UK GDPR Compliant.

The way we work:

Our objective is to be recognised as an organisation which is law abiding, accountable and responsible. To achieve this, the firm is committed to:

- Abide by the law and ensure our operations, practices and procedures comply with relevant legislation, regulations, and codes of best practice.
- Ensure decisions are taken by personnel who are duly authorised and accountable.
- Consider the social, ethical and environmental implications of our activities.
- Respect human rights wherever we operate.
- Trade and compete fairly, working with our clients and suppliers to improve our social, ethical, and environmental awareness.
- Not tolerate bribery or corruption.
- Be a good neighbour and contribute to the well-being of our society.

Key policies & procedures: ESG policy, CSR and pro bono procedure, induction policy, anti-corruption code and process on anti-money laundering risks, and whistleblowing policy.

Ratio of the annual total compensation for the organisation's highest paid individual to the median 5.75 annual total compensation for all employees (excluding the highest paid individual)

Ratio of the percentage increase in total annual compensation for the organisation's highest paid individual to the median percentage increase in annual total compensation for all employees (excluding the highest paid individual)

James Holman, General **Counsel and Money Laundering** Compliance Officer (MLCO)

'Our Business Ethics Policy is designed to help ensure we live up to our values, build a relationship of trust with investors, clients and suppliers, and protect our reputation. We also recognise that there are risks inherent in almost every aspect of our practice. It is impossible to remove all risks. Our aim is comprehensively to identify the risks we face to manage them. Where possible, we want to reduce the probability of those risks occurring and/or limit their impact should they occur, through our Risk Management policy and compliance plan."

16

0.53



Latest Ecovadis rating

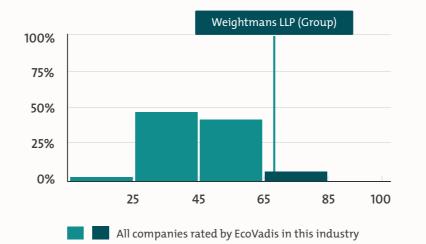
Weightmans was rated by Ecovadis on four aspects of ESG – environment, labor & human rights, business ethics and sustainable procurement. We are happy to report that we received 99 percentile along with a Platinum rating in this assessment.

While the assessment identified a number of good practices in all of these four areas, it highlighted that work is to be done on the procurement pillar. We would need to expedite our action plans on responsible procurement to be at par with other pillars of ESG, material to our firm. The progress is considered on-track by our leadership towards integrating ESG principles into our operating model.





Overall score distribution



"External assessments like Ecovadis help us understand our ESG performance including key areas of strength and areas which require improvements, along with measuring our ESG performance against industry benchmarks set by the rating providers. The report produced as part of this assessment is also helpful in disclosing our progress on various aspects of ESG/Sustainability to our key clients and other stakeholders."

Abhay Srivastava, Head of ESG



Tackling corruption and money-laundering risks

At Weightmans the ultimate target/goal for anticorruption is to continue with a zero tolerance policy towards it. The aim is to ensure that Weightmans have no instances of breaches and to always be 100% compliant with the Bribery Act 2010. Our Board member and General Counsel, James Holman is the firm's Anti-corruption officer (ACO) and Money Laundering Compliance Officer (MLCO), with Michelle Garlick being responsible for the anti-corruption policy and working as our Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO) responsible for making disclosures to the National Crime Agency (NCA) under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). In addition to these all our people at Weightmans have a responsibility for ensuring that they are 100% compliant with the act.

The ACO is responsible for driving compliance with our anti-corruption policies and monitoring compliance with our Anti-Corruption code. ACO reports annually to the Board on the anti-corruption measures and issues annual statements on developments in law and practice where appropriate. ACO is also responsible for ensuring the delivery of training to everyone annually. To tackle corruption risks, following are in place at Weightmans:

- Anti-Corruption Code details our approach to deal with donations and sponsorships. Weightmans prohibits the making of donations to any political party. Weightmans prohibits any donation, gift or hospitality for personal use which might influence or be seen to influence any contractual matter.
- Annual risk assessment of the likely risks of corruption arising in our practice and sharing of the findings to raise awareness of risks and threats. Adequate training is undertaken by new joiners and existing people on recurring basis.
- ACO works with leaders at the firm to identify areas of the practice which may be susceptible to the risk of bribery and corruption as well as market sectors and geographical locations from which these risks might arise.
- In the event of suspected bribery or a corruption incident arising, the process is in place to conduct an investigation and report to the Board with recommendations and where appropriate report to the law enforcement authorities.
- Review existing processes to combat potential or actual risks and identify changes required to both our practices and procedures.
- Weightmans uses the platform created by Dun & Bradstreet to manage and deliver verification searches on bribery and money-laundering risks.
- Weightmans also utilises the Government UK Sanctions and OFAC sanctions Lists to check that they are not acting for people on any of these government lists.

Michelle Garlick, MLRO

"We have zero tolerance towards bribery and corruption and we use all reasonable endeavours to conduct our business responsibly by ensuring that no-one engages in or facilitates any form of bribery, corruption or moneylaundering. This includes providing adequate training and awareness to all our staff, engaging our Board on key processes and policies and ensuring compliance to our code, legislation and regulations."



Tackling corruption and money-laundering risks

The following are the key aspects of our policy and procedure on anti-money laundering (AML):

- Our AML firm wide risk assessment identifies and assesses the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing to which the firm is subject.
- We apply one set of rules to all client acceptance activity. This is a risk-based decision to demonstrate our wish to avoid any discretion in client acceptance to permit a client to slip through our checks. The detail of how we open new matters including Customer duediligence (CDD) for any client is detailed in our AML Handler's Guide.
- In no case may we commit a client to exchange of contracts nor may we accept client money (except on account of fees) before due diligence is complete.
- Our case-handlers are trained to understand the nature of the transaction and required to complete our Customer due-diligence (CDD) processes including an understanding of source of wealth and source of funds.

The process is informed by a review of:

- Information made available by the Law Society, including the Legal Sector Affinity Group Anti-Money Laundering Guidance for the Legal Sector, the SRA, including the SRA sector risk assessment and other national and international guidance and risk assessments;
- Our client base and sectors they operate in.
- Where geographically we operate.
- Our products and services.
- The transactions we engage in.
- How we deliver our services.

The compliance to our AML procedure and associated risk data is reviewed by our MLCO on a monthly basis.

No of confirmed corruption/fraud/ money laundering incidents*	0
No of confirmed whistleblowing incidents	0
No of significant data security incidents	ο

*During the financial year 2022-23, the firm had no incidents of corruption, thus no dismissed/disciplined people, terminations of business partners or public legal cases



Case study: Lexcel



The Law Society

Excellence in legal practice management and client care

WEIGHTMANS LLP

is certified as a scheme member recognised by the Law Society of England and Wales



L Harr Louise Hanson Executive Director of Member Experience

Valid from: 31 October 2023 Valid until: 30 October 2024 SRA ID: 463329 We have recently secured Lexcel re-accreditation which is our legal practice quality mark for client care, compliance and practice management. Lexcel is designed to be a driver of competitive advantage in an increasingly competitive and diverse legal market and helps lawfirms evolve their operating methods so that we can offer our clients a clear and distinctive assurance of quality.

The assessment process is incredibly thorough, covering seven key areas:

- Client care.
- Risk management.
- People management.
- Structure and strategy.
- Financial management.
- Information management.
- File and case management.

"Lexcel provides a scalable foundation from which our Board can be confident of our governance structure and that everything we do sits within a managed framework, supported by policies and procedures, monitored by rolling audit and annually subjected to external verification."

James Holman, General Counsel



Responsible sourcing

We contract with a large number of third party suppliers who provide services to us and our clients. These include services procured and outsourced by Information services (IS), Marketing, HR and Facilities as well as service procured for clients for example from counsel and experts. In order to protect interests of our clients and procure services in line with our other priorities, we maintain a Supplier Management Policy and a Supplier Code of Conduct, to integrate procurement with the following key policies/procedures:

- AML obligations (anti-money laundering).
- Anti-Corruption Code (Bribery Act 2010).
- Diversity and inclusion Policy.
- Environmental policy.
- Health and safety policy.
- GDPR compliance.
- Modern Slavery Policy.
- Criminal Finances Act 2017.
- Information Security Policy.

The Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ), provided by Weightmans assess supplier's credentials prior to accepting or declining their services. This pre-contracting due-diligence is designed to evaluate the following for our potential suppliers, in addition to other regulatory and commercial checks:

- Suitability (conflict of interest, business continuity plan, AML & corruption risks).
- Regards for equality, diversity and living/minimum wage.
- Monitoring of social and environmental impact due to the suppliers' activities.
- Compliance to modern slavery and other aspects of the human rights, including health & safety of workers.
- Environmental and climate risks management.
- Data protection and information security.

Our Annual Supplier Review Questionnaire (ASRQ) which is to be completed by the suppliers classified as "medium" and "high" risk, revisits above aspects on the annual basis.

We are currently working to strengthen our procurement processes and conduct a baseline of impact assessment for understanding potential negative social and environmental impact of our key suppliers.

Joanna Saunders, Contracts Manager

"Partnering with our suppliers on ESG is important to our own ESG credentials as there are a number of local suppliers with whom we work, will require assistance in embedding fundamentals of ESG into their own value-chain. This is an area which no firm can develop by having an inward facing program. We at Weightmans are constantly working to improve our supplier engagement processes, in a manner that supports interest of all stakeholders including the communities we work in and our planet."

