

**HANetf ETC Securities plc**

**Directors' report and audited financial statements**

**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**Registered number 664945**

# HANeff ETC Securities plc

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**Directors and other information**

<b>Directors</b>	Niall Vaughan <i>(Irish) (Non-executive director)</i> Ciaran Connolly <i>(Irish) (Non-executive director) (Appointed on 15 February 2023)</i> Timothy Darcy <i>(Irish) (Non-executive director) (Appointed on 28 April 2023)</i> Michael Carroll <i>(Irish) (Non-executive director) (Resigned on 15 February 2023)</i> Ignatius Faissal <i>(British) (Non-executive director) (Resigned on 28 February 2023)</i> David Murphy <i>(Irish) (Non-executive director) (Alternate Director to Niall Vaughan) (Appointed on 17 July 2023)</i>
<b>Registered Office</b>	2nd Floor, Block 5 Irish Life Centre Abbey Street Lower Dublin 1 Ireland
<b>Administrator</b>	Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Limited 2nd Floor, Block 5 Irish Life Centre Abbey Street Lower Dublin 1 Ireland
<b>Corporate Administrator &amp; Company Secretary</b>	Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited 2nd Floor, Block 5 Irish Life Centre Abbey Street Lower Dublin 1 Ireland
<b>Bank</b>	European Depository Bank SA 3, Rue Gabriel Lippmann L-5365 Munsbach Luxembourg
<b>Custodian &amp; Sponsor</b> <i>(for Metal Securities)</i>	The Royal Mint Limited Llantrisant Pontyclun, CF72 8YT United Kingdom
<b>Backing Issuer</b> <i>(for Carbon Securities)</i>	Spark Change Jersey Issuer Limited 12 Castle Street St Helier JE2 3RT Jersey
<b>Arranger &amp; Management and Determination Agent</b>	HANetf Limited City Tower, 40 Basinghall Street London EC2V 5DE, United Kingdom
<b>Banker, Issuing and Paying Agent</b>	Bank of New York Mellon London Branch One Canada Square London E14 5AL United Kingdom
<b>Trustee and Security Trustee</b>	The Law Debenture Trust Corporate p.l.c 5th Floor 100 Wood Street London EC2V 7EX United Kingdom

**Directors and other information (continued)**

**Registrar** Bank of New York Mellon  
Luxembourg Branch  
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**Solicitor** A&L Goodbody LLP  
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**Independent Auditor** Ernst & Young  
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Harcourt Street  
Dublin 2  
Ireland

**Directors' report**

The directors (the "Directors") present their annual report and the audited financial statements of HANetf ETC Securities plc (the "Company") for the financial year ended 31 March 2023. The Company falls within the Irish regime for the taxation of qualifying companies as set out in Section 110 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (as amended).

**Principal activities and business review**

The Company is a public limited company incorporated on 24 January 2020 in Ireland under the Companies Act 2014, as amended (the "Act") and has established as a special purpose vehicle (the "SPV") for the purpose of issuing asset-backed securities, including Metal Securities backed by the underlying metal, and other asset-backed exchange traded securities (including Carbon Securities), and entering into agreements relating to the Metal Securities, and Carbon Securities, and the underlying assets thereof.

*Physical Metal Securities Programme*

Under the Physical Metal Securities Programme (the "Metal Securities Programme"), the Company issued Metal Securities ("Metal Securities") which are secured, undated, zero coupon limited recourse debt obligations. Metal Securities are designed to track the price of individual precious metals (for example, gold) (the "Physical metals") and to provide investors with a return equivalent to the spot price of the relevant underlying metal less the applicable fees. The aggregate number of Metal Securities issued under the Programme will not at any time exceed 10,000,000,000, this being the Programme maximum number of Metal Securities.

The Metal Securities are backed by fully-allocated physical holdings of the relevant precious metal custodied in secured vaults. The Metal Securities are undated (have no final maturity date) and are non-interest bearing. The prevailing market price at which the Metal Securities trade on the secondary market may deviate from the daily value of the Metal Securities and may not accurately reflect the price of the precious metal underlying the Metal Securities. Each Metal Security of a Series has a metal entitlement (the "Metal Entitlement") expressed as an amount in weight (in troy or fine troy ounces) of the relevant metal linked to such Series. This Metal Entitlement starts at a predetermined initial Metal Entitlement for the relevant Series and is reduced daily by the Total Expense Ratio (the "TER") (in metal) for the Series.

Only registered broker-dealers "Authorised Participants" may subscribe and request buy-backs of Metal Securities with the Company and except in certain limited circumstances, these subscriptions and buy-backs can only be carried out in specie. During the life of the Metal Securities, Securityholders who are not authorised can buy and sell the ETC Securities on each exchange on which the ETC Securities are listed at the then prevailing market price, through financial intermediaries. References to a "Securityholder" or a "holder" of Securities shall, where the context requires or permits, be construed to mean a person in whose name such Securities are for the time being registered in the register of Securityholders in respect of the Series (or if joint holders appear in the register, the first named thereof) and a holder of beneficial or indirect interests in Securities (including those arising from holding CDIs), except where the references relate to (a) any right to receive payments or Metal in respect of the Securities, the right to which shall be vested, as against the Issuer, solely in the registered holder of such Securities whose name is registered in the Register, and (b) any right to attend, vote at and/or convene meetings of Securityholders.

On 14 February 2020, the Company issued Series 1 - Metal Securities of The Royal Mint Physical Gold ETC Securities. The net proceeds from the issue of Metal Securities were used to purchase an amount of underlying metal which is held in Secured Allocated Accounts in respect of such Metal Securities. Such underlying metal is used to meet the Company's obligations under the relevant Metal Securities.

*Physical Carbon Securities Programme*

Under the Physical Carbon Securities Programme (the "Carbon Securities Programme"), the Company issued Carbon Securities ("Carbon Securities") which are secured, undated, zero coupon limited recourse debt obligations. Carbon Securities are designed to track the price of Allowances, credits, permits, rights or similar assets which represents a volume of carbon dioxide equivalent or other greenhouse gas, which is issued, allocated, created or recognised in accordance with the rules and regulations governing participation in a trading scheme for the transferring of such allowances, credits, permits, rights or similar assets ("Allowances").

All Allowances that ultimately back the Carbon Securities are not delivered to or held by the Company but are instead held by the Backing Issuer, Spark Change Jersey Issuer Limited, which was incorporated in Jersey. Consequently, the Company will maintain rights of the holders of Carbon Securities to receive Allowances by holding a security issued by the Backing Issuer (i.e. the Backing note). The Company will be the only noteholder of the Backing Notes issued by the Backing Issuer. In particular, the Backing Issuer supports the ongoing carbon-specific operational aspects of the Programme, by (among other things) holding the corresponding quantity of emission allowances that ultimately back the Carbon Securities in its own dedicated European Union registry account, which is subject to certain security arrangements to protect the interest of the holders of the Carbon Securities.

Carbon Securities are designed to provide investors with a return equivalent to the market value of the relevant underlying emissions Allowances less the applicable fees. The aggregate number of Carbon Securities issued under the Programme will not at any time exceed 10,000,000,000, this being the Programme maximum number of Carbon Securities.

**Directors' report (continued)****Principal activities and business review (continued)***Physical Carbon Securities Programme (continued)*

The Carbon Securities are backed by a security (the "Backing note") which is backed by the relevant physical Allowances. As such, the Carbon Securities offer investors a means acquiring corresponding exposure to the relevant Allowances without being required to take physical delivery of that Allowance nor opening of a holding account. The Carbon Securities are undated (have no final maturity date) and are non-interest bearing. The price at which Carbon Securities trade on a relevant stock exchange may not reflect accurately the value of the underlying Allowances that backs such Carbon Securities (through the Backing note). Each Carbon Security of a Series has a carbon entitlement (the "Carbon Entitlement") expressed as an amount in European Union Emissions Allowance ("EUA") to such Series. This Carbon Entitlement starts at a predetermined initial Carbon Entitlement for the relevant Series and is reduced daily by the Total Expense Ratio (the "TER") (in EUA) for the Series.

Only Authorised Participants may apply for Carbon Securities directly at a subscription price expressed "in kind", and is equal to the Carbon Entitlement per Security on the relevant date. In order to receive Carbon Securities, Authorised Participants must deliver an amount of underlying Allowances to the Backing Issuer equal to (or greater) than the Carbon Entitlement of the Carbon Securities to be issued. Once receipt of the underlying Allowances is confirmed, the Backing Issuer will issue the Company with a Backing note (or increase the Carbon Entitlement of the Backing note if the note has already been issued) and the Company will issue the corresponding number of Carbon Securities.

On 5 October 2021, the Company issued Series 2 - Carbon Securities of SparkChange Physical Carbon EUA ETC Securities. The net proceeds from the issue of Carbon Securities were used to subscribe for the Backing note issued by the Backing Issuer under the Backing Issuer Programme which was in turn be backed by an amount of underlying EUAs which is held in the Backing Issuer's Secured Allowance Account.

As at 31 March 2023, Series 1 - Metal ETC Securities are listed on the London Stock Exchange, Deutsche Borse (Xetra), Borsa Italiana, Euronext Paris and Mexican Stock Exchange (BMV).

