Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

Product name:

abrdn SICAV I - Emerging Markets Bond Fund

Legal entity identifier:

549300BA33Y94QDNRN64

Sustainable investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

Environmental and/or social characteristics

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective**:	☒ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10.00% of sustainable investments
☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy	☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy
☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy	☒ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy
	☒ with a social objective
☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective**	☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments**

What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by aiming to invest in issuers that:

- Avoid severe, lasting or irremediable harm; and
- Appropriately address adverse impacts on the environment and society; and
- Support a decent standard of living for their stakeholders.

The Fund aims to promote environmental and social characteristics holistically. In doing so, we do not consider all characteristics for all investments, but rather focus on the most relevant characteristics for each investment based on the nature of its activities, areas of operation, and products and services. However, using our proprietary research framework we aim to promote the below characteristics within this Fund, however a broader suite of characteristics may also be promoted on an investment-by-investment basis:

Environment – promoting sound energy management, renewable energy usage and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting good water, waste and raw materials management and addressing biodiversity/ecological impacts.

Social – effectively tackling corruption and inequality, promoting good labour practices and relations, maximising employee health and safety, supporting diversity in the workforce, encouraging healthy relationships with communities, promoting social cohesion and integration and encouraging investment in human capital.

Benchmark
This Fund uses the JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Index as a financial benchmark. The benchmark is also used as a reference point for portfolio construction but does not incorporate any sustainable criteria and is not selected for the purpose of attaining ESG characteristics.

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What Sustainability Indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

Our approach positively identifies issuers which promote the above E&S characteristics, seeking to ensure that at least 67% of the portfolio is aligned with the E&S characteristics identified. We do this by tracking the below sustainability indicators which allow us to measure the attainment of the E&S characteristics the Fund is promoting:

Sustainability Indicator – Screening Criteria
Pre investment, abrdn applies a number of norms and activity-based screens to ensure that severe, lasting or irremediable harm is avoided. Binary exclusions are applied to exclude the particular areas of investment of concern. Our exclusions are informed by the Principal Adverse Impact (PAI) Indicators, but not limited to them. The criteria includes investments related to the UN Global Compact (PAI 10), Controversial Weapons (PAI 14), Tobacco Manufacturing and Thermal Coal – further detail can be reviewed at www.abrdn.com under "Fund Centre".

Sustainability Indicator – Environment, Social, Governance & Political Performance (Sovereign Issuers)
For sovereign issuers, our proprietary ESGP Score, developed within the Emerging Markets Debt (EMD) team, is used to assess material sustainability risks and opportunities of all our investments, which may include among others: environmental risks, social inequalities, political risks and institutional quality and efficiency.
The ESGP universe consists of Emerging Market countries with investable Fixed Income securities and an ESGP score is assigned to each country. The score ranges from 0 to 100 (higher is better) and is calculated by combining a variety of data inputs related to Environmental, Social, Governance and Political pillars. Following standardisation of data points and adjusting for GDP per capita, the overall ESGP score for each country is calculated as an equally weighted average of each pillar.

The Fund will exclude the bottom 5% of countries in the ESGP universe with investable sovereign bonds or bonds issued by SOEs.

Sustainability Indicator – Environment, Social & Governance Performance (Corporate Issuers)
For corporate issuers, our proprietary ESG House Score, developed by our central ESG investment team in collaboration with the Quantitative investment team, is used to identify companies with potentially high or poorly managed ESG risks.
The score is calculated by combining a variety of data inputs within a proprietary framework in which different ESG factors are weighted according to how material they are for each sector. This allows us to see how companies rank in a global context. The score assesses many different Environmental, Social & Governance issues, however, specifically assesses the following characteristics: energy, greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, raw materials, biodiversity/ecological impacts and circular economy, labour practices and relations, employee health and safety and supply chain management.

The Fund will exclude at least the bottom 5% of companies with the lowest ESG House Score in the JP Morgan Corporate EMBI Broad Diversified Index.

Sustainability Indicator – Avoiding Poor ESG Practices (Corporate & State-Owned Enterprise Issuers)
Our credit analysts apply an ESG Risk Rating of Low, Medium, High (Low is better) to each issuer. This is credit profile-specific and represents how impactful we believe ESG risks are likely to be to the credit quality of the issuer now and in the future. The key area of focus is the materiality of the inherent Environmental and Social risks of the sector of operation and how specific companies manage these risks, combined with the quality and sustainability of its corporate governance. This materiality assessment is combined with a judgement on the timeframe over which these ESG risks may have an impact. Our analysts utilise an ESG Risk Rating Framework to support making these assessments.

This is a proprietary tool designed to help focus the knowledge and expertise of credit analysts in a systematic way to substantiate the overall ESG Risk Rating (Low / Medium / High) assigned to debt issuers.

