



ESG – it's a board level issue

ESG reporting and disclosure obligations are triggering significant activity in the insurance sector.

Insurers are busy improving governance around social and environmental matters and taking the steps necessary to reach a position that, when reported on, will satisfy regulators and stakeholders.

There are five key areas:

Governance

- Revising governance structures to accommodate environmental and social aspects
- Board engagement training
- Horizon scanning
- Materiality assessment.

Own performance

- Reducing direct environmental footprint
- Understanding and managing the environmental and social performance of the supply chain
- Identifying and avoiding greenwashing
- Reviewing internal environmental and HR policies
- Considering the impact of direct climate risk on business continuity.

Reporting and disclosure

- Understanding the new reporting and disclosure requirements
- Understanding the litigation consequences of misreporting
- Streamlining the reporting process.

Investment

- Reviewing investment strategy to align with ESG considerations
- Developing investment due diligence techniques to help identify ESG risks
- Engaging in impact investment to create beneficial environmental or social effects.

Claims and underwriting

- Reviewing and amending existing wordings in anticipation of emerging risks
- Understanding individual policyholders' exposure to ESG risk
- Considering ways to nudge insureds towards more sustainable behaviours through policy terms
- Preparing to field novel types of claim around, for example, climate damage and greenwashing
- Creating new policies to support emerging environmental activities, technologies and behaviours
- Integrating ESG criteria into new business and existing portfolio.

Weightmans is here to help with all of the above. As one of the UK's leading law firms in both insurance and ESG, we are well positioned to do so.



Supporting your ESG journey

For our insurance clients, we provide a comprehensive suite of services to support ESG activities.

Depending on the client's internal resource and level of progress, we can work either on discrete ESG tasks or alternatively take a more central role in the client's ESG response.

Why clients come to us

- Leading law firm in ESG, both in the way we run our business and the assistance we provide to clients
- Deep understanding of the insurance sector
- Established and highly experienced team that boasts both ESG lawyers and consultants
- Proven track record of providing ESG support and advice as insurers start and progress their ESG journeys
- Relationships with a range of dedicated external ESG specialists to support, where appropriate
- Strong internal ESG performance and record.

Examples of our track record



- Acting for a client on a greenwashing case linked to the usage of carbon offsets and carbon neutrality claims
- Advising a client on its approach to human rights issues identified in its supply chain
- Reviewing a client's marketing campaign for greenwashing risks
- Working with BIBA to develop an ESG Mini Guide applicable to association members
- Formulating and reviewing ESG policies for a multitude of insurance clients
- Delivering C-suite training to clients on key themes and topics
- Advising a client on governance changes, climate risk assessment and materiality assessment as a precursor to disclosure.

ESG – our own performance

We strive to be a law firm that our stakeholders – clients, employees and suppliers – want to be associated with from an environmental and social perspective.

We understand how important strong supplier performance is to a client's own ESG credentials.

Our track record speaks for itself

- Committed to become net zero by 2030 – we have the 2nd lowest carbon footprint of the top 75 law firms (The Lawyer's Emission Tracker 2024)
- Supporting the UN Global Compact initiative and committed to SBTi (Science Based Target Initiative)
- Gold ranking by EcoVadis – placing us in the top 5% of professional services businesses assessed for ESG by EcoVadis
- Included in the 2025 Legal 500 Green Guide and the Legal 500 Green Ambassadors list
- Signatory and committee member of the Greener Litigation Pledge
- Key accreditations: Lexcel, BS ISO 27001 Information Security Certification, ISO 14001 Environmental Certification, Cyber Essentials Plus Standard and ISO 50001 Energy Management Certification.

Contact us

Whatever position you have reached on your ESG journey, please come and talk to us.



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