As at 31 March 2023, Series 2 - Carbon ETC Securities are listed on the London Stock Exchange, Xetra, Borsa Italiana and BMV.

**Key performance indicators**

During the financial year:

The Company made a profit before tax of USD 1,088 (2022: USD 1,110);

	Metal ETC Securities		Carbon ETC Securities	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Number of tranches issued	48	43	15	26
Return on investments	1.93%	14.85%	17.04%	30.25%
Return on financial liabilities	1.69%	14.60%	15.99%	29.78%
Financial liabilities issued (USD)	374,050,004	293,865,755	91,269,886	245,753,193
Financial liabilities redeemed (USD)	(83,695,412)	(165,153,564)	(186,213,671)	(26,515,482)
Net changes in fair value of investments (USD)	43,916,285	44,689,293	15,977,258	2,406,546
Net changes in fair value of financial liabilities (USD)	(42,281,714)	(43,900,941)	(14,737,912)	(1,773,804)

As at 31 March 2023:

The net assets of the Company were USD 32,060 (2022: USD 31,244);

	Metal ETC Securities		Carbon ETC Securities	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Total ETC Securities issued	845,150,755	512,514,449	140,805,642	221,011,515
Investment in Precious metals	846,315,389	512,895,103	-	-
Investment in Backing note	-	-	140,815,168	221,644,257
Investment in EUAs held by Backing Issuer	-	-	140,805,643	226,205,276

Financial assets are included in Note 9 to the financial statements and the ETC Securities that the Company has in issue are included in Note 12 to the financial statements.

**Future developments**

The Directors expect that the present level of activity will be sustained for the foreseeable future.

**Going concern**

The financial statements of the Company have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Company is able to meet all of its liabilities from its assets. The performance, marketability and risks of the Series are reviewed on a regular basis throughout the financial year. Therefore the Board of Directors of the Company believes that the Company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and is financially sound. The Board of Directors is satisfied that, at the time of approving the financial statements, it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements of the Company.

**Directors' report (continued)****Market Review***Physical metals*

January opened with the gold price sitting firmly above the \$1,800 per troy ounce barrier, even reaching a high of nearly \$1,850 in PM trading by the end of the third week of January. Silver opened 2022 at \$22.89 an ounce and fell just 1.7% by the end of January to \$22.50. By the end of the month, the price of gold sat at just over \$1,788 - a decrease of 3.3%.

January also saw some of the initial news and worry around inflation, with reports from the US that the Federal Reserve was signalling the possibility of quicker interest rate increases towards the end of January. These hikes were said to be in direct contrast to the pandemic-era policies and were designed to boost hiring and increase economic growth.

The US consumer price index also rose seven per cent in the months leading up to 2022, which was said to be the steepest climb since 1982, although the recent rises were still said to be far lower than the historic rises of more than 14% seen in 1980.

In January, we also saw discussions and concern around the ongoing Russia-Ukraine tensions and speculation around the part these issues were playing in the price of both palladium and rhodium as a result.

As seen in January, February opened with a gold price of around \$1,800, but news of a weak U.S. dollar – coupled with increased political tensions throughout Europe – led to the price breaking the \$1,850 barrier towards the middle of the month. The price continued to rise to a high of \$1,968.35 in AM trading on February 24, which represented a range of more than 9.5% from the lowest to the highest prices recorded.

As well as traditional markets falling, as would be expected in this situation, one discussion point was Bitcoin, which slid by eight percent. This reaction was somewhat unexpected as Bitcoin is hailed by many as the 'new gold', or even a digital alternative to the yellow metal. The unpredictability of the asset further cemented the argument for some that this was perhaps not the case – activity which was to continue as we progressed through the year.

The gold price again broke the crucial \$2,000 barrier by the beginning of the month, a rally that continued to extend its gains as investors weighed up the ongoing sanctions placed on Russia and the resulting risks to global growth in the wake of the Ukraine invasion. In a market still reeling as a result of the post-pandemic effect, US treasuries also climbed towards the start of the month, as traders were said to abandon hope of a half-point Federal Reserve hike amid ongoing concerns on the wider impact on economies across the globe.

Although prices of many key precious metals were buoyant throughout the month, following signals that fighting and tension in the Russian-Ukraine region may be reduced, prices began to decrease. Gold fell below the \$1,900 mark briefly towards the end of the month and closed 1.4% down. With the ongoing negotiation talks between Russia and Ukraine apparently gaining some ground, investment demand for riskier equities increased. Although this was the case, the gold price did gain some ground itself in the final days of March, reportedly due to a weak dollar index and declining US yields.

News from The Silver Institute predicted that industrial demand for silver was expected to increase during 2022, most notably due to increased demand for photovoltaic (solar) cells, as many were expected to investigate alternative energy options. The Institute suggested a 13% rise in demand in this key area and suggested demand may triple by 2030, an increase predicted to have an impact on the silver price as a result.

As in previous months, the prices of the key PGM were volatile throughout the month, with palladium again a notable example. The month began with palladium breaking the \$2,500 barrier as it opened on \$2,565, rising to a high of \$3,339 by the end of the first week – an all-time high. This 30% increase over just a week was directly in response to mounting concerns that exports from Russia, a top international producer of palladium, could be disrupted by sanctions. Despite the concern, according to Goldman Sachs Group, shipments from Russia were unlikely to be disrupted unless Russia itself restricted them, and they could easily be directed to ports in Asia before being distributed across the world.

Inflation was in the news again in March, with some market analysts suggesting that the rate of inflation may approach 10% in the US during 2022, whereas inflation in the UK was said to be rising at its fastest rate in 30 years. Although by March it sat at 6.2%, some suggested it could reach 8.7% towards the end of the year. There were calls for a tightening of monetary policy by both the Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve, with many market commentators suggesting that not enough was being done to combat the rising costs for consumers.

In response to this, the Bank of England raised the interest rate from 0.5% to 0.75% towards the middle of March – the third rise since December 2021. This recent correction then raised the rates to their pre-Covid levels and followed a similar rise by the US Fed. In comparison, however, this was their first rate rise since 2018.

**Directors' report (continued)****Market Review (continued)***Physical metals (continued)*

Following the previous highs of more than \$2,000 per ounce seen at points in March, there were high hopes that the gold price throughout April would also perform favourably. As March ended with the price sitting at just under \$1,925, gold was said to have recorded the best three-month return since June 2020, as investors continued to turn to the yellow metal during the ongoing political and economic tension.

April opened at a price of \$1,933.35 per ounce before retreating slightly. However, by the middle of the month, highs of \$1,975.25 were recorded again as the continuing uncertainty surrounding the conflict dampened risk sentiment and drove investors towards the perceived safety of bullion.

Although movements back towards the \$2,000 barrier were again said to be likely in the short-term, \$2,100 was said to be the next big barrier facing gold in the coming months.

Russian sanctions continued throughout April as US President Joe Biden signed an executive order that prevented any transactions from the US with the Russian central bank's gold reserves. This move was said to be valued at roughly \$130bn and was designed to restrict Russia from trading gold reserves on the international market for other currencies or commodities. The Russian rouble had been devalued by as much as 40% since the Ukraine invasion began, a trend which was set to continue.

News also came in April that The Royal Mint was set to expand into the jewellery sector, with the upcoming launch of 886 by The Royal Mint, a unisex jewellery collection crafted from responsibly sourced precious metals. Most notable, perhaps, was the news that the jewellery would predominately be created using gold recovered from discarded electronic waste. In a partnership with Canadian technology firm Excir, The Royal Mint plans to use the firm's pioneering technology to extract and recover gold from discarded laptops, mobile phones and other electronics.

May opened with a gold price of \$1,857.90 and although the price steadily increased during the first week of trading, the price struggled to find a footing above a high of \$1,895.20. By the beginning of the third week of May, the price had dropped to \$1,805.80 – a decrease of 2.8% since the start of the month. This decline was said to be due to a consistently stronger US dollar following a significant sell-off in previous weeks.

Similar decreases were seen across many precious metals, including platinum, which fell to \$938 during AM trading on May 16. This was the lowest price seen that month and a notable decrease from a high of \$992 seen during the first week. The platinum price was said to be affected by disappointing manufacturing and sales data, particularly from the automotive industry and especially in China, where recent lockdowns contributed to an ongoing dampened demand.

The increased focus on USD during May was initially in anticipation that the US Federal Reserve was planning to adopt a higher interest rate regime for the remainder of 2022, and perhaps even throughout 2023. This move by the central bank aimed to curb the rate of inflation in the US, where recent analysis suggested that it was growing at the fastest pace in more than four decades. A similar situation continued to unfold in the UK, where increases were set to around seven percent by May, which was said to be the highest in over three decades.

As a result, rates were raised by half a percentage point by the US Central Bank, the largest increase since 2000. Similar efforts were seen at the Bank of England, where the interest rate was increased by 0.25 percentage points to a 13-year high of one percent at the start of May.

The Bank of England suggested that, although the measure for the annual rise in living costs could breach 10% later this year, it was likely to fall back to their two percent target within three years, as the shock of both Covid and the war in Ukraine gradually fades.