Total suppliers (actively managed)	117
Total actively managed suppliers who have signed Code of conduct	75.2%
Annual supplier reviews and assessment	89.8%



Case study: Stories Evolved

Stories Evolved: women owned ESG consulting and training provider

- Since 2022, we have been working with Stories Evolved, a women owned business to develop and deliver bespoke workshops on ESG for our various teams at Weightmans. They were contracted following a competitive assessment process managed by our Procurement in consultation with the head of ESG at Weightmans.
- So far, five workshops have been delivered targeting our teams from insurance, energy & utilities, financial services, corporate clients, owner managed businesses, employment/pensions/immigration (EPI), built environment, transport & logistics, innovation, marketing & business development and HR.

Key processes in place:

- Team training and upskilling plan.
- Supplier code of conduct.
- Pre-qualification questionnaire and due diligence (incl sustainability and modern slavery risks).
- Supplementary clauses on information security, ESG and sustainability risks are part of contracts.
- Annual assessment and review incl of ESG/sustainability issues.
- KPIs monitoring along with contract holders (contract performance monitoring).
- Annual objectives of contracts and procurement team includes integration of ESG/sustainability into buying processes.

'We have thoroughly enjoyed working with Weightmans teams while designing and delivering bespoke upskilling workshops on ESG. The experiences have been engaging with a view to advance understanding of risks and opportunities from the ESG issues that are relevant to the legal industry and to the industries of Weightmans' clients.'

Christina Bartholomew, Co-founder at Stories Evolved



Climate action

Weightmans is committed to the Paris agreement, set out to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, by:

- Reducing absolute GHG emissions by 50% before end 2025 (against 2019/20 baseline).
- Achieving Net Zero GHG emissions before end 2030 (against 2019/20 base) with a maximum of 20% reduction in emissions achieved by offsetting.

The firm has adopted the 4-pillar strategy set out in the Exponential Roadmap Initiative's 1.5 °C Business Playbook.

- Pillar 1: Focus on the firm operations to reduce own emissions (Scope 1 and 2).
- Pillar 2: Focus on LLP activities to reduce value chain emissions (Scope 3).
- Pillar 3: Integrate Climate into business strategy by alignment to net zero.
- Pillar 4: Contribute to positive climate action beyond the business by supporting industry.



Weightmans LLP assets associated with its emissions include:

- Leased office premises in Liverpool (head office), Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester, and Newcastle. All premises are shared with other tenants.
- Back-up generator (Liverpool).
- A fleet of one vehicle. The LLP car choice is restricted to less than 125g CO2e/km. The remainder of people drive their own vehicles (grey fleet).
- Home worker emissions.
- Outsourced services such as those from external data storage.

Emissions data does not include emissions associated while attending meetings at client premises/ third parties.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.

Analysis of the data shows that Scope 1 emissions account for 14.11%, Scope 2 account for 46.35% and Scope 3, 39.54%. In scope 3 emissions, business travel, employee commute and home working emissions are the majority emissions. Waste generated from operations contribute about 1.6% to the total baseline emissions. Scope 3 data reported includes business travel, employee commute, home-working emissions, and waste generated in operations.

Emissions	Total (tcCO2e)
Scope 1	173.34
Scope 2	569.36
Scope 3	485.71
Total Emissions	1,228.41

Baseline year emissions: 1,228.41 tCO2e. This equates to 11.88 t CO2e per £m revenue.

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Net Zero(NZ) Action Plan

Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2019 baseline. The carbon emission reduction achieved by these schemes equate to 270 tCO2e, a **32% reduction** against the 2019 baseline and the measures will be in effect when performing the contract.

- Implementation of ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certifications.
- Energy awareness campaigns.
- Better alignment of Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) controls to occupancy and demand.
- Procurement of green electricity.
- Upgrading lights to LED (light-emitting diode).
- Consolidating office space following transition to Agile working across the organisation.
- Use of teleconferencing software to avoid business road mileage.
- Adoption of an Energy and environmental management policy.

Future Carbon Reduction Initiatives

In the future we hope to implement further measures such as the following carbon emissions Management Hierarchy:

- Eliminate this includes avoiding mileage using ICT (Information and communications technology).
- Reduce this includes behaviour change and improving efficiencies.
- Substitute this includes adopting and/or purchasing renewable energy, including moving all electricity to 100% renewable suppliers.

Compensate – this includes removal of residual emissions by off-setting using credible schemes.

Reporting Year: Financial year 2022/23

Emissions	Total (tcCO2e)
Scope 1	78.89
Scope 2	312.83
Scope 3*	59.07
Total Emissions	450.79

* Total emissions include only category 6: business travel emissions under scope 3 of PPN o6/21 technical standard. Plan is being progressed to record other scope 3 categories into the subsequent years reporting.

Consumption pattern using intensity factors

Performance FY 2022-23

- Electricity: 128.97 kWh/m2 (+22.1% vs base).
- Gas: 28.53 kWh/ HDD (+8.77% vs base).
- Mileage: per £m turnover is 1.79 vs 19/20 base of 3.35 (-46.5%).
- Printing: 2,475 sheets/FTE vs 19/20 base of 10,986 (-77.5%).
- Paper: 3,670 per FTE vs 19/20 base of 8,505 (-57.0%).

Simon Colvin, Partner & ESG Legal Services Lead

'I have been an environmental lawyer for nearly 20 years and have seen the rise of the sustainability and now ESG agenda particularly in the last few years. As a firm we recognise we need to get our own story right and I believe we have done that, although we are constantly evolving and improving.

We are now looking to support our clients and others with their own ESG needs.



Waste and energy mix

Location	Total recycled	Total in landfill
Birmingham	100%	0%
Glasgow	done by council	done by council
Leeds	100%	0%
Leicester	100%	0%
Liverpool	100%	0%
London	100%	0%
Manchester	100%	0%
Newcastle	100%	0%

Using BS 5906:2005 Waste Management in Buildings, waste generated = 1463 tonnes

Reporting Parameter	Reporting Year: 2022-23	Reporting Year: 2021-22
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions	 2,283,093 kWh, of which: Electricity: 1,617,691 kWh Gas: 419,707 kWh Transport (100. company car and grey fleet): 245,694 kWh 	2,801,803 kWh, of which: Electricity: 1,664,901 kWh Gas: 996,404 kWh Transport (company car and grey fleet): 140,499 kWh

Note: Information based on Statutory Instrument 2014 No.1643 and BS EN 16247-1:2012. Emission conversions are based on the UK Government carbon conversion factors.

Location	RE mix for FY 22-23*
Birmingham	100%
Glasgow	54%
Leeds	34%
Leicester	49%
Liverpool	16%
London	49%
Manchester	100%
Newcastle	54%

- Electricity and gas 'absolute' consumption reduced by 26.9% compared to the previous reporting period.
- Business miles travelled per £m turnover increased to 1.79 (from 1.21) compared to the previous period, but is still 46.5% below the 19/20 baseline of 3.35. This increased in response to the removal of Covid-19 travel restrictions.

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*RE mix data based on public disclosure of the utilities firms



Case study: The Greener Litigation Pledge (TGLP)

We know that as a supplier of the legal services, the emissions incurred by us form part of the scope 3 emissions for our clients. Tackling this aspect of scope 3 emissions require partnering with the clients and with the wider legal community to challenge status quo and drive an industry wide transition. The Greener Litigation Pledge aims to deliver this envision.

Weightmans is a signatory of the Greener Litigation Pledge, a commitment to reducing the environmental impact of dispute resolution and litigation in England and Wales.

The Pledge is the first action taken by the "Greener Litigation Project," a collective of solicitors' firms, chambers and other dispute professionals which aims to reduce the carbon footprint of court disputes in line with the objective of restricting global warming as set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The Weightmans Greener Litigation Group has been formed to help the firm achieve the pledge commitment.

More information available here

Weightmans Greener Litigation Group's objectives are as follows:

- Help reduce the environmental footprint and GHG emissions of our practice in litigation and more generally working towards net zero.
- Promote environmentally sustainable options so that they become the default position.
- Support TGLP's work on various committees and steering groups.
- Encourage participation from clients and other parties too.

'As supplier of legal services, we essentially contribute to indirect carbon emissions of our clients (identified as scope 3 emissions). This pledge looks to partner with various entities in the legal value chain in order to reduce carbon emissions arising from litigation services.

Measuring and monitoring scope 3 emissions is not very straightforward and requires collaboration with like minded entities in the legal sector. We are committed to developing a framework as part of the Greener Litigation Project to manage emissions in this part of legal services'

Simon Colvin, Partner



Case study: Empower

Rising energy prices, the net zero agenda, and the prospect of energy intermittency are driving businesses to reassess how they procure their energy supplies. We act for energy consumers in all sectors, specialist energy services companies (ESCOs), funders and developers implementing energy management projects as part of a sustainability strategy to achieve key priorities such as reducing carbon emissions, improving their reputation, generating income streams, protecting against volatile energy prices and reducing utility costs.

How we can help

We offer a range of services that can help you including:

- Energy contract reviews and an assessment of the related rights/options.
- Advice on energy regulation, dispute resolution and litigation.
- The engagement and appointment of energy consultant to undertake decarbonisation feasibility studies, and
- Advice in relation to the procurement and financing of decarbonisation solutions as well as advice in relation to any required consents and how to structure any projects.

Our energy lawyers work closely with organisations including large utilities, project developers, funders, new energy services companies, local authorities, resource/waste companies, major energy consumers, and water/waste water companies providing commercially focused legal advice to help them benefit from the opportunities created by market regulation, policy and other market drivers.

Please visit Weightmans website to know more.

Download free guidance for the occupiers of commercial premises when considering the installation of solar systems.



'We help our clients to implement their key priorities, such as reducing their carbon emissions, generating income streams, protecting against volatile energy prices, reducing their utility costs and becoming more energy efficient and sustainable.

Our **Empower** campaign here at Weightmans brings together these decarbonisation and energy service strands as we help guide our business clients on the road to net zero while reducing their energy costs.'

