

 abrdn

**IFPR Disclosures
as at 31 December 2022**

Elevate Portfolio Services Limited

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These disclosures can be found on the abrdn plc website: <https://www.abrdn.com/corporate/investors/investor-information>

1. Overview

1.1 Background

From 1 January 2022, the UK financial services regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) introduced the Investment Firms Prudential Regime (IFPR), which is the regulatory framework for governing the amount and nature of capital that investment firms must hold. The new prudential requirements for investment firms are now set out in the FCA Prudential sourcebook for MIFID investment firms (MIFIDPRU). Under MIFIDPRU, a new framework for regulatory disclosures was introduced. These disclosures cover:

- Risk management objectives and policies (MIFIDPRU 8.2);
- Governance arrangements (MIFIDPRU 8.3);
- Own funds (MIFIDPRU 8.4);
- Own funds requirements (MIFIDPRU 8.5); and
- Remuneration policy and practices (MIFIDPRU 8.6).

This disclosure is in relation to Elevate Portfolio Services Limited (the Firm), a private limited company, incorporated in the United Kingdom, authorised and regulated by the FCA. Under the IFPR's firm categorisation, the firm is categorised as a non-small non-interconnected (non-SNI) MIFIDPRU investment firm. The Firm's reference number is 144849.

The Firm is a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Life Savings Limited which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of abr dn plc. abr dn plc and its subsidiaries are defined as the abr dn group. The abr dn group operates across three vectors to reflect how abr dn interacts with its clients: Investments – a global asset management business serving institutional, wholesale and insurance clients; Adviser – providing platform technology and tools to UK wealth managers and financial advisers; and Personal – a personal wealth business offering tailored services to individuals in the UK. The Firm is part of the Adviser vector.

1.2 Frequency and location of disclosure

The Firm's disclosure under MIFIDPRU is made annually at the same time as the publication of its financial statements. Additional disclosure may be made where appropriate, for example, in the event of a major change in business model.

All areas of disclosure are covered in this document with the exception of MIFIDPRU 8.2 Risk management objectives and policies and the qualitative disclosures relating to MIFIDPRU 8.6 Remuneration policy and practices. These are covered in separate documents titled Risk Management Disclosures for MIFIDPRU Investment Firms and 2022 Group Remuneration Disclosure, respectively.

These disclosures can be found on the abr dn plc website: <https://www.abr dn.com/corporate/investors/investor-information>

1.3 Verification and sign-off

The Firm's regulatory disclosure has been subject to external verification to the extent that financial information is equivalent to content taken from the audited annual financial statements and the remaining content has been subject to an additional internal verification exercise.

2. Governance arrangements

2.1 Board and committees

The Board of Directors of the Firm (the Board) recognises that the long-term success of the business is dependent on the way it works with a large number of important stakeholders. The Directors have had regard to the interests of stakeholders (including clients and customers, employees, society and shareholders) while complying with their obligations to promote the success of the Firm in line with section 172 of the Companies Act. The Board has discussed these obligations throughout the year, including how stakeholder engagement is incorporated into long-term decision-making and how the Firm operates as a subsidiary within the wider abrdn group.

The Board has overall responsibility for the Firm's business including overseeing the implementation of the strategy. The Board oversees the operation of the Firm's business by senior management, as well as its adherence to risk appetite, compliance with abrdn group policies, including those relating to the provision of services to clients, and the maintenance of adequate accounting and other internal control systems to ensure compliance with regulatory obligations; and regulatory rules mandating the operation of specific policies and procedures (for example, regarding conflicts of interest, outsourcing, remuneration etc.).