Volatility continued in the cryptocurrency markets, where, although initial boosts in the price of Bitcoin were seen following the US interest rate hikes, the price went on to decrease by nearly 27% by the middle of May.

June opened with a gold price of \$1,829.70 and prices steadily increased throughout the first half of the month as they met, and occasionally broke, the \$1,850 barrier. The platinum price also saw a reasonable amount of activity in the first few days of June, from a low of \$975 on June 1 to a high of \$1,031 less than a week later.

By the beginning of the third week, however, prices for both gold and other precious metals suffered sharp declines as the dollar began to strengthen and seek further support, as ongoing discussions regarding a sharp interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve eroded the appeal of bullion and precious metals. Gold suffered losses of around two percent, whilst platinum saw seven percent declines with the dollar index hitting a multi-decade peak, as investors steered away from gold as rising interest rates reduced the appeal of non-interest yielding bullion.



**Directors' report (continued)****Market Review (continued)***Physical metals (continued)*

The US Labor Department reported that the annual inflation rate in the US rose to 8.6% in May, after initially easing in April. Inflation in the US was said to be at the highest rate for more than 40 years, much of which was prompted by an unexpectedly strong economic rebound following the shock of the pandemic that exhausted supplies prompting companies to raise prices as a result.

News of the rises caused shockwaves through the financial markets. By the mid-month, the S&P 500 benchmark was trading 21.8% below its January peak, whilst tech stocks, such as the Nasdaq, fell by 4.6%. Cryptocurrency markets didn't escape the declines either, as Bitcoin suffered another devastating sell-off, sending the price down another 12%.

Although the gold price had comfortably sat above the \$1,800 mark throughout much of June, even breaking the \$1,850 barrier on a number of occasions, July opened with a price of just \$1,795.65.

Similarly, July began with the news that silver had now dropped below \$20 per ounce for the first time in two years, hitting the lowest price since July 2020 as a result. Silver remained under increasing pressure, partly as a result of the wider economic and geopolitical turmoil currently faced by markets and economies across the world.

Despite the news that the US Fed had raised interest rates by three quarters of a percentage point, the sharpest hike since 1994, the gold price was only marginally affected by the decision, as spot gold traded down ahead of the announcement and rose shortly after. Following the US increase, Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell hinted that there could be another increase soon, as the US sought to combat the fiercest surge in inflation in four decades. With a similar outlook in many economies throughout the world, multiple banks followed suit as interest rate hikes took place.

Gold was the latest target of the next round of ongoing economic sanctions imposed on Russia by western countries as the UK, Canada, Japan and the USA led G7 nations with bans on the import of Russian-produced gold. Alongside energy, gold was the largest export by the region and these 'tough new measures' were designed to target the over £12bn of Russian gold exports annually.

As the price of a Bitcoin continued to struggle to hit or exceed its new \$20,000 baseline, market commentators' opinions are split as to whether the 'cryptowinter' was nearing the end or if the bull market has ended, never to return. Market analysts at Goldman Sachs recently reported that they believe the crypto market has been moving in tandem with the US stock market and has therefore been affected by the macro-economic environment. As such, they predicted there were prospects of a 30% rally for Bitcoin by the end of 2022.

August saw an average gold price of \$1,765.64, even hitting a high of \$1,793.50 at one point. As July had seen a low of \$1,686.55 by the third week, the price appeared to slowly recover and seemed buoyed by news of interest rates, inflation, the Russian-Ukrainian war and tension between China and the USA.

Following the widely anticipated news that another interest rate was on the cards in the US, the Federal Reserve announced its most recent monetary policy move at the end of July by increasing the base interest rate by 75 basis points (0.75%). This was the second increase since June as the country continued to battle a 41-year high inflation rate of 9.1%.

In line with recent announcements of interest rate increases, the word which many were shying away from using was 'recession', as leaders of economies sought to discourage negative sentiment. In the US, although GDP had decreased, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell commented that he did not think the US was in a recession at that point. In the UK, however, Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey warned that the UK would fall into a recession later this year. The UK economy was forecast to shrink during the last three months of this year and was forecast to keep reducing until the end of 2023. Bailey acknowledged that he knew the cost of living squeeze was difficult, but that if the Bank didn't raise interest rates, it would get 'even worse'.

The Royal Mint announced the launch of a new 20g gold minted bullion bar celebrating and engraved with an image of Ganesh, the Hindu god of luck and new beginnings. The bar was released ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, a Hindu festival celebrating the arrival of Lord Ganesh to earth, and was packaged in a henna-patterned gift sleeve.

The gold price was buoyant throughout September, ranging from a low of \$1,618.20 to a high of \$1,727.05 and closing at \$1,671.75. The gold price activity was coupled with prospects that major central banks were continuing their trend of raising interest rates in an attempt to bring down the spiralling rates of inflation throughout key international markets.

The price of silver did not escape the downward trajectory seen in other metals as silver opened the month at \$17.77 per troy ounce – a low not seen for more than two years. Some industry commentators suggested that the resurgence in the silver price is yet to be seen as, with a wide range of industrial uses, demand in key manufacturing and jewellery industries is still lacking behind.

**Directors' report (continued)****Market Review (continued)***Physical metals (continued)*

In a report of the largest gold producers in the world, it was suggested that Newmont, based in the USA, held the top spot for the largest producer of gold in the world. Newmont, which has operations in Africa, Australia, South America and the US, reportedly produced more than 2,758 kilo troy ounces (koz) of gold in the first half of 2022. The second and third spots on the list were held by Canadian companies, whilst the other spots in the top 10 were held by South African, Australian and UK companies.

Although it is notable that producers from Russia did not make the top 10, this was most likely because, since the Ukrainian invasion, companies from the region have stopped reporting results.

September 8 brought the momentous news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The world was united in mourning, with statements, tributes, comments and stories about her incredible legacy being shared across the world.

The gold price was off to a strong start in the first few days of October, breaking through the \$1,700 barrier and even hitting \$1,716 by the end of the first week. This increase was boosted in part by lower US Treasury yields, which offset pressure on the Fed to increase borrowing rates. However, following the announcement of the latest US jobs data, which reported stronger than expected results, this initial boost was not to continue. The positive US jobs outlook reinforced suggestions that the labour market remained resilient and further increased expectations that the Federal Reserve would implement steep interest rate hikes in the upcoming early November meeting. By the end of October, the gold price had dropped to just \$1,639 per ounce.

Both silver and platinum prices performed well in the initial days of October, with silver climbing to a high of \$20.92 on October 4 before retreating to a low of \$19.39 by October 11. The steep rise between October 3-4 of nearly eight percent represented the highest daily percentage increase in silver since February 2021. However, the silver price rally was not to continue, and by mid-month, initial ground gained was again lost for much the same reason as gold. Additionally, as approximately 60% of silver has industrial uses, ongoing recession fears also affected the price of the metal. Similarly, around two-thirds of platinum has industrial uses, so price and demand is closely linked to wider economic activity.

It was a positive month for gold as the price rose from a low of \$1,652.55 at the start of the month to a high of \$1803.15 at the end. This impressive 9.11% increase was in part said to be due to comments from a senior US Federal Reserve official, who raised hopes that the Fed would take a less aggressive approach in raising interest rates amount other factors.

Silver also saw similar increases, rising from \$20 per troy ounce on the first to \$21.56 by the month end – an increase of nearly 7.8%. Some of the silver price increases were attributed to early speculation that China was potentially looking to end or relax its zero-Covid policy. A change like this was said to prove a boost for silver as, due to the multitude of manufacturing uses, any detraction from the current ongoing restrictions in the region would prove beneficial to manufacturers and the wider economy.

Due in part to significant recent gold purchases by China, some experts speculated that China and Russia were working together to develop and launch a new gold-backed currency, which could aim to challenge the dollar as the primary reserve currency of the world. In July alone, it was suggested that China may have purchased more than 80 tonnes of gold, valued at more than \$4.6bn. Whilst neither country has officially confirmed plans for such a currency, earlier this year, whilst Russia was forced away from the dollar due to sanctions, China began ramping up purchases of gold.

The Gold Demand Trends report for Q3 2022, released by the World Gold Council, highlighted that although the LBMA gold price fell by eight percent during the third quarter of the year, the average price in Q3 was only three percent lower when compared year-on-year. This decline was said to be largely in response to the increased strength of the US dollar, as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates to combat high inflation.

Although demand for investment gold was reportedly 47% lower year-on-year, jewellery consumption reached a robust 523 tonnes, an increase of 10% compared to the previous year, despite the ongoing negative economic outlook. Much of the global recovery in jewellery was generated by urban consumers in India as a result of a return to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity. Although demand was increased in these urban areas, rural consumers were noted to be more cautious as their inflation was outpaced by counterparts in more developed areas.

Additional growth was also seen in China, where consumer demand for jewellery saw a five percent annual increase following an easing of Covid lockdown restrictions in some areas. Retail investors were also said to be attracted to the safe-haven appeal of gold amid a depreciating local currency and a decline in local equity prices.