Nick Fothergill, Partner



Support for Communities and our people

Responsible person and structure:

Our HR Director, Helen Taylor, who is part of the leadership team and a Board member at Weightmans is responsible for the delivery of social value. She is supported by Peter Forshaw, a Partner (senior colleague) in the firm who is leading the CSR programme nationally.

- CSR activities and CSR funding in each office is overseen by a CSR committee of people and the Regional Office Head for that office.
 Each committee will work to the strengths of their office culture, locality and contacts to ensure the most effective realisation of our CSR policy.
- A member of each committee forms part of the Office Representatives Group, which meets with the CSR Partner on a monthly basis, in order to share experiences, ensure consistency of policy implementation across offices so far as is possible, and to agree on any changes to national policy. The meetings are minute'd and notes are circulated to CSR representatives for easy reference.

We have a CSR policy and procedure document, which highlights the primary components of the firm's CSR aims as following: -

(a) Partnering local charities, to fundraise and promote their plight.

(b) Working with young, and disadvantaged, people in our communities to enhance their vocational and personal development.

(c) Engaging and supporting our staff who wish to support other worthy causes.

(d) Working alongside like-minded professionals and clients to further social value for local communities.

And as part of our staff volunteering policy, we provide up to two working days (or pro rata) paid leave per financial year to enable staff to take part in local charitable/social enterprise volunteering activities. Leave can be taken in full or half days or by the hour.







Support for Communities and our people

Resources deployed for social value delivery:

We work with a variety of stakeholders to deliver social value – charities, non-profits, industry associations and our people inclusive of Board members, who volunteer their time & take pro bono assignments to benefit communities in which we operate.

We are signatories of two sites – Trustlaw, a Pro Bono platform for Thomson Reuter, and Pro Bono Connect, part of LawWorks. The organisations entitled to be promoted on them have already been through some due diligence.

We have been directly working with identified charities to reduce inequalities and to deliver health and well-being for the communities we operate in.

For FY April 2022, we have raised approximately £49,000 and for FY April 2023, we raised £62,000 in fundraising for charitable causes clocking 2956 volunteering hours.





'I am extremely proud to be leading the motivated and enthusiastic CSR teams at Weightmans. As National CSR lead, my priorities are to develop and improve where necessary, the firm's CSR and pro bono processes, to support our CSR teams at each office, who are the true champions driving the firm's CSR programme.

I also coordinate support for selecting specific CSR projects based on internal assessments by identifying required legal expertise or capacity and whether the project or the charity being supported has alignment to our CSR policy which is benefiting the young and the disadvantaged people in the UK or to our diversity and inclusion strands, particularly around mental health and social mobility.'

Peter Forshaw, Partner and CSR Lead



Supporting Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) UK

The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) is a unique non-profit that improves the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people by bringing the industry together in grant giving, volunteering and leadership. IICF UK is a registered charity in England & Wales (no. 1163896) and is affiliated with IICF, a charity in the United States that has served as the philanthropic foundation and voice of the insurance industry for more than 25 years.

Partner at Weightmans LLP, Kieran Jones is a Board member for the IICF. They provide strategic direction, actively contribute to the Foundation's growth and influence the impact IICF creates and nominate social mobility charities to receive an IICF grant.





'I am delighted to support IICF which enables me to give something back by its work with and support for charities focused on education and social mobility. Whilst it is an "insurance" charity, unlike others importantly its mission is to those outside the industry. For FY 2023, our grants to 14 charities have helped over 1,300 people nationwide– and I am super happy and proud to be associated with IICF.'

Kieran Jones, Partner



Charities we supported for FY 2022-23



'We wanted to say a huge thank you to you and everyone at Weightmans for choosing Refuge as your Charity of the Year last year. We are completely blown away the incredible fundraising efforts undertaken by your team, which resulted in over £8,400 being raised for our cause.'

Message from Team Refuge



Social mobility

Early careers at Weightmans

Our Apprenticeship Academy provides social mobility routes into the legal profession.

It offers modern, cost-effective routes into the legal profession. You have the opportunity to earn while you learn and gain invaluable skills that will help you to quickly progress in your legal career.

We currently offer:

- Paralegal apprenticeship (2 year programme).
- Solicitor degree apprenticeship (6 year programme that includes a degree and the SQE 1 & 2).
- Graduate solicitor apprenticeship (32 month programme that includes the SQE 1 & 2).
- Business services (IT and finance) apprenticeships coming soon!

With all of our apprenticeships, you will have one day each week dedicated to off-the-job study and you will then gain work-based experience on the four remaining days, thus enabling you to learn from leading experts in the legal field.





Weightmans prides itself on the innovative work it does to nurture and develop future talent. We see the possibility in our people from the very start of their careers and understand that investing in and supporting them gives the best preparation for a long and successful career.

It has been over a decade since we launched our first apprenticeship programme and we were an early adopter of the Solicitor degree apprenticeships in 2020 and they are now an integral part of our talent pipelines.'

Helen Taylor, HR Director



Supporting Action Tutoring

Action Tutoring is a charity that supports disadvantaged young people to achieve academically, with a view to enabling them to progress in education, employment or training.

- They do this by partnering high-quality volunteer tutors with pupils to increase their subject knowledge, confidence and study skills. Weightmans has been partnered with Action Tutoring since 2021. We play a vital role in creating change for pupils up and down the country. We are pleased with the difference we have made for the past two financial years.
- For academic year 2022-23, our staff delivered 99 sessions to support 61 pupils (Year 6, 10 and 11) in the UK via Action Tutoring.
- Liverpool Office also supports the Right to Read programme at St Anne's Primary. We support a number of careers fairs and have worked in the past with Social Mobility Foundation/Prime to inspire youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds to the legal sector.

We are proud to announce that we are ranked #20 in the Top 75 Employer Index, by The Social Mobility Foundation - the leading authority on employer-led social mobility.

We continue to work hard to:

- Take action to improve social mobility within our organisation.
- Act on advice to ensure we recruit and retain the UK's best talent.
- Play our part in building a more equitable society for everyone.

Social mobility continues to be a high priority for the firm as we look towards the future and continue our work to break down barriers and make law as accessible as possible.

A great deal of work has been undertaken by our HR team to drive this brilliant result!

Read more here.

Partnership with GROW Mentoring

It is a fundamental part of our DE&I focus that we support future generations, particularly those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, through mentoring.

We are pleased to announce that Weightmans is partnering with a charity called GROW Mentoring, who support diverse and socially mobile university students (many of whom are from backgrounds or who identify in ways compatible with our D&I Strands) with their journey towards entering the legal profession. GROW currently partner with several other national and international law firms, and our partnership is a key step in the firm's ongoing commitment to DE&I issues.

Partnership with Everton in the Community

We are an official partner of Everton in the Community and will work together with the charity to launch a pilot programme which will work with young children — from birth to primary school age — to help bridge the education gap exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The nurture project will tackle education inequality with its delivery focusing on confidence, experience through physical, outdoor and technology learning, as well as skills and knowledge through movement and literacy.

The funding received from Weightmans will enable Everton in the Community to increase its employability support available through a fortnightly Job Centre Plus 'Jobs Fair' at The Blue Base Pantry with skilled employability trained staff onsite to support local people in their search for employment and/or to improve their economic status. The funding will also support the charity in addressing the needs of young people by helping to create more flexible approaches to working such as shift and hybrid working patterns. We supported EiTC with sponsorship to help create a Lego themed room for pre-school children in the new Digital Skills Lab. The new Lab has been a roaring success with over 750 people ranging in age from 2-89 attending sessions and learning new skills in the last six months and it's great that we have been able to play a small part in that happening.

EiTC have reported that every £1 spent has generated £29.86 in societal value which means that the support Weightmans has given to the Digital Skills Lab has generated £447,900 of societal value,

EITC – Internships

The Early Careers team partnered with EITC to deliver an introductory session to law and Weightmans to 60 students across Liverpool. These students were invited to apply for an in-person summer work experience programme.

15 students were selected to go through to the next stage which took place in Goodison. The final stage was at our Liverpool office and was a mini assessment centre and saw us make 9 offers for the summer work experience programme.







Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Weightmans has a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion policy, that states Weightmans does not discriminate because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (which includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins), religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

The policy states that in regards to recruitment the process is designed to ensure that all candidates are assessed objectively against standard, job-specific criteria to ensure a clear and transparent selection process has been followed. To underpin this the people involved in the process are trained in equal opportunities and diversity best practices.

Opportunities for training, development and career progression are open to everyone. Coaching and mentoring programmes are also available to everyone at the firm. Skill analysis and learning record database available for all our people and performance monitoring is in place for all staff.

From a monitoring and review perspective the policy states that diversity information is collated and published biennial and is reviewed against relevant external benchmarks on a regular basis and appropriate action is considered, where gaps in the firm's demographics are identified.

Weightmans has a DE&I steering committee that meet every guarter and reviews the targets that have been set by our HR Director, Helen Taylor. Weightmans diversity and inclusion group is split into four DE&I strands as below:

- Disability and Mental Wellbeing.
- Gender.
- REACH
- LGBTQ+.

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We also have over 50 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champions who volunteer to support our Strand Leads in delivering their overall plan.

"We are passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) and we believe the principles of our core values are underpinned by the desire to make DE&I part of the lifeblood of the firm. Our core values of radical transparency, teamwork & respect and enterprise are reflected in our demographics and the publication of those demographics.

Creating a truly inclusive culture at Weightmans, one in which everyone can bring their true selves to work is vitally important to the success of our firm and our people.

Our commitment to our DE&I plan and programme is what makes our Firm such a great place to work and we are passionate about celebrating the fantastic diversity we have across the firm. Everyone in the firm brings something unique and when we combine that together it is extremely powerful.'