The abrdn group Conflicts of Interest (COI) Policy sets the standards the Firm must adhere to and is attested to through the broader policy attestation framework in order to prevent and manage any potential and actual COI. The Directors review and authorise Board members' actual and potential conflicts of interest on a regular and ad hoc basis in line with the authority granted to them in the Firm's Articles of Association. As part of the process to approve the appointment of a new Director, the Board considers and, where appropriate, authorises their potential or actual conflicts. The Board also considers whether any new outside appointment of any current Director creates a potential or actual conflict before, where appropriate, authorising it. At the start of every Board and Committee meeting, Directors are requested to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interests and in the event a declaration is made, conflicted Directors can be excluded from receiving information, taking part in discussions and making decisions that relate to the potential or actual conflict. The abrdn group, of which the Firm is a part, has an Enterprise Risk Management Framework (ERMF) comprising three lines of defence; the first being day-to-day risk management, including identification and mitigation of risks and maintaining appropriate controls; the second being oversight from the abrdn Group Risk and Compliance function, which reports to the Chief Risk Officer; and the third being the Internal Audit function, reporting to the Chief Internal Auditor, which independently verifies systems of control.

The governance framework comprises the management body of the Firm, the Board, and the Board committees which collectively manage and oversee the business. The Board governs the Firm in accordance with its Articles of Association, the Board Charter / Matters Reserved and the business plan, which considers the long term success of the Firm and ensures that the likely long term consequences of any decisions by the Firm are taken into account. Matters which are material to the abrdn group must be referred by the Firm to the abrdn plc Board for non-objection. The Board receives reports from the abrdn plc Board and its Committees where matters have been discussed or decisions made on abrdn group matters which have direct relevance to the Firm. The Board regularly reviews reports from the Chief Executive Officer and from the Chief Financial Officer on progress against approved strategies and the business plan, as well as updates on financial market and global economic conditions. Specific Board and Committee awareness and deep-dive strategic sessions take place during the year.

The Board provides clear leadership, line of sight and accountability throughout the business. The Board is responsible for the development and delivery of strategy and for leading the Firm through challenges and opportunities. The Firm ensures that the members of the Board meet the requirements of SYSC 4.3A.3R. The Firm is subject to the Senior Managers Regime (SMR) and all members of the Board and the management body are registered and listed on the FCA Register. The Firm has undertaken the necessary fitness and propriety tests associated with the SMR to ensure each Director:

- Is of sufficiently good repute;
- Possesses sufficient knowledge, skills, and experience to perform their duties;
- Possesses adequate collective knowledge, skills, and experience to understand the Firm's activities, including the main risks;
- Reflects an adequately broad range of experiences;
- Commits sufficient time to perform their functions in the Firm; and
- Acts with honesty, integrity, and independence of mind to effectively assess and challenge the decisions of senior management where necessary and to effectively oversee and monitor management decision-making.

The Board oversees and is accountable for the Firm's governance arrangements. MIFIDPRU requires the Board to establish its own risk, nomination and remuneration committees comprised of independent non-executive directors.

The Board reviews public disclosures specific to the Firm's business and has approved this Regulatory Disclosure.

The Board meets quarterly, with ad hoc meetings scheduled, as needed. As at 31 December 2022, the Board comprised of five directors.

All members of the Board Committees are independent non-executive directors (INEDs) and members of the Board. The purpose of the Firm's Committees with their respective scopes of duties and responsibilities are formalised in each Committee's Terms of Reference. A summary of the role of each of these committees in overseeing the business of the Firm is set out below. The activities and recommendations of these committees, in so far as they relate to the Firm, are reported to the Board for its review and approval, as needed.

Nomination Committee (NomCo)	Remuneration Committee (RemCo)	Risk Committee (RC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board and Committee composition and appointments - Succession planning - Oversee the appointment and removal of the relevant Material Risk Takers (MRT) population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and implementation of the Group's remuneration policy as it applies to Executive Directors and MRT population - Evaluate the incentives created by the remuneration system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk Management Framework - Compliance and Regulatory reporting - Risk appetites and tolerances - Capital adequacy - Anti-financial crime

2.2 Directorships

The Board comprises executive and INEDs who are appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Firm's Nomination Committee. The number of Executive and non-Executive directorships held by the Directors at the year ended 31 December 2022 were:

Directorships		
Director	Number of Non-Executive directorships	Number of Executive directorships
Non-Executive Directors		
Cathi Raffaelli	1	1
David Marock	4	0*
Hannah Grove	1	0
Aileen Gillan	1	1
Executive Directors		
Noel Butwell	0	1

* David Marock is the sole director and employee of a service company through which he provides senior advisory support. His primary focus is on his non-executive positions and this service company role is not considered relevant for these disclosure purposes.