The Fund will exclude companies where an analyst's governance assessment drives the overall ESG Risk Rating to be assigned as High.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The objective of the sustainable investments is to make a contribution to solving an environmental or social challenge, in addition to not causing significant harm, and being well governed. Each sustainable investment may make a contribution to environmental or social issues. In fact, many issuers will make a positive contribution to both. abrdn use the six environmental objectives of the Taxonomy to inform environmental contributions, including: (1) climate change mitigation, (2) climate change adaptation, (3) sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, (4) transition to a circular economy, (5) pollution prevention and control, and (6) protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. In addition, abrdn use the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their sub-goals to supplement the EU Taxonomy topics and provide a framework for considering social objectives.

An economic activity must have a positive economic contribution to qualify as a sustainable investment, this includes consideration of environmental or socially aligned revenues, Capex, Opex or sustainable operations. abrdn seek to establish or estimate the share of the issuer's economic activities / contribution towards a sustainable objective and it is this element that is weighted and counted towards the Fund's total aggregated proportion of sustainable investments.

abrdn uses a combination of the following approaches:
i. a quantitative methodology based on a combination of publicly available data sources; and
ii. abrdn's own insight and engagement outcomes
abrdn overlay the quantitative methodology with a qualitative assessment to calculate an overall percentage of economic contribution towards a sustainable objective for each holding in a Fund.

Principal adverse impacts are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

As required by the SFDR Delegated Regulation, the investment does not cause significant harm ("Do No Significant Harm"/ "DNSH") to any of the sustainable investment objectives.

abrdn have created a 3-step process to ensure consideration of DNSH:

i. Sector Exclusions
abrdn have identified a number of sectors which automatically do not qualify for inclusion as a Sustainable Investment as they are considered to be causing significant harm. These include but are not limited to: (1) Defence, (2) Coal, (3) Oil & Gas Exploration, Production and associated activities, (4) tobacco, (5) gambling and (6) alcohol.

ii. DNSH Binary Test
The DNSH test, is a binary pass/fail test which signals if the issuer passes or fails criteria for the SFDR Article 2 (17) "do no significant harm".
Pass indicates under abrdn's methodology the issuer has no ties to controversial weapons, less than 1% of revenue from thermal coal, less than 5% of revenue from tobacco related activities, is not a tobacco producer, and has no red / severe ESG Controversies. If the issuer fails this test, it cannot be considered a Sustainable Investment. abrdn's approach is aligned with the SFDR PAIs included within tables 1, 2 & 3 of the SFDR Delegated Regulation and is based on external data sources and abrdn internal insights.

iii. DNSH Materiality Flag
Using a number of additional screens and flags, abrdn consider the additional SFDR PAI's indicators as defined by the SFDR Delegated Regulation to identify areas for improvement or potential future concern. These indicators are not considered to cause significant harm and therefore an issuer with active DNSH materiality flags may still be considered to be a Sustainable Investment. abrdn aim to enhance the engagement activities to focus on these areas and seek to deliver better outcomes by resolving the issue.

How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?

The Fund considers Principal Adverse Impact Indicators defined by the SFDR Delegated Regulation.

Pre investment, abrdn applies a number of norms and activity-based screens related to PAIs, including but not limited to: UN Global Compact, controversial weapons, and thermal coal extraction.

UNGC: The Fund uses norms-based screens and controversy filters to exclude issuers that may be in breach of international norms described in the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN guiding principles on business and human rights, as

well as state-owned entities in countries which violate norms.
Controversial Weapons: The Fund excludes issuers with business activities related to controversial weapons (cluster munitions, anti-personnel landmines, nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, white phosphorus, non-detectable fragments, incendiary devices, depleted uranium ammunition or blinding lasers).
Thermal Coal Extraction: The Fund excludes issuers with exposure to the fossil fuels sector based on percentage of revenue from thermal coal extraction.

abrdn apply a fund specific set of company exclusions, more detail on these and the overall process is captured within the Investment Approach, which is published at www.abrdn.com under "Fund Centre".

Post-investment the following PAI indicators are considered:
o abrdn monitors all mandatory and additional PAI indicators via our ESG integration investment process using a combination of our proprietary house score and 3rd party data feeds. PAI indicators that either fail a specific binary test or are considered above typical are flagged for review and may be selected for engagement.
o Consideration of issuer carbon intensity and GHG emissions via our Climate tools and risk analysis.
o Governance indicators via our proprietary governance scores and risk framework, including consideration of sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.
o On an on-going basis the investment universe is scanned for issuers that may be in breach of international norms described in the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN guiding principles on business and human rights, as well as state-owned entities in countries which violate norms.