Sue Gould, Head of HR



"We are passionate about creating an inclusive environment for all of our people, one in which we can be ourselves, and know there are no barriers to progression. We want to be a firm which truly understands and reflects the diversity of the communities in which we are based and the clients that we work for, and our DE&I programme is essential in driving this ambition. Our DE&I programme should empower and motivate us, as well as honour everything that makes us who we are."

Helen Taylor, HR Director



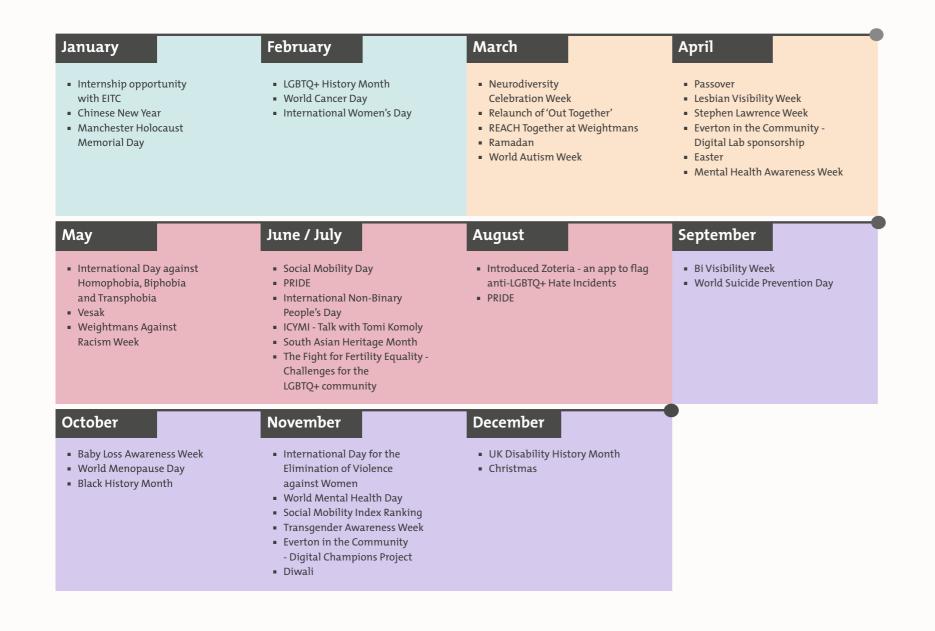


Affinity groups and network

Coverage: 100% of staff across our offices

Women/gender	 Women In Law Pledge and Girls Network.
Ethnic minorities	 Black Solicitors Network – Grassroots Programme and we are a signatory to the Business in the Community (BITC) Race at Work Charter.
Social mobility	 We work closely with The Social Mobility Foundation (and all our Trainees are part of its mentor scheme). We are working with the Legal Step Up programme to promote access to legal careers for those from under- represented communities. We also work closely with Everton in the Community.
LGBTQ	 We are a Stonewall Diversity Champion. Friends of Dorothy and the GROW Mentoring Programme.
Disability	 We are members of the Business Disability Forum and the Disability Confident Scheme.

Our initiatives and events for FY 2022-23





Key initiatives

We maintain following policies and procedures to support our staff on a range of DE&I areas:

- Working conditions.
- Health & safety policy.
- Flexible working policy.
- Hybrid working policy.
- Dignity at work policy.
- Grievance procedure.
- Menopause policy.
- Paternity & Maternity policies.
- Dependant Bereavement Emergency
 Compassionate Leave Policy.
- Overtime policy.
- Modern Slavery policy.
- Diversity & Inclusion Policy.

Education

- Further education policy.
- Leadership Academy programme.
- Access to accelerator programme & academy by the United Nations Global Compact.

Skills & training

- General training policy.
- Induction policy.
- Mandatory courses for all staff including ESG/Sustainability e-learning.
- Promotion procedure.
- Objectives and individual development plan.
- Access to our electronic Learning Management System (LMS), which hosts a range of sectoral and individual development related courses.

Other key initiatives include:

- All of our people complete an online awareness session with an assessment at the end to prove understanding on diversity, equity and inclusion.
 All of our leaders are trained in bullying in the workplace, discrimination in the workplace and equality in recruitment.
- We have trained 50 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champions across the business.
- We are signatories to the Law Society's Diversity and Inclusion Charter, and we are Stonewall Diversity champions.
- We are also members of: The Black Solicitors' Network, Signatories of Business in the Community's Race at Work Charter, Members of the Law Society's DE&I Forum, Members of Disability Confident, Members of Business Disability Forum. Engagements from these forums help us advance our works in equality, diversity and inclusion.
- BPP Ambassador Project mentoring young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in Yorkshire and the Northeast.
- We have 36 apprentices enrolled with a further 16 applications approved for legal, business, IT and finance positions.
- Client apprentices receive networking and mentoring support as well as the chance to swap roles with our apprentices.

Sejal Raja, Partner in Employment team, Co-Lead Gender DE&I strand and Representative of London office for DE&I programmes

"Without diversity in the workplace, organisations can miss out on a wide range of opinions, perspectives, skills and life experiences. I would like to use this platform, my life experiences, and my seniority to show that together we can make a difference and play a part to ensure that we have a really inclusive work place."



In focus: Weightmans in Top Employers of 2024

Certified by Top Employers Institute, a global authority on recognising excellence in people practices.

- Weightmans has been recognised as a Top Employer in the UK for the 17th year in a row and has ranked in the top ten again.
- The Top Employers Certification programme run annually by the Top Employers Institute, a global body – recognises and celebrates outstanding people-centric policies and practices that have created positive workplace environments around the world.
- Organisations are assessed on the results of a HR Best Practices Survey, which covers six HR domains and 20 individual topics, including people strategy, work environment, talent acquisition, learning, diversity, equity & inclusion and wellbeing.
- Weightmans' success in the rankings follows a year of continued growth, which saw the law firm increase total revenues by 22%. This has been supported by the firm's merger with RadcliffesLeBrasseur in 2022, which has seen it successfully integrate teams and embed new technologies. The firm also continued to champion colleagues' professional development – with 22 people promoted to partner or legal director.

More information here.



Helen Taylor, HR Director

"We are immensely proud to be certified as a top employer for the 17th year in a row, and to once again be in the top ten in the UK.

"It's a direct reflection of the investment we continue to make in our people and processes. But ultimately, it's down to the support, engagement, hard work and dedication of every one of our colleagues across the business – those who make Weightmans a fantastic place to work and allow us to continue to see the possibility in all we do and inspire our clients and our people"

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Gender Equality

Gender Equality is one of Weightmans material topics relating to sustainability reporting. According to Un.org "Women and girls represent half of the world's population and, therefore, also half of its potential. Gender equality, besides being a fundamental human right, is essential to achieve peaceful societies, with full human potential and sustainable development. Moreover, it has been shown that empowering women spurs productivity and economic growth".

Initiative/programmes/projects

Weightmans hold various events for DE&I throughout the year these include some of the following relating to gender:

- International Women's Day.
- Equal Pay Act 1970.
- International Men's Day.
- UN International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- World Menopause Day.
- Baby Loss awareness week.

Number of employees by Gender

Gender	Representation Target for FY 2025	Progress as at July 2023
Board	30%	27%
Equity	30%	15%
Fixed Share Partners	40%	43%
Total Partnership	40%	40%



'I think it is extremely important to break down the barriers that are often connected to the legal profession, due to a reliance on "who you know" and not on personal skills and potential.

I want to ensure that recruitment and retention with a focus on breaking down bias associated with gender is at the forefront of policy within the firm. I want to ensure that those women are supported from the outset and throughout their career.'

Eve Burns, Gender strand lead



Leadership Academy

We have three core programmes this year in our Leadership Academy. Engage, Excelerate and Visionary and this year based on feedback we have introduced a new programme called Empower. The Academy is key to supporting our progression opportunities for all colleagues and remains a popular choice for females representing 60% of the cohorts over the past two years, of which 20% have since been promoted into senior roles.

New Talent Programme - Empower

We introduced a new talent and development programme within our Leadership Academy for Associate level, called Empower. This is in addition to our current Engage (roles to Solicitor level), Excelerate (Associates and Principal Associates) and Visionary (Partners) programmes. Designed following feedback from focus groups and engagement surveys, with a focus on supporting continued career development. We have 75% females in the pool of candidates.

New Mentoring Programme

We launched two new mentoring programmes over career mentoring for those in early stages of their career and reverse mentoring for more junior colleagues. The mentors and mentees are provided training, regular catch ups and support during the programme which is designed to encourage career development. Living Wage Accreditation: As a living wage employer, we have provided pay increases to our lower earning population, which is separate from the annual pay review cycle. Our commitment to paying the Real Living Wage has ensured the gender pay gap remains non-existent for our lower earners. We also look to increase salaries to the recommend level earlier than the required timescales where possible.

Engagement: Our engagement surveys help us to listen to our colleagues on how we can improve, and this is followed up with focus groups in locations where Engagement is lower than the norm. We are always looking to continuously improve, and feedback helps us refine our approach to support and developing female colleagues in building their careers.