Executive and non-executive directorships held in organisations which do not pursue predominantly commercial objectives and other executive and non-executive directorships held within the abrdn group are not in scope for the number of directorships to be included hence an adjusted number of directorships has been provided.

2.3 Diversity

The abr dn group's Diversity & Inclusion Policy applies to the abr dn plc board and the boards of the other regulated entities within the abr dn group, including the Firm. Its key objective is to provide an inclusive workplace where all forms of difference are valued and which is free from any form of unfair or unlawful treatment. As part of its commitment to diversity and inclusion the abr dn group has a current focus on gender and ethnicity as priorities. Targets have been set to improve the underrepresentation of women in the abr dn group management body and the abr dn group Board, and to improve the underrepresentation of ethnic minority Board members. The abr dn group's 2022 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion report at www.abr dn.com/corporate/aboutus/diversity-and-inclusion describes how the objectives of the abr dn group's Diversity & Inclusion policy are implemented and details the extent that objectives/targets have been met. Progress against the abr dn group's diversity, equity and inclusion framework is reviewed twice a year by the abr dn plc Nomination and Governance Committee.

For more information on the abr dn group's Diversity & Inclusion Policy see the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion section of the Directors' report from page 134 of the abr dn plc Annual Report and Accounts 2022.

3. Own funds

3.1 Composition of regulatory own funds

The table below summarises the composition of regulatory own funds for the Firm as at 31 December 2022, including the audited profit for the year to 31 December 2022. Under the IFPR, own funds are made up of a firm's common equity tier 1 capital (CET1), additional tier 1 capital and tier 2 capital. The Firm's regulatory capital fully consists of CET1.

Composition of Regulatory Own Funds (OF1)			
	Item	Amount (GBP thousands)	Balance Sheet reference
1	Own Funds	83,535	
2	Tier 1 Capital	83,535	
3	Common Equity Tier 1 Capital	83,535	
4	Fully paid up share capital	219,275	Page 15 financial statements – share capital
5	Share premium	n/a	
6	Retained Earnings	(135,735)	Page 15 financial statements – retained earnings
7	Accumulated other comprehensive income	n/a	
8	Other reserves	n/a	
9	Adjustments to CET1 due to prudential filters	n/a	
10	Other funds	n/a	
11	(-) TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM COMMON EQUITY TIER 1	(5)	Page 15 financial statements – deferred tax assets
19	CET1: Other Capital elements, deductions and adjustments	n/a	
20	ADDITIONAL TIER 1 CAPITAL	n/a	
21	Fully paid up, directly issued capital instruments	n/a	
22	Share premium	n/a	
23	(-) TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM ADDITIONAL TIER 1	n/a	
24	Additional Tier 1: Other capital elements, deductions and adjustments	n/a	
25	TIER 2 CAPITAL	n/a	
26	Fully paid up, directly issued capital instruments	n/a	
27	Share premium	n/a	
28	(-) TOTAL DEDUCTINS FROM TIER 2	n/a	
29	Tier 2: Other capital elements	n/a	

3.2 Own funds: reconciliation of regulatory own funds to balance sheet in the audited financial statements

The table below shows the breakdown of the total available regulatory capital reconciled to the capital shown on the balance sheet in the Firm's audited financial statements:

Own Funds: reconciliation of regulatory own funds to balance sheet in the audited financial statements (OF2)			
		Balance Sheet as in published/audited financial statements (£000s)	Cross reference to template OF1
Assets – Breakdown by asset classes according to the balance sheet in the audited financial statements.			
1	Deferred acquisition costs	366	
2	Deferred tax assets	5	Item 11 – total deductions from CET 1
3	Trade and other receivables	11,324	
4	Cash and cash equivalents	85,284	
	Total Assets	96,979	
Liabilities – Breakdown by liability classes according to the balance sheet in the audited financial statements			
1	Trade and other payables	13,439	
	Total Liabilities	13,439	
Shareholders' Equity			
1	Share capital	219,275	Item 4 – fully paid-up share capital
2	Retained earnings	(135,735)	Item 6 – retained earnings
	Total Shareholders' Equity	83,540	