**Directors' report (continued)****Market Review (continued)***Physical metals (continued)*

December opened with a gold price of \$1,779.60, which continued a steady positive trajectory in the opening weeks. The price even broke the crucial \$1,800 barrier on December 1 and 2, before settling back slightly. The gold price had failed to break this crucial level since July and markets were said to be back under pressure. This was due to stronger than expected US data, which boosted the dollar and ramped up uncertainty over the ongoing strength in the US economy. In the coming days, we are likely to see more activity in the markets as the latest US consumer price data is yet to be released and the last meeting of the Federal Reserve for 2022 is yet to take place.

Looking back on 2022 as a whole, the market was heavily influenced by a number of key developments. From the war in Ukraine to the threat of the cost of living crisis hitting markets and consumers across the world, 2022 has witnessed a number of surprising developments, and the market has reacted as a result.

Throughout the year the gold price ranged from a high of \$2,039.05 in March to a low of \$1,618.20 in September. Although recovered from this low, the fluctuations represent a range of 26%. Silver has seen even bigger movements, with a high of \$26.17 and a low of just \$17.77 in September – a range of more than 47% in less than a year.

Although it is impossible to predict what 2023 holds, there are a number of standard factors which have historically affected the price and are likely to have an impact in the coming year. As well as the strength of the US dollar, markets continue to battle with the effects of interest rates and inflation. The ongoing geopolitical concerns – not just in Ukraine but across the world – may have a significant impact in the months ahead.

*Underlying Allowances backing the Carbon Securities (through the Backing note)*

Since the launch of SparkChange CO2 in November 2021, the price of European Union Carbon Allowances (EUAs) has risen by a third from cEUR 60 to cEUR 80. Looking past that point-to-point performance however, there has been significant volatility in EUA prices, and the time since launch can broadly be split into three phases:

*Phase 1: November 2021 – February 2022*

From product launch to mid-February 2022, EUA prices rose steadily from cEUR 60 to an early-February high of cEUR 95, spurred on by several coinciding factors. On the demand side, high gas prices led to European Utilities switching to coal-fired power generation, increasing the demand for EUAs in-line with higher emissions, at a time when economic recovery post-pandemic was already increasing underlying demand. On the supply side, the Market Stability Reserve, a mechanism designed to maintain the overall EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) in a condition of tight supply, reduced daily EUA auction volumes by c50% as a delayed reaction to reduced emissions in the lockdown year 2020. Lastly, January 2022 saw growing focus of carbon market commentators on plans to increase the ambition of the EU ETS, via the implementation of a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), and a steeper decarbonisation pathway to 2030.

*Phase 2: February – March 2022*

EUA prices crashed on the back of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, falling by as much as c40% to an intra-day low of EUR 55 on 2nd of March, 5 trading days later. On the fundamental side, questions regarding the potential for an economic downturn, as well as swiftly announced plans to extend the life of Germany's nuclear plants, led to some anticipation of a decline in the demand for carbon allowances. That said, the c40% write-down in EUA prices went far beyond accounting for those factors, reflecting 1) the fact that EUA supply is relatively price-inelastic, meaning volatility at times of market stress can be acute, and 2) evidence of forced liquidations, that triggered a cascade of stop losses as prices spiralled downward. Within a further 6 trading days, EUA prices rallied by c40% to EUR 80, as trading dynamics normalised.

*Phase 3: March 2022 to December 2022*

Since that post-invasion recovery, EUA prices have been range-bound between cEUR 80 and cEUR 90. Ebbs and flows within that range have largely been driven by an ongoing legislative process at the EU, focused on reform of the EU ETS ("Fit-for 55"), as well as the bloc's plans to wean itself off Russian petrochemicals, dubbed 'REPowerEU'. Throughout the legislative process, EUA prices were volatile, even reached new highs of nearly 100EUR in August. The legislation was finally agreed in December 2022, bringing certainty to the regulatory future of the EU ETS. The Fit-for-55 regulation sets the EU ETS up for a more ambitious reduction pathway through 2030 and increases the scope of the EU ETS by including maritime emissions and, via the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), also covering the emissions of industrial products imported into the EU ETS from 2025 on. "REPowerEU" on the other hand is seen as more of a mid-term bearish regulation as it frontloads auction volumes from the later half of the decade to 2023 and 2024.

**Directors' report (continued)****Market Review (continued)***Phase 4: Dec 2022-now*

Since the latest EU rules have been finalised, EUA prices have been driven by more short-term factors, particularly unseasonable weather, compliance season in April and May and the decrease of gas prices throughout Europe. Volatility has stayed high, with prices moving between c80EUR up to c100EUR before settling in the c80EUR to c90EUR range throughout May.

The table below shows the EUA price change of the EEX Spot price and volatility for each calendar year and also for the current reporting year:

Period From	Period To	Starting EUA Price	Ending EUA Price	Return Ave 10-day Standard Deviation (Retrospective, Annualised, n=260)
31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	76.27	89.24	17.00% 43%
18-Oct-21	31-Mar-22	58.54	76.27	30.25% 58%
31-Mar-21	31-Mar-22	42.45	76.27	79.62% 47%
31-Mar-20	31-Mar-21	17.54	42.45	142.02% 44%
29-Mar-19	31-Mar-20	21.45	17.54	-18.23% 40%
30-Mar-18	29-Mar-19	13.25	21.45	61.89% 48%

**Results and dividends for the financial period**

The results for the financial year are set out on page 25. No dividends are recommended by the Directors for the financial period under review (2022: Nil).

**Changes in Directors, secretary and registered office**

The following changes in directors occurred during the year:

- Ciaran Connolly was appointed as Director on 15 February 2023;
- Timothy Darcy was appointed as Director on 28 April 2023;
- Michael Carroll resigned as Director on 15 February 2023;
- Ignatius Faissal resigned as Director on 28 February 2023; and
- David Murphy was appointed as Alternate Director to Niall Vaughan on 17 July 2023.

There has been no other changes in Directors, registered office or secretary during the financial year.

**Directors, secretary and their interests**

None of the Directors who held office on 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 held any shares or debentures/ securities issued in the Company at that date or during the financial year, or at the date of their appointment. Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited, acting as Company Secretary, held shares in the Company as at 31 March 2023. Except for the Administration agreement entered into by the Company with Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited, there were no contracts of any significance in relation to the business of the Company in which the Directors had any interest, as defined in Section 309 of the Companies Act 2014, at any time during the financial period. Two of the Directors are employees of Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited, which is the Administrator of the Company. During the financial year, no fees were paid to the Directors for the services provided (2022: Nil). Further information is set out in Note 17 to the financial statements.

**Shares and shareholders**

The authorised share capital of the Company is EUR 25,000 divided into 25,000 ordinary shares of EUR 1 each, which is issued and partly paid. The shares are held by Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited (the "Share Trustee") under the terms of a declaration of trust (the "Declaration of Trust") under which the Share Trustee hold the benefit of the shares on trust for charitable purposes. The Share Trustee has no beneficial interest in, and derives no benefit from, its holding of the shares. There are no other rights that pertain to the shares and the shareholders.

**Corporate Governance Statement**

The Company is subject to and complies with Irish statute comprising the Companies Act. As the Company has been admitted to listing and trading on the regulated market of the stock exchange in London, Frankfurt, Milan and Paris, the Company adheres to the Listing Rules of the London, Frankfurt, Milan and Paris Stock Exchange in so far as it relates to an overseas company trading in secured metal linked debt securities and carbon linked debt securities. As well as being mindful of the requirements of the Companies Act and the stock exchanges which the Company is listed with, the Company complies with its own corporate governance requirements as set out in its Articles of Association (the "Articles").

**Directors' report (continued)****Corporate Governance Statement (continued)***Introduction*

During the financial period ended 31 March 2023, the Company has been in compliance with both the Companies Act 2014 and the Listing rules of the London, Frankfurt, Milan, Paris and Mexico Stock Exchange. The Company does not apply additional requirements in addition to those required by the above. Each of the service providers engaged by the Company is subject to their own corporate governance requirements.

*Financial Reporting Process*

The Board of Directors is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control and risk management systems of the Company in relation to the financial reporting process. Such systems are designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the Company's financial reporting objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board of Directors has established processes regarding internal control and risk management systems to ensure its effective oversight of the financial reporting process. These include appointing the Administrator to maintain the accounting records of the Company. The Administrator is contractually obliged to maintain proper books and records as required by the Corporate Services agreement. The Administrator is also contractually obliged to prepare, for review and approval by the Board, the annual report including financial statements intended to give a true and fair view.

The Board of Directors evaluates and discusses significant accounting and reporting issues as the need arises. From time to time the Board of Directors may examine and evaluate the Administrator financial accounting and reporting routines and monitors and evaluates the external auditors' performance, qualifications and independence. The Administrator has operating responsibility for internal control in relation to the financial reporting process and reports to the Board.