Baby loss awareness week

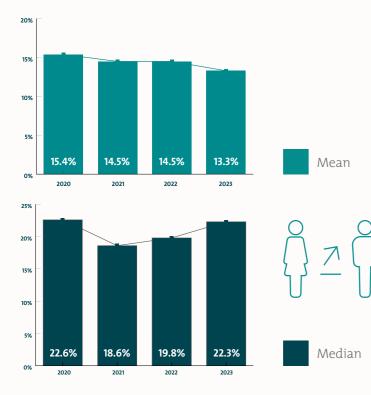
In recognition of baby loss awareness week (9 -15 October) we announced that we have committed and signed up to the Pregnancy Loss Pledge. By signing up to the pledge we have committed to:

- Encourage a supportive work environment where people feel able to discuss and disclose pregnancy and/or loss without fear of being disadvantaged or discriminated against.
- Understand and implement the rules around pregnancy-related leave, ensuring staff feel able to take the time off they need.
- Show empathy and understanding towards people and their partners experiencing pregnancy loss.
- Implement a pregnancy loss policy or guidance, or ensure it is included in sickness, bereavement or other workplace policies – being mindful of the needs of partners, too.
- Encourage line managers to access in-house or external guidance on how to support someone experiencing pregnancy loss.
- Support people back to work by being responsive to their needs and showing flexibility wherever possible.



Gender Pay Gap

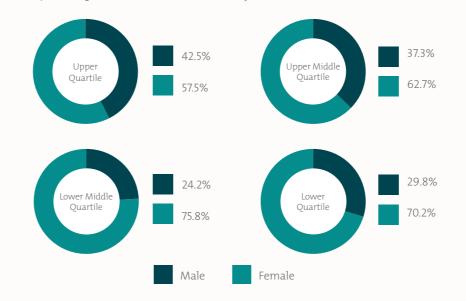
Weightmans gender pay gap for Employees in April 2023 is:



The mean, known as average, has decreased by 1.15% since last year and 5% since 2019. Whilst the median, known as middle, has increased by 2.5% since 2019, largely as a result of changes in gender distribution on the snapshot date.

Employee Pay Quartiles

This shows the proportion of male and female colleagues split into four quartiles, ranked from highest paid hourly rate to lowest paid. This is the percentage of men and woman in each quartile.



Whilst there has been a slight decrease in the female population, this does not reflect that females dominate the higher earners, with females earning more than men across three of the four quartiles. Two out of five of the highest earners in this population are females.

What has contributed to these numbers?

The decrease in the mean gender pay gap over the past four years reflects the positive actions that we have taken on attraction, retention and development of our females and our market leading family friendly policies. We also have a challenge in the number of female staff who will be excluded each year as they are on maternity leave.

The median gender pay gap is primarily driven by the gender shape of our firm. With a smaller male population, the median (mid-point) of both genders is not vertically opposite. The median for males reflects a higher role in the hierarchy compared to the median for females, they are not like for like roles i.e. roles of equal value. Comparing the median gender pay gap for roles of equal value, shows the gap is more favourable to females due to a higher population. The gap has also been impacted by a number of factors described in our comprehensive report on our website found here.



Other DE&I policies

In addition to DE&I policy there are numerous other policies relating to DE&I specifically aimed at gender and supporting our employees. Each policy is reviewed annually and updated if needed after thorough consultation. These policies can be found below:

- Transgender Policy.
- Menopause Policy.
- Fertility Treatment Policy.
- Parental Leave Policy.
- Adoption Policy.
- Paternity Policy.
- Maternity Policy.
- Dependant Bereavement Emergency
 Compassionate Leave Policy.
- Baby Loss policy.

Further support is provided on case to case basis and through dissemination of information on external support available through:

- The National and local Domestic abuse help centres.
- Support for male survivors.
- Specialist support for LGBT+ survivors.
- Support for honour-based abuse.
- Support for children and young people.
- Support for Black, Asian and ethnically diverse women.
- National Stalking Helpline.
- Revenge Porn Helpline.

Grievance mechanism

Weightmans maintains an internal grievance process that is accessible to everyone at the firm. This is also supported by our Whistleblowing policy and Speak-up policy where colleagues can raise issues via an external confidential services. From a compliance perspective any grievance related claims are reporting to James Holman on a monthly basis by HR and are included in HR MI pack. Partnering with the London office charity, Refuge, the largest domestic abuse organisation in the UK supporting thousands of women and their children, helping them to overcome the physical, emotional, financial and logistical impacts of abuse and rebuild their lives — free from fear. Their team gave a very powerful talk on Women's Day and also provided us with information on what to do if you, or someone you know is currently experiencing domestic abuse. In FY 2022-23, we organised multiple fundraisers for Refuge.

London charity quiz night raising £3000 for the office charity Refuge | 7 February 2023

We had close to 200 clients and Weightmans people attend on the night and 24 teams competing! Guests included clients from across most of our segments, with a great turnout from our Healthcare and Police clients, amongst others. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive.



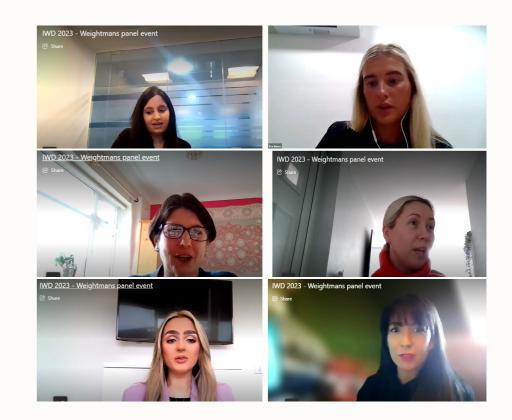
For women and children. Against domestic violence.



Weightmans panel event on Women's Day

We were delighted to invite six of our colleagues to a live Q&A webinar which was live streamed across many of our offices. The inspiring session was filled with lots of hints and tips given from their personal experiences.

- Ingrid McGhee, Partner.
- Molly Fletcher, Trainee Solicitor.
- Aasha Jassi, Solicitor.
- S-J Howitt, Partner.
- Jenny Byfield, Partner.
- Eve Burns, Trainee Solicitor.





REACH (Race, ethnicity and cultural heritage)

Our goal is to set up a network across all the offices for people who identify as REACH to engage, share their views, and seek the support of colleagues nationwide who share an affinity with them.

We recognise that it is not always easy to speak about finer non-work or behavioural issues with colleagues who perhaps do not identify as REACH. Equally, some may feel more comfortable speaking to those who share their particular REACH identity.

REACH strand has been engaging a number of volunteers and DE&I champions to deliver all-employee engagements and support groups covering aspects of ethnicity, race and diverse cultural heritage.



Number of employees by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Representation Target for FY 2025	Progress as at July 2023
Firm wide	20%	10.70%
Equity	10%	4.2%
Partnership	15%	4.6%
	1370	4.070

'Having been invited to various external events, it is clear to see that the legal profession is moving in the right direction and positive actions are being taken. Individuals are now being applauded for speaking out about various issues, which traditionally would not have been the case.

Weightmans is keen to ensure that we have diversity, equity and inclusion throughout every level within the business. This can only be done if we all work together in achieving this goal. We are all on this journey together and each of us has a part to play in it.'

Basiru Terry, REACH strand co-lead



REACH (Race, ethnicity and cultural heritage)

In focus: Signatory to the Race At Work Charter

Since April 2020, Weightmans is a signatory to the Race At Work Charter which asks businesses to make a public commitment to improving equality of opportunity in the workplace. Signing up means taking practical steps to ensure our workplaces are tackling barriers that ethnic minority people face in recruitment and progression and that our organisation is representative of British society today. The primary calls to action are:

- Appoint an Executive Sponsor for race equality.
- Capture ethnicity data and publicise progress.
- Commit at board level to zero tolerance of harassment and bullying.
- Make equity, diversity and inclusion the responsibility of all leaders and managers.
- Take action that supports ethnic minority career progression.
- Support race inclusion allies in the workplace.
- Include Black, Asian, Mixed Race and other ethnically diverse-led enterprise owners in supply chains.

Read more here.





"Being of South Asian heritage, I have always been alive to the very real obstacles that people from an ethnic minority face, as well as what they perceive as obstacles. Having progressed in my career at Weightmans, I am keen to support colleagues with their progression, particularly where they feel that their race/ethnicity may be an obstacle. As a firm, we are making real in-roads with the support of our excellent DE&I Champions to educate staff and celebrate diversity within the firm. However, there is still more to do."

Zakia Tahir, REACH strand co-lead



REACH Together campaign

We successfully launched our REACH together campaign across offices at Weightmans in week of 20 March 2023. Our vision is to highlight the wealth of diversity within Weightmans and to shine a light on minorities within the REACH sphere who are not covered by other initiatives and events that we organise at the firm.

The inaugural session saw many colleagues from multiple and mixed race, ethnicities and culture, coming forward to share their experiences with the others.



To celebrate REACH Together week, our London office put together an international dessert tasting followed by a quiz. This was a fun way of educating our colleagues on diversity within Weightmans and sharing experiences over dessert tasting.









Celebration of Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage

Following events were observed across offices in Weightmans to celebrate and increase awareness on diversity in Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage:

- Chinese New Year.
- Ramadan.
- Passover.
- Stephen Lawrence Day.
- Easter.
- Vesak.
- Weightmans Against Racism Week.
- South Asian Heritage Month.
- Diwali.







Black History Month (BHM)

October marks Black History Month (BHM) and we are proud to have celebrated this event once again at Weightmans. Our chosen charity of Black History Month was the Sickle Cell Society. This is a fantastic charity and the only national charity in the UK that supports and represents people affected by a sickle cell disorder to improve their overall quality of life.

We were delighted Professor Hakim Adi was able to join us on 27 October to provide a fascinating talk focusing on Black People in Britain in the 20th and 21st Century.



Offices across Weightmans enjoyed food from African and Caribbean backgrounds.

Food is an important factor in many cultures and an easy way to learn about what makes us unique and what brings us together. Of course, we want you to enjoy as much food as possible but it is also important to truly understand the cultural significance of the various food items provided.