How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:

The Fund uses norms-based screens and controversy filters to exclude issuers that may be in breach of international norms described in the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN guiding principles on business and human rights.

The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.

Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

x Yes
This Fund considers Principal Adverse Impacts (PAI) on sustainability factors.

Principal adverse impacts consideration
Yes, the Fund commits to consider the following PAIs in its investment process, this means that there is pre- and post-trade monitoring is in place and that every investment for the Fund is assessed on these factors to determine its appropriateness for the Fund.

• PAI 1: GHG emissions (scope 1 and 2) for corporates
• PAI 10: Violations of the UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
• PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons, and biological weapons)

Adverse impacts monitoring
Pre investment, abrdn applies a number of norms and activity-based screens related to the above

PAIs, including but not limited to:

• UNGC: The Fund uses norms-based screens and controversy filters to exclude companies that may be in breach of international norms described in the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN guiding principles on business and human rights, as well as state owned entities in countries which violate norms.
• Controversial Weapons: The Fund excludes companies with business activities related to controversial weapons (cluster munitions, anti-personnel landmines, nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, white phosphorus, non-detectable fragments, incendiary devices, depleted uranium ammunition or blinding lasers).
• Thermal Coal Extraction: The Fund excludes companies with exposure to the fossil fuels sector based on percentage of revenue from thermal coal extraction.

abrdn apply a fund specific set of company exclusions, more detail on these and the overall process is captured within the Investment Approach, which is published at www.abrdn.com under "Fund Centre".

Post-investment the above PAI indicators are monitored in the following way:

o company carbon intensity and GHG emissions is considered via our Climate tools and risk analysis.
o On an on-going basis the investment universe is scanned for companies that may be in breach of international norms described in the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN guiding principles on business and human rights.

Post-investment we also undertake the following activities in relation to additional PAI's:

o Dependent on data availability, quality and relevance to the investments the consideration of additional PAI indicators will be on a case-by-case basis.
o abrdn monitors PAI indicators via our ESG integration investment process using a combination of our proprietary house score and 3rd party data feeds.
o Governance indicators are monitored via our proprietary governance scores and risk frameworks, including consideration of sound management structures, and remuneration.

Adverse impact mitigation
o PAI indicators that fail a defined pre-investment screen are excluded from the investment universe and cannot be held by the fund.
o PAI indicators that are monitored post investment which fail a specific binary test or are considered above typical are flagged for review and may be selected for engagement. These PAI indicators may be used as a tool for engagement, for example where there is no policy in place and this would be beneficial abrdn may engage with the issuer or company to develop one, or where carbon emissions are considered to be high, abrdn may engage to seek the creation of a long-term target and reduction plan.

No

What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The investment strategy guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund seeks to:
• Generate consistent risk-adjusted outperformance using our active management approach of stock selection tailored to the overall environment.
• Benefit from our active engagement with issuers, where we encourage positive changes in behaviour.
• Construct a portfolio that invests in issuers with strong ESG practices.
• Leverage the support and insights of our large, dedicated Fixed Income team and embedded ESG specialists' resources.

The Fund's investment objective is long term total return to be achieved by investing at least two-thirds of the Fund's assets in debt and debt-related securities which are issued by corporations with their registered office in, and/or government related bodies domiciled in an Emerging Market country.

The Fund may invest up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in Sub-Investment Grade Debt and Debt-Related Securities.

The Fund is actively managed. In order to achieve its objective, the Fund will take positions whose weightings diverge from the benchmark or invest in securities which are not included in the benchmark. The investments of the Fund may deviate significantly from the components of and their respective weightings in the benchmark. Due to the active nature of the management process, the Fund's performance profile may deviate significantly from that of the benchmark over the longer term.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the***

investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product

The binding elements of the strategy include:

1. A commitment to hold a minimum of 67% of the assets aligned with E/S characteristics and within these assets, to hold a minimum of 10% of assets that meet abrdn's methodology for determining Sustainable Investments.
2. A commitment to apply binary exclusions to exclude the particular areas of investment related to the UN Global Compact, Controversial Weapons, Tobacco Manufacturing and Thermal Coal.
3. A commitment to exclude at least the bottom 5% of countries in the ESGP universe with investable sovereign bonds or bonds issued by SOEs.
4. A commitment to exclude at least the bottom 5% of companies with the lowest ESG House Score in the JP Morgan Corporate EMBI Broad Diversified Index.
5. A commitment to exclude any issuer where an analyst's governance assessment drives the overall ESG Risk Rating to be assigned as High.

These elements apply in a binding manner and on an ongoing basis.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

The Fund will exclude the bottom 5% of countries in the ESGP universe with investable sovereign bonds or bonds issued by SOEs.