*Risk Assessment*

The Board of Directors is responsible for assessing the risk of irregularities whether caused by fraud or error in financial reporting and ensuring the processes are in place for the timely identification of internal and external matters with a potential effect on financial reporting. The Board of Directors has also put in place processes to identify changes in accounting rules and recommendations and to ensure that these changes are accurately reflected in the Company's financial statements. More specifically:

- The Administrator has a review procedure in place to ensure errors and omissions in the financial statements are identified and corrected;
- Regular training on accounting rules and recommendations is provided to the accountants employed by the Administrator;
- Accounting bulletins, issued by the Administrator, are distributed to all accountants employed by the Administrator; and
- The Company's financial statements are prepared by the accountants employed by the Administrator, Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited.

*Control Activities*

The Administrator is contractually obliged to design and maintain control structures to manage the risks which the Board of Directors judges to be significant for internal control over financial reporting. These control structures include appropriate division of responsibilities and specific control activities aimed at detecting or preventing the risk of significant deficiencies in financial reporting for every significant account in the financial statements and the related notes in the Company's annual report.

*Monitoring*

The Board of Directors has an annual process to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to consider and address the shortcomings identified and measures recommended by the independent auditor.

Given the contractual obligations on the Administrator, the Board has concluded that there is currently no need for the Company to have a separate internal audit function in order for the Board to perform effective monitoring and oversight of the internal control and risk management systems of the Company in relation to the financial reporting process.

**Directors' report (continued)****Corporate Governance Statement (continued)***Capital Structure*

The sole shareholder in the Company is Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited holding 25,000 shares. No person has any special rights of control over the Company's share capital.

The Board of Directors confirm that share trustees have entered into a share trust agreement whereby they have agreed not to exercise their voting rights. No shareholders meeting were held during the financial year ended 31 March 2023 with agreement from the shareholders.

With regard to the appointment and replacement of directors, the Company is governed by the Constitution, Irish Statute comprising the Companies Act 2014 and the Listing Rules of the London, Frankfurt, Milan, Paris and Mexico Stock Exchange. The Constitution may be amended by special resolution of the shareholders.

The Company does not have any agreements that take effect, alter or terminate upon a change of control of the Company following a bid. The Company also does not have any agreements between itself and the directors providing for compensation for loss of office or employment that occurs because of a bid.

*Powers of directors*

The Board of Directors is responsible for managing the business affairs of the Company in accordance with the Constitution. The Board of Directors may delegate certain functions to the Administrator and other parties, subject to the supervision and direction by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors have delegated the day to day administration of the Company to the Administrator.

**Principal risk and uncertainties***COVID-19 impact*

While governments and central banks cope with inflation due to aggressive fiscal and monetary stimulus in 2020 and 2021, together with supply chain constraints due to post-COVID-19 lock down impacts, the global economy is moving forward.

The Board of Directors continues to monitor the advice and developments relating to COVID-19, whilst continuing to operate business as usual.

*Russia/Ukraine war impact*

On 24 February 2022, Russian Federation launched a full-scale invasion into Ukraine sovereign state. The potential impacts from the Ukraine and Russian conflict remain uncertain, including but not limited to, on global economic conditions, asset valuations, interest rate expectations and exchange rates. The extent of these impacts on the Company are unclear at this stage, however, given the broad nature of the sanctions imposed by a number of governments, (including the US, UK and EU) directly targeting the Russian Federation and Belarus, the Global nature of the asset management and capital markets sector and the potential for other impacts to emerge, the Directors continue to actively monitor the situation.

The Company is subject to other financial risks. These are outlined in Note 18 to the financial statements.

**Accounting records**

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to:

- correctly record and explain the transactions of the Company;
- enable, at any time, the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company to be determined with reasonable accuracy; and
- enable the Directors to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act and enable those financial statements to be audited.

In this regard Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited have been appointed for the purpose of maintaining adequate accounting records. Accordingly the accounting records are kept at 2nd Floor, Block 5, Irish Life Centre, Abbey Street Lower, Dublin 1, Ireland.

**Directors' report (continued)****Principal risk and uncertainties (continued)****Political donations**

The Electoral Act, 1997 (as amended by the Electoral Amendment Political Funding Act, 2012) requires companies to disclose all political donations over EUR 200 in aggregate made during a financial year. The Directors, on enquiry, have satisfied themselves that no such donations in excess of this amount have been made by the Company during the financial period to 31 March 2023 (2022: Nil).

**Subsequent events**

All subsequent events are disclosed in Note 20 to the financial statements.

**Research and development costs**

The Company did not incur any research and development costs during the financial year (2022: Nil).

**Audit committee**

In accordance with Section 1551(11)(c) of the Companies Act 2014, if the sole business of the Public Interest Entity (PIE) relates to the issuance of asset backed securities, the PIE is exempt from the requirement to establish an audit committee.

Given the contractual obligations of the Corporate Administrator and the limited recourse nature of the securities the Company may participate in, the Board of Directors has concluded that there is currently no need for the Company to have a separate audit committee in order for the Board of Directors to perform effective monitoring and oversight of the internal control and risk management systems of the Company in relation to the financial reporting process. Accordingly, the Company has availed itself of the exemption under Section 1551 of the Companies Act 2014.

**Statement on relevant audit information**

So far as the Directors are aware, each Director at the date of approval of this report and financial statements confirms that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor are unaware; and
- as per section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, the Directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor are aware of this information.

**Independent auditor**

Ernst & Young, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit firm, were appointed as first auditor on 11 June 2021 and have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

**Directors' compliance statement**

The Directors confirm that:

- they acknowledge that they are responsible for securing the Company's compliance with its relevant obligations and have, to the best of their knowledge, complied with its relevant obligations as defined in section 225 of the Companies Act 2014;
- there is an adequate structure in place, that in the Directors' opinion, is designed to secure material compliance with the Company's relevant obligations;
- relevant arrangements and structures have been put in place that provide a reasonable assurance of compliance in all material respects by the Company with its relevant obligations, which arrangements and structures may, if the Directors so decide, include reliance on the advice of one or more than one person employed by the Company or retained by it under a contract for services, being a person who appears to the Directors to have the requisite knowledge and experience to advise the Company on compliance with its relevant obligations; and
- they have conducted a review, during the financial year to which the report referred to relates, of any arrangements or structures referred above that have been put in place.

**Directors' report (continued)**

**Responsibility statement in accordance with the Transparency Regulation**

Each Director whose names and functions appear on page 1 confirm to the best of their knowledge:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with IFRS as issued by the IASB and as adopted by the EU, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company; and
- the management report, which is incorporated into the directors' report, includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the Company, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that it faces.

**On behalf of the Board of Directors**

**David Murphy**  
**Director**

**Ciaran Connolly**  
**Director**

**Date:**



**Directors' responsibilities statement**

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

Irish Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and the profit or loss of the Company for each financial year. Under that law, the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as adopted by the European Union ("EU").

Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position, of the Company as at the financial year and of the profit or loss of the Company for the financial year, and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they intend to liquidate the Company or cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are also responsible for preparing a Directors' Report that complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements are published on the HANetf website. The Directors, together with the Arranger are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on this website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**On behalf of the Board**

**David Murphy**  
Director

**Ciaran Connolly**  
Director

**Date:**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC**

### ***Report on the audit of the financial statements***

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the European Single Electronic Format financial statements of HANETF ETC Securities plc ('the Company') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 March 2023 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the European Union; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard as applied to public interest entities issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Our evaluation of the directors' assessment of the Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included:

- Confirming our understanding of management's going concern assessment process and engaging with management to understand the key factors which were considered in their assessment;
- Obtaining management's going concern assessment, which covers a year from the date of approval of the financial statements;

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC (CONTINUED)**

- Reviewing and evaluating the reasonability of the key factors considered by management including
  - consideration of future activity in the ETC Securities. In assessing these, we obtained and reviewed the liquidity terms which the ETC Securities offer to investors and reviewed post year-end activity and corroborated through enquiry of management as to whether there are any subsequent events, including performance of the ETC Securities, that might give rise to conditions which could lead management to discontinue the operations of the Company.

- consideration of the availability of liquid assets to meet ongoing operational costs.
- Reviewing the Company's going concern disclosures included in the annual report in order to assess that the disclosures were appropriate and in conformity with the reporting standards

### **Conclusion**

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Key audit matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) that we identified, including those which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy, the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC (CONTINUED)**

Risk	Our response to the risk	Key observations
<p><b>Existence of physical metals and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b></p> <p>We have considered the existence of Physical metals at fair value through profit or loss with a fair value of USD 846,315,389 (2022: USD 512,895,103) and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss with a fair value of USD 140,815,168 (2022: 211,644,257) as a key audit matter as it is a key driver of the Company's performance.</p> <p>Please refer to Note 9 - Physical metals and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss in the financial statements.</p>	<p>We obtained a portfolio listing of physical metals and financial assets from the administrator of the Company as at 31 March 2023.</p> <p>As at 31 March 2023, we obtained an independent confirmation from the Company's custodian of the existence and assay of the physical metals and from the issuer of the Backing note for the existence of the Backing note, agreeing the amounts per the accounting records to the independent confirmation and auditing reconciling items.</p>	<p>No issues have been noted from the performance of our procedures over this key audit matter.</p>

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC (CONTINUED)**

Risk	Our response to the risk	Key observations
<p><b>Valuation of physical metals, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss</b></p> <p>We have considered the valuation of Physical metals at fair value through profit or loss with a fair value of USD 846,315,389 (2022: USD 512,895,103), financial assets at fair value through profit or loss with a fair value of USD 140,815,168 (2022: 212,644,257) and financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss with a fair value of USD 985,956,397 (2022: USD 733,525,964) as a key audit matter as it is a key driver of the Company's performance.</p> <p>Please refer to Note 9 – Physical metals and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and Note 12 - Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss in the financial statements.</p>	<p>We obtained the listing of the physical metals and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as at 31 March 2023 from the Administrator.</p> <p>As at 31 March 2023, we assessed the valuation of the physical metals, financial assets and liabilities, by performing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Obtaining an independent price for the physical metals and comparing to the price used by the Administrator;</li> <li>▶ Obtaining confirmation for the value of the Backing note from the issuer of the Backing note and comparing to the value used by the Administrator;</li> <li>▶ Recalculating the value of the Metal ETC Securities and the Carbon ETC Securities based on the terms of the legal agreements.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, we have performed additional procedures to independently confirm the existence of, and to independently value, the Allowances, which are held by the Backing Issuer.</p>	<p>No issues have been noted from the performance of our procedures over this key audit matter.</p>



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC (CONTINUED)**

### **Our application of materiality**

We apply the concept of materiality in planning and performing the audit, in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and in forming our audit opinion.