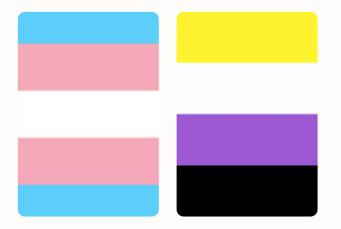


LGBTQ+

The LGBTQ+ strand has been engaging a number of volunteers and DE&I champions to deliver multiple engagements, awareness sessions and support groups covering topics impacting the LGBTQ+ community.

Events observed at Weightmans:

- Pride events.
- International Non-binary people's day.
- Trans awareness week.
- Bi/Gay/Lesbian visibility days.
- Awareness on challenges to fertility equality.
- LGBTQ+ History Month







"The varied strand lead role and membership of the wider DE&I Steering group enables me to listen to my fellow members of the LGBTQ+ community within Weightmans, understand their concerns, educate myself on issues across the LGBTQ+ and other strands, challenge the status quo and push for change, all with the intention of helping redress the imbalances and tackle the prejudices which have adversely affected so many people, both in the legal community and wider society, for decades.

The role requires tolerance, perseverance, and tenacity at times, but it is always rewarding. From family experience I have seen first-hand the fatal consequences of depression, prejudice, and stigma and (outside of work) I have been on the receiving end of intimidatory and ignorant expression.

I am therefore passionate about doing all I can to ensure that no one experiences, or fears, such prejudice, or the consequences of it. I want everyone to be respected for who they are, free to be who they want to be and for everyone to be treated in a respectful, fair, tolerant, and compassionate way. In short, I want to help enable a fully-inclusive and egalitarian workplace.

Hopefully, in years to come, roles like strand leads or DE&I groups will be unnecessary on the basis that true diversity and inclusivity will simply be part of the fabric of society. In my own small way, being a strand lead enables me to make small steps towards that goal and collaborate with others who share those beliefs."

Peter Forshaw, LGBTQ+ strand lead, CSR lead and Partner

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LGBTQ+

Case study: Relaunch of 'Out Together

'On 21 February we were delighted to be represented at the relaunch of 'OutTogether' (formerly Friends of Dorothy') at the Leeds Playhouse. Anthony Ball from our Leeds office is a trustee of this Yorkshire-based charity which aims to tackle social isolation, and provide support to the senior LGBTQ+ population in that area. We also delivered a podcast with their Ambassador Matt Freeman as part of our History Month celebrations.

Our Family team lawyers have worked with their members, and we have been proud to support the exciting volunteering opportunities with OutTogether.



. Ightmans is

"It is my firm view that everyone should be able to bring their true-selves to the workplace free from prejudice and stigma. I came out to friends whilst at University however as soon as I embarked on my legal career, I went back into "the closet". I felt, rightly or wrongly, that by being openly gay in a law firm, my chances of obtaining a training contract would be affected. At the time, I firmly believed that when compared to my peers, the "powers at be" would choose a "straight" candidate over me. For many years during the early part of my career, I tried to hide the true me. I would carefully choose my pronouns when talking about relationships or be purposefully vague when responding to questions about my personal life.

I am firmly of the view that nobody should feel the way that I did when I first started my career. It is because of this that I want to bring about change, not only within Weightmans but in the legal sector as a whole. Through my role as President of the Leeds Law Society in 2022/2023, I worked tirelessly to create a more diverse and inclusive sector. Having worked with numerous firms, I know that Weightmans is ahead of many of its competitors when it comes to being equal and diverse however, there is always more that we as individuals and we as a firm can be doing."

Matthew Jones, LGBTQ+ co-strand lead,





Disability & Mental health

Our dedicated DE&I strand on mental wellbeing and disability organises number of events and trainings related to mental health and wellbeing. Key aspects of our engagements are:

- Provide self help guide showing what to do if individuals feel they may be struggling to cope at work.
- An outline of the most common conditions.
- Practical tips to look after the mental well-being of your staff.
- Implementing workplace adjustments to support mental health.
- Spotting the warning signs that employees may be struggling to cope.
- Improve awareness around neurodiversity.
- Offering guidance and advice on relevant issues like cancer care.
- Organise programmes on youth mental health and suicide awareness.
- Tips to support employees back to full health and able to work productively.

Flexible Working

We have flexible working practices for staff with caring responsibilities. All of our staff nationally have access to online and in-person multidimensional wellbeing programmes that include flexible working time arrangements, healthy nutrition options; physical health programmes; health risk appraisals and healthcare support; access to health and wellbeing resources. They also benefit from agile working (typically 2 days office per week, 3 days from home) and 2 days volunteering leave. We provide home working equipment and all relevant policies have been reviewed and overhauled to support our people-centric approach.

Disability representation

Disability	Representation Target for FY 2025	Progress as at July 2023
Firm wide	10%	5.73%

'My ultimate aim for the strand is the hope that one day DE&I is so embedded within our culture that it doesn't require champions and strand leads to drive it forward. The pandemic and the last two years have given us a platform at Weightmans to build on where we should look out for and after each other more than ever before and we work together to develop a culture, whether virtual or in the face-to-face world, that eradicates our need to recognise specific days for talking to each other, as it is something, we have become good at doing all year round.'

Debbie Holmes, Disability and Mental Wellbeing lead



Health, safety & wellbeing

Ultimate responsibility for health and safety rests with the Managing Partner but the firm has appointed the Head of HR and Head of Facilities, who are assisted by a health & safety manager, to advise about the steps which need to be taken to ensure compliance with relevant legislative requirements. Implementation of safe working practices at each office is the responsibility of the Regional Office Head (ROH), the Office Manager and the Team Managers who will be supported in day-to-day operational issues by the facilities staff.

We maintain a health & safety policy and a procedure which documents our approach on all aspects of occupational safety and health. The policy identifies clear roles and responsibilities of management and employees, captures processes on hazard identification, risk assessment and mitigation.

The health & safety committee comprising of representatives of each office and a dedicated health & safety manager (recent appointment), meets on quarterly basis and looks at incidents, near misses, trainings and other necessary elements for emergency preparedness. Aspects covered in our health & safety policy and procedure include following but not limited to:

- Ergonomics/DSE assessments and adjustments.
- Near miss reporting and management.
- First aid.
- Fire risk management.
- Evacuation.
- Slip, trip and fall.
- Housekeeping.
- Manual material handling and storage.
- Work equipment.

Breakdown:

KPI	FY 2022-2023
Number of H&S incidents	4
First Aid	4
Medical treatment	0
Lost time injuries	0
Fatality	0

- Work at height.
- Electrical safety.
- Asbestos.
- Kitchen areas.
- Workplace stress.
- Workplace temperature and noise.
- Lone working.
- Workplace travel and business travel.
- Drugs and alcohol.
- Young workers and employee conditions.
- Management processes on above aspects.

'Occupational health and safety management for our employees is important to our own performance. At Weightmans, the Leadership team is responsible for delivering various aspects of our health and safety policy.

Roles and responsibilities for various components like risk assessments – general, office risks and occupational risks, their mitigation controls, training and awareness, reporting and incident investigation for a holistic root cause analysis and records management is well understood by all internal stakeholders.

The pandemic has tested our ability to coordinate emergency response and maintain business continuity across our offices. This was only possible due to the time and efforts put into preparedness. Our operation teams at each offices supported by the National team drive processes for continuous improvement in our health and safety performance.

Lorraine Wells, Head of Facilities

Case study: Mental health "Weightlifters"

We recognised mental health as key people risk to our employees and to our legal services business.

We created the concept of Weightlifters, who are essentially colleagues at Weightmans qualified as Mental Health First Aiders, to raise awareness of mental health issues, helping staff to support colleagues who are struggling at work while addressing their own mental health needs.

This is by no means any substitute of the professional support provided through our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP).

We encourage our employees to talk or reach out for something they are worried about to one of our qualified Mental Health First Aiders.

We have trained 51 mental health first aiders across the firm who are accredited and qualified through MHFA England, all of our mental health first aiders attended at two day programme to gain accreditation which is then refreshed every three years. All of our leaders have also attended half day mental health awareness sessions. We have also provided voluntary sessions offered to all of our people on to support them during and after the pandemic, those sessions covered, confidence building, returning from lockdown, building confidence, improving your sleep pattern, working on your goals and dreams, passion and purpose. We also encourage our people to attend sessions on suicide awareness and have worked with State of Mind who are an organisation who are supporting employers with the importance of recognising mental health and working towards good mental health, all of these voluntary sessions are well attended by our people and are available to everyone working on this Contract.

- We run yoga sessions across our offices, and our people have access to free wellbeing sessions including topics like menopause, eating healthy (including free nutrition support and guidance), even sessions on how to cope with your pets and juggling the balance of hybrid working. We also have a dedicated Cigna Wellbeing app where our people can access guided meditation, exercise programmes and other wellbeing support at a time and location of their choosing.
- We are signatories to the Mindful Business
 Partner, and we promote a culture of openness
 about mental wellbeing. We have mindful areas
 in offices where colleagues can pray, meditate
 or just chill out. February saw our "Wellness
 Weeks" with curated information, discussion and
 entertainment for staff and their families during
 half term to come together at work or over Zoom.

 There are a number of physical challenges organised by colleagues for fundraising partners (charities we support), from a 3 Peaks Challenge and Snowdon walk to a monthly steps challenge which saw nearly 200 colleagues and clients in teams attempting to virtually walk around the world.