Own Funds: main features of own instruments

The Firm's own funds is comprised of issued share capital and retained earnings, adjusted for deferred tax assets

4. Own funds requirements

The Firm is required to hold capital resources to cover the higher of the own funds requirement and the Own Funds Threshold Requirement (OFTR) in complying with the Overall Financial Adequacy Rule (OFAR). The OFAR states that a firm must, at all times, hold own funds and liquid assets which are adequate, both as to their amount and quality, to ensure that:

- the firm is able to remain financially viable throughout the economic cycle, with the ability to address any material potential harm that may result from its ongoing activities; and
- the firm's business can be wound down in an orderly manner, minimising harm to consumers or to other market participants.

4.1 Own funds requirement

The own funds requirement is based on the higher of the permanent minimum requirement, the fixed overheads requirement and the K- Factor requirement as shown in the table below:

Own Fund Requirements¹		
	£'000	£'000
Permanent Minimum Requirement		150
Fixed Overhead Requirement		8,482
K-CMH	1,206	
K-ASA	2,922	
K-CMH + K-ASA		4,128
K-COH (cash trades)		16
K-Factor Requirement		4,144
Own Funds Requirement		8,482

1 As per latest MIFIDPRU Reporting as at 31 Dec 2022.

The K-Factor definitions are as follows:

- K-CMH: K-factor requirement based on client money held
- K-ASA: K-factor requirement based on assets safeguarded and administered
- K-COH: K-factor requirement based on client orders handled

4.2 Own Funds Threshold Requirement

The OFTR supplements the own funds requirement via the Internal Capital Adequacy and Risk Assessment (ICARA), which is the means by which the Group assesses the level of capital that adequately supports all of the relevant current and future risks in its business, taking into account potential periods of financial stress during the economic cycle as well as a potential wind-down scenario. The OFTR is the higher of the two, as per the OFAR. The ICARA is performed at a Group level with the resulting own funds and liquid asset requirements allocated to subsidiaries as appropriate. The results of the Group's ICARA process will be subject to periodic review by the FCA under the Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process (SREP).

5. Remuneration policy and practices

5.1 Quantitative remuneration disclosure

The tables below provide an overview of the following:

- Aggregate total remuneration paid by Elevate Portfolio Services to staff identified as Material Risk Takers (MRTs);
- Aggregate total remuneration paid by Elevate Portfolio Services to its entire staff;
- Severance payments to individuals identified as MRTs; and
- Guaranteed variable remuneration.

Aggregate total remuneration

	Senior Management ^{1,2}	Other MRTs ²	Other Staff ³
Total MRTs identified	31	6	n/a
Fixed remuneration	£7,210,226	£874,138	£15,346,322
Variable remuneration	£5,817,474	£225,171	£1,498,051
Total	£13,027,700	£1,099,309	£16,844,373

Severance payments⁴

	Senior Management ^{1,2}	Other MRTs ²
Amount awarded	£591,623	-
Number of recipients	4	-
Highest award	£230,770	-

Guaranteed variable remuneration

	Senior Management ^{1,2}	Other MRTs ²
Amount awarded	-	-
Number of recipients	-	-

- 2 Senior Management are defined in this table as members of the abrdn plc Board, together with its Executive Committee and those holding Senior Management Functions for the entity.
- 3 The Identified Staff disclosure relates to individuals identified as MRTs and represents total compensation of those staff of the entity who are fully or partly involved in the activities of the entity.
- 4 As there are a number of individuals indirectly and directly employed by the entity, these figures represent an apportioned amount of abrdn's total remuneration fixed and variable pay, apportioned to the entity on a revenue basis, plus any carried interest paid.
- 5 Severance payments include Payment In Lieu Of Notice, statutory redundancy pay, company redundancy pay policy and settlement payments (where relevant).