### **Materiality**

The magnitude of an omission or misstatement that, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of the users of the financial statements. Materiality provides a basis for determining the nature and extent of our audit procedures.

We determined materiality for the Company to be USD 9,859,564 (2022: USD 7,335,260), which is 1% (2022: 1%) of value of the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss. We believe that financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss provides us with appropriate measurement basis since the users of the financial statements may focus more on this than on earnings.

During the course of our audit, we reassessed initial materiality and made no changes to it.

### **Performance materiality**

The application of materiality at the individual account or balance level. It is set at an amount to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality.

On the basis of our risk assessments, together with our assessment of the Company's overall control environment, our judgement was that performance materiality was 75% (2022: 50%) of our planning materiality, namely USD 7,394,673 (2022: USD 3,667,630). We have set performance materiality at this percentage based on our assessment of the risk of misstatements, both corrected and uncorrected, our knowledge of the Company and its industry, our past history with the Company, the effectiveness of its control environment and our assessment of the risks associated with the engagement. Due to the completion of the financial statement audit in the prior year, without the identification of any material misstatements, and our knowledge of the Company's operations and control environment in the current year, we have re-assessed the level we have set our performance materiality.

### **Reporting threshold**

An amount below which identified misstatements are considered as being clearly trivial.

We agreed with the Board of Directors that we would report to them all uncorrected audit differences in excess of USD 492,978 (2022: €336,763), which is set at 5% of planning materiality, as well as differences below that threshold that, in our view, warranted reporting on qualitative grounds.

We evaluate any uncorrected misstatements against both the quantitative measures of materiality discussed above and in light of other relevant qualitative considerations in forming our opinion.

An overview of the scope of our audit report



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC (CONTINUED)**

### **Tailoring the scope**

Our assessment of audit risk, our evaluation of materiality and our allocation of performance materiality determine our audit scope for the Company. This enables us to form an opinion on the financial statements. We take into account size, risk profile, the organisation of the Company and effectiveness of controls, including controls and changes in the business environment when assessing the level of work to be performed. All audit work was performed directly by the audit engagement team.

### ***Other information***

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### ***Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014***

In our opinion, based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year ended for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC (CONTINUED)**

### ***Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014 (continued)***

In addition we report, in relation to information given in the Corporate Governance Statement on pages 10 to 11, that:

- based on knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of our audit, no material misstatements in the information identified above have come to our attention;
- based on the work under taken in the course of our audit, in our opinion:
- the description of the main features of the internal control and risk management systems in relation to the process for preparing the financial statements, and information relating to voting rights and other matters required by the European Communities (Takeover Bids (Directive 2004/25/EC)) Regulations 2006 and specified by the Companies Act 2014 for our consideration, are consistent with the financial statements and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014; and
- the Corporate Governance Statement contains the information required by the Companies Act 2014.

### ***Matters on which we are required to report by exception***

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### ***Respective responsibilities***

#### ***Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements***

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 14, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as going concerns, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC (CONTINUED)

### *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

### *Explanation to what extent the audit was considered capable detecting irregularities, including fraud*

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud, that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. In addition, the further removed any non-compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely it is that our procedure will identify such non-compliance. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the company and management.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Company and determined that the most significant is the Companies Act 2014
- We understood how HANETF ETC Securities PLC is complying with those frameworks by updating our understanding of the adequate system of internal control in place. We also considered the existence of independent service providers, proper segregation of duties and the regulated environment in which the Company operates, which may reduce opportunities for fraud to take place.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by management override of controls.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved inquiries to those charged with governance into possible instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, review of board meeting minutes during the year and obtaining representation from management.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at [http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HANETF ETC SECURITIES PLC (CONTINUED)**

### ***Other matters which we are required to address***

We were appointed by the Board of Directors on 11 June 2021 to audit the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2021 and subsequent financial periods. The period of total uninterrupted engagement including previous renewals and reappointments of the firm is 3 years.

The non-audit services prohibited by IAASA's Ethical Standard were not provided to the Company and we remain independent of the Company in conducting our audit.

Our audit opinion is consistent with the additional report to the Board of Directors.

### ***The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities***

Our report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Kieran Daly**  
for and on behalf of  
Ernst & Young Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm

Office: Dublin

Date: 19 July 2023

**Statement of comprehensive income**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

	Note	Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD
Net changes in fair value of Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss	4	43,916,285	44,689,293
Net changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	4	15,977,258	2,406,546
Net changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	5	(57,019,626)	(45,674,745)
Operating expenses	6	(2,885,176)	(1,428,014)
Other income	7	<u>12,347</u>	<u>8,030</u>
<b>Operating profit before tax</b>		1,088	1,110
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	8	<u>(272)</u>	<u>(278)</u>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the financial year</b>		<u><u>816</u></u>	<u><u>832</u></u>

All of the items dealt with in arriving at the profit for the financial year are from continuing operations, no income is recognised in other comprehensive income.

**Statement of financial position**  
**As at 31 March 2023**

	Note	31-Mar-23 USD	31-Mar-22 USD
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss	9	846,315,389	512,895,103
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9	140,815,168	221,644,257
Cash and cash equivalents	10	67,527	35,221
Other receivables	11	698,540	25,045
<b>Total assets</b>		<b><u>987,896,624</u></b>	<b><u>734,599,626</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and equity</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	12	985,956,397	733,525,964
Loan payable	13	629,055	378,911
Other payables	14	1,279,112	663,507
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b><u>987,864,564</u></b>	<b><u>734,568,382</u></b>
<b>Shareholder's funds - Equity</b>			
Called up share capital	15	29,313	29,313
Retained earnings		2,747	1,931
<b>Total equity</b>		<b><u>32,060</u></b>	<b><u>31,244</u></b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>		<b><u>987,896,624</u></b>	<b><u>734,599,626</u></b>

**On behalf of the Board**

**David Murphy**  
**Director**

**Ciaran Connolly**  
**Director**

The notes on pages 29 to 47 form an integral part of the financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Called up Share Capital USD	Retained earnings USD	Total Equity USD
Balance as at 1 April 2021		29,313	1,099	30,412
Total comprehensive income for the financial year		-	832	832
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2022</b>		<u>29,313</u>	<u>1,931</u>	<u>31,244</u>
Balance as at 1 April 2022		29,313	1,931	31,244
Total comprehensive income for the financial year		-	816	816
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2023</b>		<u>29,313</u>	<u>2,747</u>	<u>32,060</u>

The notes on pages 29 to 47 form an integral part of the financial statements.

## Statement of cash flows

For the financial year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Operating profit before taxation		1,088	1,110
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Net changes in fair value of Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss	4	(43,916,285)	(44,689,293)
Net changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	4	(15,977,258)	(2,406,546)
Net changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	5	57,019,626	45,674,745
<i>Movements in working capital</i>			
Increase in other receivables		(1,088)	(1,110)
Increase in other payables		615,333	578,637
Proceeds from disposal of Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss	9	1,100,735	849,723
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9	1,190,155	-
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>		<b>32,306</b>	<b>7,266</b>
<b>Increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>32,306</b>	<b>7,266</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at start of the financial year		35,221	27,955
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the financial year</b>	10	<b>67,527</b>	<b>35,221</b>

## Non-cash transactions during the financial year include:

	Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD
<i>Metal ETC Securities</i>		
Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss Additions	576,906,342	324,407,455
Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss Disposals	(286,301,606)	(195,741,690)
Loan payable to The Royal Mint Limited decrease/(increase)	(250,144)	46,426
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss Issued	(374,050,004)	(293,865,755)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss Redeemed	83,695,412	165,153,564
<i>Carbon ETC Securities</i>		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss Additions	91,269,886	245,753,193
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss Disposals	(186,213,671)	(26,515,482)
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss Issued	(91,269,886)	(245,753,193)
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss Redeemed	186,213,671	26,515,482

The notes on pages 29 to 47 form an integral part of the financial statements.