Other benefits to support employees

Weightmans conducts events and awareness sessions under topical themes relating to health and wellbeing. The firm has a dedicated intranet page and online benefits portal for all employees and partners with all of the relevant information on health and wellbeing benefits provided by the firm. These are also personalised to colleagues but include:

- An Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). This is a confidential and free service available to colleagues and immediate family members 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. The service also provides access to six short-term telephone/face-to-face counselling sessions for emotional issues, if clinically appropriate. This programme gives colleagues access to a team of caring, professional counsellors and consultants who have the knowledge and experience to give advice and share reliable strategies on a wide range of personal and work-related matters.
- A **Private Medical Insurance** (PMI) scheme. Eligible colleagues receive funded cover and have access to a wide range of options for fast and convenient medical care, without waiting for the NHS – giving members more control over when and where they receive treatment. Cover for your spouse/partner and dependants will be at an additional cost to you.
- A Virtual GP Service with around-the-clock access to a GP for specialist referrals and provides general health advice. They can access a trusted doctor, for a medical consultation, prepare for an upcoming consultation, discuss a medical report, test result or a treatment plan etc.

- A Health Cash Plan Scheme. Eligible employees receive single funded cover, which is designed to help employees pay for a range of everyday health treatments, including preventative healthcare. These include dentistry, eye care, consultations and prescriptions.
- A BUPA Dental Scheme funded by the member. This scheme allows members to re-claim against any dental expenses that they incur. The insurance includes emergency dental treatment, dental injury treatment and general dental treatment. It also comes with an additional Private Accident Insurance.
- Optical benefits for colleagues. Each colleague is entitled to a company paid eye test every two years. If the employees require glasses for VDU usage, Weightmans will contribute £70 towards the costs.
- Discounted gym memberships for all employees and partners.
- Health & Wellbeing awareness sessions covering topical issues such as menopause, prostate cancer, diabetes, women's health etc.
- Free fruit is provided in our offices.

"I am fiercely proud of all that we have achieved by way of our approach to Diversity, Equality & Inclusion since I joined the organisation 15 years ago but am aware of our ability to be able to do more. During the next financial year, I am committed to increasing our profile from a disability perspective and we will work with the Business Disability Forum to assist us with this. From a wellbeing perspective, our ability to drive forward with this requires a commitment from everyone at Weightmans to take responsibility for their own wellbeing, undertake their own self-care and voice their opinions on what we could do better for them - by working together on this I am sure that our future can be diverse and inclusive for all."

Debbie Holmes, Disability and Mental Wellbeing lead



Case study: HR Rely services

HR Rely has a proud history of providing first class, fixed fee employment law and HR advice to UK employers for almost 20 years. Weightmans first launched its HR Rely offering back in 2004, before the service was re-named and revitalised in 2009. Since then, HR Rely has continued to grow on a national basis and now serves a broad and varied client base, from smaller owner-managed businesses through to the best-known household names.

2022 marked another milestone for HR Rely, with a comprehensive refresh and re-launch of the service to meet the changing needs of our clients even more effectively. Alongside a fresh new look, we have streamlined the way we deliver our services, to provide the quickest access to a dedicated team of advisors, and an excellent client experience every time. HR Rely continues to offer a 'one stop shop' to accommodate the employment and HR needs of all sectors, including 'bolt-on' services to broaden and customise our core advice and support offering. HR Rely provides expert, practical support on a full range of workplace issues, through the complete employment life cycle, including:

- Effective recruitment.
- Handling discipline and grievances.
- Handling bullying and harassment and employee conflict.
- Equality and Diversity and avoiding discrimination claims.
- Managing sickness absence and disability.
- Managing employee performance issues.
- Making redundancies and restructuring your business.
- Managing employee data: GDPR, data protection and subject access requests.
- Terminating employment and dismissing an employee fairly.

'HR Rely is one of the UK's leading employment services by Weightmans. I am extremely proud of my team who have got the right skills to support our clients on employment and various HR services.

Care for employees is becoming a priority and material issue for most organisations. And as employee wellbeing and dignity in the workplace integrates into ESG commitments, the need for professional legal support in these areas will become increasingly important.

We understand the pressures that HR professionals are under and when they contact us, we ensure that we are responsive and deal with the issue through expert, 'fit for purpose' advice.'

Jawaid Rehman (Partner, Regional Office Head at Birmingham and Head of HR Rely)



Standard used: SASB Professional & Commercial Services, Version 2018-10

Reporting Period: Financial Year 2022-2023

Activity Metrics

Code	Accounting Metric & Response
SV-PS-000.A	 Number of employees: 1463 Full-time: 1174 and part-time: 289 Temporary: 84 (fixed term basis) and contract: 1379 (permanent contract))
SV-PS-000.B	 Employee hours worked: 2,598,288 Percentage billable: 33.64% (absolute hours 873,968)

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Sustainability Disclosure Topics	Торіс	Accounting Metric	Weightmans Response		
and Accounting Metrics	Data Security	Code: SV-PS-230a.1 Description of approach to identifying and addressing data security risks	At Weightmans LLP, we have an information security policy. Our Board is responsible for the endorsement and support of this Policy as well as the Information Continuity Management Group (ICMG) and Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) to ensure Information Security retains a high profile and that resources are available for the ongoing development, implementation and review of policy has a dedicated Information Continuity Management Group (ICMG). We have a Data Protection Officer (DPO) who is responsible	Information systems shall comply with current legal requirements affecting the management of confidential or restricted information (including personal and personal sensitive information). A review of current laws and risk assessment will be undertaken annually by the Information Continuity Management Group (ICMG) to ensure changes are reflected into the working practices around the management of information. In addition to legal and regulatory requirements, the Information Continuity Management System (ICMS) takes	

for the management of the identified legislative/regulatory

requirements including by delegation to members of R&C

who have expertise in particular areas.

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into account audit, contractual and additional customer

requirements as part of providing a service.



and Accounting Metrics	
Contract. Performation Performation Pretention of customer information Pretention of customer information Pretention of customer information Pretention Pre	 The classification level of the information complies with business and Client specific criteria; and The classification level of the information complies with business and Client specific criteria; and Disposal of information follows the specified procedure. Disposal of information security, of which the key ones are: Acceptable Use Policy. Business Control Policy. Information Security Policy. Information Security Policy. Information Security Policy. Physical Environment Poli





Sustainability Disclosure Topics	Торіс	Accounting Metric	Weightmans Response
and Accounting Metrics	Data Security	Code: SV-PS-230a.3 (1) Number of data breaches, (2) percentage that (a) involve customers' confidential business information and (b) are personal data breaches, (3) number of (a) customers and (b) individuals affected	Like other small & mid-sized law firms, Weightmans LLP experiences cyber-threats and cyber-attacks. We have dedicated resources and procedures at our firm for maintaining appropriate levels of cybersecurity and protecting our customers' data and our internal data. We are also dependent on security measures that some of firm's third-party suppliers and customers are taking to protect their own systems, infrastructures, and cloud-based applications and services. We seek to mitigate these risks through our ability to escalate and respond to known and potential risks through our Incident Management processes. The existence (or non-existence) of non-reportable security

incidents or data breaches is considered confidential and is not shared with the third parties, except as required by

contract or applicable law.

Tomic

Sustainability Disclosure Topics and Accounting Metrics

торіс	Code
Workforce Diversity	SV-PS-330a.1
& Engagement	

Cada

Accounting Metric & Response

In perce	ntage		Male		Female			
Board			73%		27%			
Partners	(Equity)		85%		15%			
Partners	(Fixed sha	re)	57%		43%			
All othe	r staff		38%		62%			
	White	Asian	Black	Hispa	nic/Latino	Oth	er	N/A
Board	72%							27%
All other staff	70%	6%	1.6%			2.8%	6	19.4%

We have moved to following practices to improve diversity at all levels within our firm:

- Early Careers the focus is on widening access to law and flexible routes to qualification with Paralegal, Apprentices, Solicitor Apprentices, Solicitors, Cilex offered every year.
- Work experience programmes and development of a Intern programme with Everton in the Community.
- Fee earner recruitment Business Services recruitment focus on increasing our networks, diverse panels.
- Partner recruitment moved towards talent mapping, accessing a wider candidate pool with diverse panels.
- Very limited recruitment at the most senior levels
- We have created a Diversity & Inclusion Steering committee, comprised of Board members and staff representatives leading multiple strands, namely – LGBTQ+, Gender(female representation), Disability and REACH (Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage). The Steering committee works with strands to improve diversity at all levels.

Key policies supporting our diversity and inclusion goals:

- Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- Dignity at Work Policy
- Recruitment Policy
- General Training Policy
- HR Privacy Policy
- Maternity Policy
- Paternity Policy
- Parental Leave Policy
- Dependant Bereavement Emergency Compassionate Leave Policy
- Holiday Policy
- Flexi Time Policy
- Hybrid Working Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Grievance Procedure
- Menopause Policy
- Transgender Policy



Sustainability Disclosure Topics
and Accounting Metrics

CS	Торіс	Accounting Metric	Weightmans Response			
	Workforce Diversity & Engagement	SV-PS-330a.2	 Voluntary turnover rate of employees: 14.% Involuntary turnover rate for employees: 2.8% 			
		SV-PS-330a.3	Employee engagement as a percentage (note: the percentage shall be calculated as the number of employees who are actively engaged divided by the total number of employees who completed the engagement survey): 87%	The third party provided benchmark at three levels:The UK Norm that provided an average picture of employee opinion in the UK across all sectors.		

development f) culture.

This is based on a third-party independent survey and

assessment done in 2022, wherein 1096 staff members

staff on 6 parameters, namely – a) manager support b)

engagement c) leadership d) job satisfaction e) reward &

across levels filled out the survey. The third party surveyed

- The High-Performance Norm which comprised survey responses from companies that meet two criteria: 1) Sustained above-industry-average financial performance; and 2) High employee engagement. It equates to the top 10% of clients they work with.
- The Law Firms Norm which comprised data from employee surveys in other law firms. It has data from 16 firms, including 3 of the top 10 UK law firms by revenue.

