Our External Affairs team supports the implementation of our corporate sustainability strategy through our engagement with policymakers and regulators on relevant areas of policy – including emerging sustainability disclosure standards, green taxonomies and transition pathways.

While we engage directly with policymakers on behalf of the company and our stakeholders we also respond to government and regulatory consultations, contribute evidence to parliamentary inquiries and work closely with our trade associations to help shape industry positions.

**abrdn is an apolitical organisation.** As a global investment company we engage regularly with policymakers across the jurisdictions in which we operate on issues relevant to our business, our stakeholders and wider society. However, this engagement takes place within strong parameters. We do not make donations to political parties, political campaigns, elected representatives, election candidates (including independent candidates) or their agents and we do not provide non-financial support to any organisations or individuals which would compromise our apolitical status.

**Industry-wide collaboration**

As a global investment company we work with a wide range of external stakeholders – including government, parliamentarians, regulators and trade bodies – to drive positive change. We do so by sharing our knowledge, insights, ideas and views which can help shape policy and contribute to better outcomes for our clients, our shareholders, our people and wider society.

For example, our Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Bird, is a board director of the Investment Association, one of our key trade bodies in the UK, and Amanda Young, our Chief Sustainability Officer for our Investments vector, is chair of its Sustainable and Responsible Investment Committee. This enables us to influence the direction of industry thinking on issues such as sustainable finance and responsible investment. We also play an active role in many other trade bodies and initiatives, further details of which can be found from page 97.

**Sustainability disclosure standards**

We are strong supporters of efforts to establish a global framework for sustainability disclosure standards. This is an area of increasing focus for policymakers who share our concerns about the lack of inoperability between different regimes which creates additional cost and complexity. This is an important issue for abrdn as an international investor seeking to allocate capital on behalf of our clients.

In 2022 we responded to a wide range of consultations on disclosure standards, including the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) proposals for a global baseline for sustainable disclosures for capital markets. We continue to monitor the disclosure landscape for sustainability, which will have long-term implications for abrdn as a corporate entity and our business vectors, particularly our Investment vector, and will enable increased comparability for our clients and investors.