**Notes to the financial statements****For the financial year ended 31 March 2023****1 General information**

The Company is a public limited company incorporated in Ireland on 24 January 2020 under registered number 664945 and established as a Special Purposes Vehicle ("SPV") for the purpose of issuing Metal Securities and Carbon Securities under the Physical Metal Securities Programme and under the Carbon Securities Programme (the "Programme") of the Company respectively. The registered office of the Company is at 2nd Floor, Block 5, Irish Life Centre, Abbey Street Lower, Dublin 1, Ireland. The aggregate number of Metal Securities issued under the Programme will not at any time exceed 10,000,000,000, being the Programme maximum number of Metal Securities and the aggregate number of Carbon Securities issued under the Programme will not at any time exceed 10,000,000,000, this being the Programme maximum number of Carbon Securities.

The Company has no direct employees (2022: Nil).

As at 31 March 2023, Series 1 - Metal ETC Securities are listed on the London Stock Exchange, Deutsche Borse (Xetra), Borsa Italiana, Euronext Paris and Mexican Stock Exchange (BMV).

As at 31 March 2023, Series 2 - Carbon ETC Securities are listed on the London Stock Exchange, Xetra, Borsa Italiana and BMV.

**2 Basis of preparation****(a) Statement of compliance**

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") and its interpretations as adopted by the EU and in accordance with the Companies Act, 2014.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied in preparing the financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements of the Company have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Company is able to meet all of its liabilities from its assets. The performance, marketability and risks of the Series are reviewed on a regular basis throughout the financial year. Therefore the Board of Directors of the Company believes that the Company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and is financially sound. The Board is satisfied that, at the time of approving the financial statements, it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements of the Company.

**(b) Basis of measurement**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for the following:

- Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value;
- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value; and
- Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

**(c) Functional and presentation currency**

The financial statements are presented in United States Dollar ("USD") which is the Company's functional currency. Functional currency is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates. The financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss are primarily denominated in USD. The Directors of the Company believe that USD most faithfully represents the economic effects of the underlying transactions, events and conditions.

**(d) Use of estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates as detailed in note 18(e) to the financial statements. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and in future periods affected.

***Critical judgements in applying accounting policies******Fair value of financial instruments***

Note 18(e) to the financial statements describes that the Directors have considered the requirements of IFRS 9 Financial Instruments and the use of judgements and estimates in the fair value pricing of financial instruments.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**2 Basis of preparation (continued)**

**(d) Use of estimates and judgements (continued)**

***Critical judgements in applying accounting policies (continued)***

***Going concern assumption***

Another judgement made by the Directors is the going concern assumption whereby the Directors considered the impact of COVID-19 which has adversely affected the economies of many nations across the entire global economy, individual issuers and capital markets, and could continue to extents that cannot necessarily be foreseen. While governments and central banks cope with inflation due to aggressive fiscal and monetary stimulus in 2020 and 2021, together with supply chain constraints due to post-COVID-19 lock down impacts, the global economy is moving forward. The Board continues to monitor the advice and developments relating to COVID-19, whilst continuing to operate business as usual.

**(e) New standards, amendments or interpretations**

*New standards, amendments and interpretations issued but not effective for the financial year beginning 1 January 2022 and not early adopted.*

- IFRS 17 "Insurance Contracts" was issued in May 2017 and will become effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. It applies to: insurance contracts, including reinsurance contracts, issued by an entity; reinsurance contracts held by an entity; and investment contracts with discretionary participation features issued by an entity that issues insurance contracts. An insurance contract is defined as 'a contract under which one party (the issuer) accepts significant insurance risk from another party (the policyholder) by agreeing to compensate the policyholder if a specified uncertain future event (the insured event) adversely affects the policyholder'.
- Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements and IFRS Practice Statement 2: Disclosure of Accounting policies. The standard will become effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023.
- Amendments to IAS 8: Accounting policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors. The standard will become effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023.

The new standard is not expected to have any impact on the Company's financial position, performance or disclosures in its financial statements.

There are no other standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are not yet effective or that would be expected to have a significant impact on the Company.

**3 Significant accounting policies**

**(a) Income and expenses**

All other income and expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis.

***Operating Expenses***

The Total Expense Ratio ("TER") is the rate per annum and is applied to the Metal/Carbon Entitlement on a daily basis. Each day, the Metal/Carbon Entitlement attached to each Metal/Carbon Security is reduced at a rate equal to the portion of the TER in Metal/Carbon Entitlement applicable to such day. The TER is accounted for on an accruals basis and is payable monthly in arrears.

**(b) Taxation**

Corporation tax is provided on taxable profits at current rates applicable to the Company's activities in accordance with Section 110 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. Deferred taxation is accounted for, without discounting, in respect of all temporary differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the reporting date.

Provision is made at the tax rates which are expected to apply in the periods in which the temporary differences reverse.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that related tax benefit will be realised.

Withholding tax is a generic term used for withholding tax deducted at source from the income. The Company records the withholding tax separately from the gross investment income in the Statement of comprehensive income.



**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**3 Significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(c) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash held at bank which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in their fair value, and are used by the Company in the management of its capital.

There are no restrictions on cash and cash equivalents.

Cash and cash equivalents are carried at amortised cost in the statement of financial position.

**(d) Share capital**

Share capital is issued in Euro ("EUR") and have been converted to USD on recognition. Dividends are recognised as a liability in the financial period in which they are approved.

**(e) Other receivables**

Other receivables do not carry any interest, are short-term in nature and have been reviewed for any evidence of impairment. Other receivables are accounted at amortised cost.

**(f) Other payables**

Other payables are accounted at amortised cost.

**(g) Financial instruments**

Financial assets

*Classification*

The Company classifies its financial assets as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss at initial recognition in accordance with IFRS 9: Financial Instruments.

Financial assets are measured at fair value through profit or loss if:

- its contractual terms do not give rise to cash flows on specified dates that are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal amount outstanding;
- it is not held within a business model whose objective is either to collect contractual cash flows, or to both collect contractual cash flows and sell; or
- at initial recognition, it is irrevocably measured at fair value through profit or loss when doing so eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise measuring assets or recognising the gains and losses on them on different bases.

*Initial recognition*

All financial assets (including financial assets at fair value through profit or loss) are recognised initially on the trade date, which is the date that the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The Company has its holding in Backing note at fair value through profit or loss as it is held for trading.

*Derecognition*

The Company derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows on the financial asset in a transaction in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred. Any interest in transferred financial assets that is created or retained by the Company is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

*Subsequent measurement*

After initial measurement, the Company measures financial assets which are classified at fair value through profit or loss at their fair value. Subsequent changes in the fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are recognised directly in the statement of comprehensive income. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value of financial assets is based on their quoted market prices on a recognised exchange or sourced from a reputable broker/counterparty, in the case of non-exchange traded instruments, at the reporting date without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

*Fair value measurement principles*

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are calculated for the Carbon Securities Programme, using the European Energy Exchange (EEX) EUA spot price as an input adjusted for fees in the Backing Issuer.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**3 Significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(g) Financial instruments (continued)**

Financial assets

*Net changes in fair value of Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss*

Net changes in fair value of Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss relates to movement in prices of Physical metals and includes all realised and unrealised fair value changes.

*Net changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss*

Net changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss relates to movement in prices of Backing note and includes all realised and unrealised fair value changes.

Financial liabilities

*Classification and measurement*

*- Metal Securities*

The Company designates the Metal Securities issued as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition.

The exchange quoted price of the Metal Securities is determined by reference to the underlying Physical metals. Changes in the fair value of the Metal Securities are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. The Metal Securities have been at fair value through profit or loss in order to eliminate an accounting mismatch, that would otherwise arise with the Physical metals, enabling both the Metal Securities and the Physical metals to be measured at fair value with gains or losses on both being recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

*- Carbon Securities*

The Company designates the Carbon Securities issued as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition.

The exchange quoted price of the Carbon Securities is determined by reference to the underlying Backing note. Changes in the fair value of the Carbon Securities are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. The Carbon Securities have been at fair value through profit or loss in order to eliminate an accounting mismatch, that would otherwise arise with the Carbon, enabling both the Carbon Securities and the Backing note to be measured at fair value with gains or losses on both being recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

*Initial recognition*

All financial liabilities (including financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss) are recognised initially on the trade date, which is the date that the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

*- Metal Securities*

The Company issues Metal Securities to provide investors with exposure to the performance of the Physical metals. The Metal Securities, are issued in the form of debt instruments that are backed by fully allocated physical holdings of the relevant metal. A metal security is issued or redeemed when a corresponding amount of Physical metal has transferred into or from the allocated accounts maintained by the Custodian.