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Sustainability Disclosure Topics	Торіс	Accounting Metric	Weightmans Response	ns Response		
and Accounting Metrics	Professional integrity	Code: SV-PS-510a.1 Description of approach to ensuring professional integrity	Our Business Ethics Policy is designed to help ensure we live up to our values, build a relationship of trust with investors, clients and suppliers, and protect our reputation. The responsibility for compliance with this Business Ethics Policy lies with the Weightmans Board of Directors, who will review and update it as required. Employees are made aware of their conditions of employment with the firm and of the standards of work and conduct which the firm expects from them.	We also train all our staff on Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)'s up to date Code of Conduct. The SRA Principles in this code comprise the fundamental tenets of ethical behaviour that we expect all those that we regulate to uphold. This includes all individuals we authorise to provide legal services (solicitors, RELs and RFLs), as well as authorised firms and their managers and employees.		
		Code: SV-PS-510a.2 Total amount of monetary losses as a	Nil.			

result of legal proceedings associated with professional integrity



Governance

Disclose the company's governance around climate-related risks and opportunities.

a) Describe the board's oversight of climate related risks and opportunities.	The Senior Partner of the firm is responsible for the ESG. He is supported by our Head of ESG, who reports into him. Further, our General Counsel, who is the custodian of our risk and compliance matrix, and our HR Director are part of the Board.	Our ESG strategy and Net Zero action plan was deliberated and then approved by the Board. ESG since then is an agenda item in our Board meetings with Head of ESG/Senior Partner engaging the Board periodically on our ESG performances and key challenges. We have been making submission of Streamlined Energy and Carbon		
	Climate related risk assessment has been completed and integrated into the organisational risk matrix. The risk matrix is reviewed periodically and updated, with oversight to the Board.	Report (SECR) on voluntary basis, along with our Financial Statements each year since FY 2020/21. The data for SECR is prepared with help of an independent and competent consultant, findings of which are discussed in the Board meetings.		
b) Describe management's role in assessing and managing climate related risks and opportunities.	To map physical and transition risks related to the Climate change, our Head of ESG, along with the Head of HR and the Head of facilities, carried out the climate change risk assessment consulting a number of our internal stakeholders, studying guidance from the UK government and referring to our ESG materiality assessment.			
	The management team then coordinated with responsible Board member for ESG on climate related risk and opportunities, which after approval were fed into the overall organisational risk matrix along with mitigation action plans. As part of the action plan, relevant management team members were identified to own the risk elements and the associated actions.			
	The management team have referred to the five-year assessment of the risks of climate change on the UK, published by Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in line with the requirements stated in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the guidance on climate-related transition risks from the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.			

Strategy

Disclose the actual and potential impacts of climate-related risks and opportunities on the company's businesses, strategy, and financial planning where such information is material.

- a) Describe the climate related risks and opportunities the company has identified over the short, medium, and long term.
- b) Describe the impact of climaterelated risks and opportunities on the company's businesses, strategy, and financial planning.

Weightmans is committed to a) reducing absolute GHG emissions by 50% before end 2025 (against 2019/20 base), and b) achieving net zero GHG emissions before end 2030 (against 2019/20 base).

As shared in this report, we have been able to reduce our absolute scope 1 and scope 2 emissions along with emissions intensity consistently. We also acknowledge that more work is required to monitor progress on certain scope 3 emissions, actions for which are in developing phase at the firm. The progress is reported through our publicly available annual Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report (SECR).

Our short term (current financial year) climate-related risks and objectives are captured as part of our ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 management system certifications, and medium term (up to FY 2025) and long term (FY 2026-FY 2030) are well documented in our Net Zero Strategy.

Physical risks and impact:

As a UK based law firm with offices in multiple cities, we are exposed to physical risks to infrastructure services, buildings and transport from extreme weather events (flooding, temperature extremes, high winds, heavy snowfall and other cascading failures from cyclone and hurricanes) and from gradual increase to sea-levels around UK cities. Identified physical risk also include impact on health and well-being of staff due to extreme weather events and from vector-borne infections and diseases. These physical risks will impact our ability to manage our operations and support the firm's clients.

Transition risks and impact:

As we transition out of the coronavirus pandemic, increase in business travel activities could impact our emissions reduction plans. We are revisiting our travel policy to address this risk without having significant impact on our abilities to service our clients for legal services.

Rising energy costs could impact our medium term plans to transition to renewable energy for all our offices along with identified energy efficiency actions, which require support from the landlords for our offices housed in the multi-tenant buildings.

Opportunities:

We have been able to evolve our flexible working and working from home policies to support our staff. We have implemented a number of actions to support health and mental well-being of our employees.

We have also identified business opportunities to support our clients in their ESG journey and support them on risks arising out developing regulatory landscape in climate action and other areas of sustainability.



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c) Describe the resilience of the company's strategy, taking into consideration different climaterelated scenarios, including a 2°C or lower scenario. The Board is the executive level forum with overall responsibility for monitoring and measuring the effectiveness of our approach to risk management (inclusive of climate-related risks). The Board members are also responsible for the firm's business strategy.

Endorsed by our Board, we have a Net Zero by 2030 strategy in-line with our commitment to limit global warming to 1.5 degree. The climate related risk assessment and efficacy of our near term and longer term actions as identified in our Net Zero Strategy are periodically reviewed.

The Board is committed to achieving effective risk management by developing resilience in the business strategy and has ensured adequate resources are available to meet risk management needs.

The Board is sponsor of the management system certifications i.e. ISO 14001 (environmental management system) and ISO 50001 (energy management system), both of these require a risk-resilience approach in a top-down manner for our operations.



Risk Management

Disclose how the company identifies, assesses, and manages climate-related risks.

a) Describe the company's processes for identifying and assessing climate related risks.	Risk management is central to the regulatory regime under which we operate and we have implemented a firm-wide risk management approach covering all our operations. Threat identification and subsequent assessment of climate related risks were led by our Head of ESG, in consultation with the identified internal stakeholders. The risk assessment was overseen by the Board member responsible for ESG (Senior Partner at the firm). Some of these risks were identified and assessed as part of our Business Continuity Planning (BCP) to plan mitigation actions to support our staff and clients, in case of disruption to our usual ways of working, for example extreme weather events like storm, flooding and heatwave; or physical risks to infrastructure networks (water, energy, transport, ICT) from cascading failures due to natural or man-made events in the cities we operate from.	 c) Describe how processes for identifying, assessing, and managing climate related risks are integrated into the company's overall risk management. A firm wide risk identification, assessment and management tool is used for all type of risks material to the firm, inclusive of climate-related risks. Risk is defined as the effect of uncertainty on business objectives. We calculate our 'risk profile' as the combination of two key determinants; Likelihood and Impact, for all kinds of risk elements.
b) Describe the company's processes for managing climate related risks.	Risks are classified as strategic, operational, regulatory and multi-category risks. Climate-related risks are mapped into these categories and after thorough consultation with internal stakeholders, risk owners are identified for each risk element identified. The risk owners are responsible for identification of vulnerabilities and preparation of mitigation plans. Post implementation of the mitigation controls, residual risks are evaluated and a decision is made for risk acceptance. This process is cyclic in nature and is repeated frequently for continuous improvement.	We maintain a single policy of risk management with identified roles in our leadership to be responsible for the integrated firm wide risk management.



Metrics and targets

Disclose the metrics and targets used to assess and manage relevant climate-related risks and opportunities where such information is material.

a) Disclose the metrics used by the company to assess climaterelated risks and opportunities in line with its strategy and risk management process. We have used following metrics to asses our performance on climate-related risks:

- Absolute energy consumption and
- Carbon emissions across scope 1, 2 and 3 boundaries for all our organisational activities.

We also have objectives set in as per our management system certifications on environmental management (ISO 14001) and energy management system (ISO 50001).

b) Disclose Scope 1, Scope 2, and, if appropriate, Scope greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the related risks.	Category / Financial year>	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Scope 1 (tCo2e)	173.34	225.56	185.97	78.89
	Scope 2 (tCo2e)	569.36	393.8	353.51	312.83
	Manageable Scope 3 (tCo2e)	99.33	32.18	18.68	59.07

The information has been collated from the LLP's ISO 50001:2018 certified energy management system which uses methods suggested in Statutory Instrument 2014 No.1643 and BS EN 16247-1:2012. Emission conversions are based on the UK Government carbon conversion factors (2022) for grid electricity, natural gas (gross CV) and an 'average' car (petrol/ diesel split of 65%/ 35%) for grey fleet and a 'large PHEV' for the 1no. company car. kWh data was derived from the SECR passenger vehicle table of the carbon conversion factors spreadsheet. The internal baseline was moved to the 19/20 period to fall in line with our SBTI commitment. This applied to all energy and offices except for gas consumption in Manchester and Newcastle (20/21 period used), and electricity consumption in Leicester (20/21 period used). This was due to the availability of data. c) Describe the targets used by the company to manage climate-related risks and opportunities and performance against targets.

Weightmans is committed to:

- Halving absolute GHG emissions before end 2025 (against 2019/20 base).
- Achieving Net Zero GHG emissions before end 2030 (against 2019/20 base) with a maximum of 20% reduction in emissions achieved by offsetting.

The scope of the Net Zero strategy includes all Weightmans offices, assets and scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions associated.

For the financial year ending April 2023 our scope 1 and 2 emissions were 391.71 tCO2e. For the financial year ending April 2021 our scope 1 and 2 emissions were 539.48 tCO2e. At intensity level, for FY 2023, we released 3.61 tonnes CO2e/per £m sales revenue compared to 5.54 tonnes CO2e/per £m sales revenue in FY 2021. 2,283,093 kWh was the energy consumed in FY 2023, compared to 2,801,803 kWh in FY 2022 and 2,990,083 kWh in FY 2021.

Till date, there has been a consistent progress in both absolute emissions & energy consumption reductions and also at the intensity levels.



Contact information

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