The Fund will also exclude at least the bottom 5% of companies with the lowest ESG House Score in the JP Morgan Corporate EMBI Broad Diversified Index.

Good governance practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

For this Fund, the investee company needs to follow good governance practices in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. This can be demonstrated by the monitoring of certain PAI indicators, for example corruption, tax compliance and diversity. In addition, by using abrdn's proprietary ESG scores within the investment process abrdn screen out any investments with low governance scores. Our governance scores assess a company's corporate governance and management structure (including remuneration of staff policies) and the quality and behaviour of its leadership and management. A low score will typically by given where there are concerns in relation to financially materially controversies, poor tax compliance or governance concerns, or poor treatment of employees or minority shareholders.

For sovereigns, we use our ESGP framework which considers government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, corruption, press freedom and political and state stability.

The investment must further be aligned with OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights. Breaches and violations of these international norms are flagged by an event-driven controversy and are captured in the investment process.

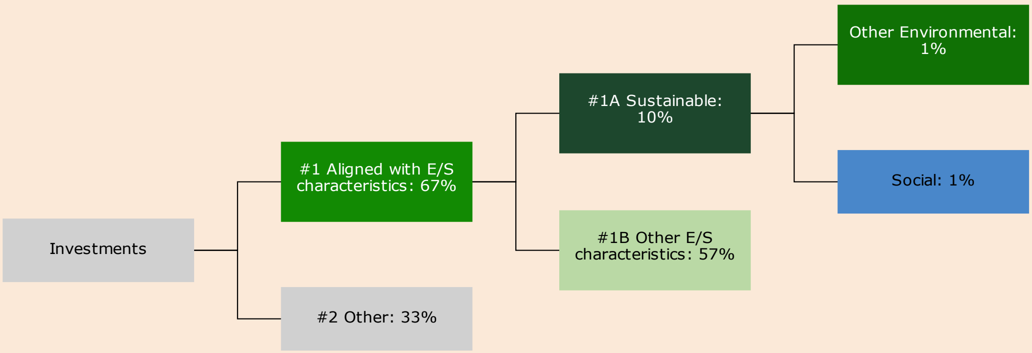
What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

Asset allocation describes the share of investments in specific assets.

A minimum of 67% of the Fund's assets are aligned with E/S characteristics. Environmental and social safeguards are met by applying certain PAI's, where relevant, to these underlying assets. Within these assets, the Fund commits to a minimum of 10% in Sustainable Investments.

The Fund invests a maximum of 33% of assets in the "Other" category, which may include developed market government securities, cash, money-market instruments and derivatives.0%
10%.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.



#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.
#2 Other includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:
- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund will not use derivatives to attain any environmental or social characteristics.

To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The Fund has not set a minimum proportion of investments in Taxonomy aligned economic activities. This graph represents 100% of the total investment.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy?[1]***

☐ Yes

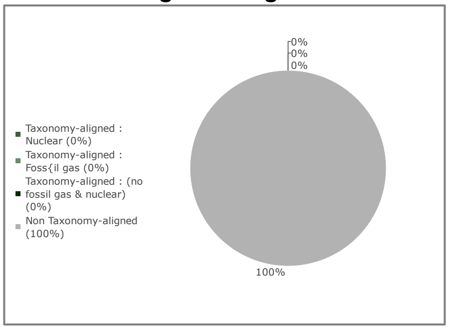
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

☒ No

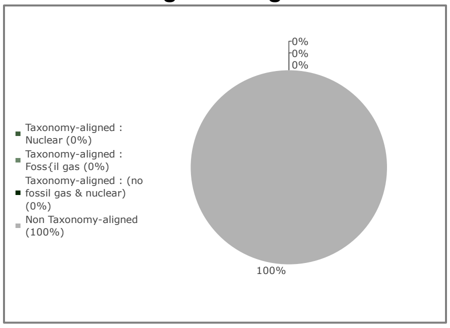
[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.

1. Taxonomy alignment of investments **including sovereign bonds***



2. Taxonomy alignment of investments **excluding sovereign bonds***



This graph represents 100 % of the total investments.

**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*

Enabling activities directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.
Transitional activities are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  Not applicable

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective is 1%.

What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?

The minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective is 1%.

What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

The investments included under "other" are cash, money-market instruments, derivatives and may also include developed market government securities. The purpose of these assets is to meet liquidity, target return or manage risk and may not contribute to the environmental or social aspects of the Fund.

There are certain environmental and social safeguards that are met by applying PAI's. Where relevant, these are applied to the underlying securities.

Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?

No

Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable

Where can I find more product specific information online?

More product-specific information can be found on :

Fund specific documentation, including Sustainability Related Disclosures, are published at www.abrdn.com under Fund Centre. Documentation can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar, clicking the fund link and selecting the "Literature" section.