*- Carbon Securities*

The Company also issues Carbon Securities to provide investors a means of acquiring corresponding exposure to the relevant Allowances without being required to take physical delivery of that Allowance nor opening a holding account. The Carbon Securities, are issued in the form of debt instruments that are backed by an EUA Backing Note which is backed by physical EU Carbon Emission Allowances. A carbon security is issued or redeemed when a corresponding amount of physical Allowance has been transferred. The physical Allowances are not held directly by the Company but are instead held by the Backing Issuer. Once receipt of the Underlying Allowances is confirmed, the Backing Issuer will issue the Company with a Backing Note (or increase the Carbon Entitlement of the Backing Note if the Note has already been issued) and the Company will issue the corresponding number of Carbon Securities.

The Company has designated its debt instruments as financial liabilities issued at fair value through profit or loss.

*Derecognition*

The Company derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled or expired.

*Subsequent measurement*

After initial measurement, the Company measures financial liabilities which are classified as at fair value through profit or loss at their fair value. Subsequent changes in the fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss are recognised directly in the statement of comprehensive income.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**3 Significant accounting policies (continued)**  
**(g) Financial instruments (continued)**

*Offsetting*

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the Company has a legal right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. No balances have been offset on the statement of financial position.

*Fair value measurement principles*

*- Metal Securities*

The fair value of the Metal Securities is determined by reference to the underlying Physical metals. Changes in the fair value of the Metal Securities are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. Metal Securities are valued using valuation techniques, as detailed in the fair value hierarchy note to the financial statements.

*- Carbon Securities*

The fair value of the Carbon Securities is determined by reference to the underlying Allowances backing the Carbon Securities through the Backing note. Changes in the fair value of the Carbon Securities are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. Carbon Securities are valued using valuation techniques, as detailed in the fair value hierarchy note to the financial statements.

*Net changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss*

Net changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss relates to Metal Securities issued/ Carbon Securities issued and includes all realised and unrealised fair value changes.

*Loan payable*

Under the terms of the agreement with The Royal Mint Limited, the difference between the gold on the bar list and the gold in the entitlement is a loan repayable to The Royal Mint Limited, and is more senior to payables to the Noteholders.

The Company has fair valued its loan payable based on the price of the gold as at the financial year end.

**(h) Segment reporting**

An operating segment is a component of an entity that engages in business activities from which it may earn revenues and incur expenses (including revenues and expenses relating to transactions with other components of the same entity). The Company's business involves the repackaging of bonds and other debt instruments, on behalf of investors, which are bought in the market and subsequently securitised to avail of potential market opportunities and risk return asymmetries. The Company with no employees, has one business unit, thus all administrating and operating functions are carried out and reviewed by the Administrator and Company Secretary, Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited.

The Company's principal activity is to invest in financial instruments which are the revenue generating segment of the Company. The Chief Operating Decision Maker ("CODM") of the operating segment is the Board of Directors. The Company is an SPV whose principal activities are the issuance of asset-backed securities. The Company is engaged as two segments in the Programme under which the Company issues on an ongoing basis ETC Securities linked to different commodities providing exposure to a range of asset classes including Physical metals and Backing note.

The following is a geographical analysis of the revenue by the country of the counterparty:

	<b>Financial year ended 31-Mar-23</b>	<b>Financial period ended 31-Mar-22</b>
	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>
United Kingdom (HANetf Limited)	12,347	8,030
	<u>12,347</u>	<u>8,030</u>

The split of Physical metals at fair value, Backing note at fair value, Metal Securities and Carbon Securities at fair value by Series and the unit price per Series are shown in Notes 9 and 12 to the financial statements. Segment profit represents the profit earned by each segment. This is the measure reported to the directors for the purposes of resource allocation and assessment of segment performance. During the financial year, the Company did not earn any profit from the segments in the Programme. The profit of USD 1,088 is not related to any segments.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**3 Significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(i) Foreign currency transaction**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the functional currency at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date. The foreign currency gain or loss on monetary items is the difference between amortised cost in the functional currency at the beginning of the financial period, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the financial period, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the financial period.

At each reporting date, monetary items and non monetary assets and liabilities that are fair valued and are denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate prevailing on the statement of financial position. Gains and losses arising on retranslation of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss are included in the statement of comprehensive income together with respective fair value gains/losses.

**(j) Statement of cash flows**

The indirect method has been applied in the preparation of the statement of cash flows.

**(k) Physical metals**

The Company holds Physical metals at least equal to the amount due to holders of Metal Securities solely for the purposes of meeting its obligations. The Physical metal is measured at fair value, as detailed in note 3(g) Financial liabilities to the financial statements, and changes in fair value are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. Any costs to sell Physical metals that arise in the course of settling the Company's obligations under the Metal Securities are borne by HANetf Limited, the Arranger. The Physical metal is recognised when the metal is received into the vault of the custodian or relevant sub-custodian. The Physical metal is derecognised when the risks and rewards of ownership have all been substantially transferred. The Physical metals are priced at the current close bid price at the end of the day for the Physical metals using the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) gold price.

**(l) Backing note**

The Company holds Backing note at least equal to the amount due to holders of Carbon Securities solely for the purposes of meeting its obligations. The Backing note is measured at fair value, as detailed in note 3(g) Financial liabilities to the financial statements, and changes in fair value are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. Any costs to redeem the Backing note that arise in the course of settling the Company's obligations under the Carbon Securities are borne by HANetf Limited, the Arranger. The Backing note is recognised when the Allowances are received by the Backing Issuer, and it in turn issues the Backing Note to the Company. The Backing note is derecognised when the risks and rewards of ownership have all been substantially transferred.

**4 Net changes in fair value of Physical metals and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss**

	Physical metals	Backing note	Total Physical metals		Backing note	Total
	Financial year ended	Financial year ended	Financial year ended	Financial year ended	Financial year ended	Financial year ended
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Realised gain on disposal of Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss	(7,089,417)	-	(7,089,417)	11,193,229	-	11,193,229
Unrealised fair value movement on Physical metals designated at fair value through profit or loss	51,005,702	-	51,005,702	33,496,064	-	33,496,064
Realised gain on disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	16,052,057	16,052,057	-	8,798,690	8,798,690
Unrealised fair value movement on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	(74,799)	(74,799)	-	(6,392,144)	(6,392,144)
	43,916,285	15,977,258	59,893,543	44,689,293	2,406,546	47,095,839

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2023

5 Net changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss

	Metal ETC Securities Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Carbon ETC Securities Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Total Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Metal ETC Securities Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD	Carbon ETC Securities Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD	Total Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD
Realised gain on redemption of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	4,041,945	(14,940,843)	<b>(10,898,898)</b>	(8,119,719)	(8,751,708)	<b>(16,871,427)</b>
Unrealised fair value movement on financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	(46,323,659)	202,931	<b>(46,120,728)</b>	(35,781,222)	6,977,904	<b>(28,803,318)</b>
	<u>(42,281,714)</u>	<u>(14,737,912)</u>	<u><b>(57,019,626)</b></u>	<u>(43,900,941)</u>	<u>(1,773,804)</u>	<u><b>(45,674,745)</b></u>

6 Operating expenses

	Metal ETC Securities Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Carbon ETC Securities Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Total Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Metal ETC Securities Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD	Carbon ETC Securities Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD	Total Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD
Total Expense Ratio	(1,634,571)	(1,239,346)	<b>(2,873,917)</b>	(788,352)	(632,742)	<b>(1,421,094)</b>
Other expenses			<b>(11,259)</b>			<b>(5,266)</b>
Foreign exchange loss			-			<b>(1,654)</b>
			<u><b>(2,885,176)</b></u>			<u><b>(1,428,014)</b></u>

Each Series pays an “all in one” operational fee to the Arranger, which accrues at 0.25% (Gold) and 0.89% (Carbon) per annum equal to the TER. The Arranger and Adviser uses this fee to pay the agreed fees of other service providers of the Company. The TER is applied to the Metal/ Carbon Entitlement on a daily basis to determine a daily deduction of an amount of metal/ carbon from the Metal/ Carbon Entitlement. Fees and expenses payable on a monthly basis by the Company to the Arranger will be paid out of the Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities by way of the sale of metal/ carbon. The amount of metal/ carbon to be sold is a predetermined amount based on the Metal/ Carbon Entitlements of the Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities.

*Statutory information:*

	Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 EUR	Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 EUR
Auditors’ remuneration – Statutory Assurance services	15,000	15,000
Auditors’ remuneration – Tax compliance services	6,600	6,600

The auditor of the Company earned no other fees from the Company.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, there was no remuneration earned (2022: Nil) by the Directors of the Company in respect of services provided to the Company as they are employees of the Arranger or the Administrator.

The Company had no employees during the financial year (2022: Nil).

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2023

## 7 Other income

	Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD
Corporate benefit	1,088	1,110
Foreign exchange gain	947	-
Other income	10,312	6,920
	<u>12,347</u>	<u>8,030</u>

## 8 Tax on profit on ordinary activities

	Financial year ended 31-Mar-23 USD	Financial year ended 31-Mar-22 USD
Profit on ordinary activities before tax - current tax	1,088	1,110
Corporation tax at 25%	(272)	(278)
<b>Current tax charge</b>	<u>(272)</u>	<u>(278)</u>

The Company is taxed at 25% (2022: 25%) in accordance with section 110 under Case III of Schedule D of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

## 9 Physical metals and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	Physical metals 31-Mar-23 USD	Backing note 31-Mar-23 USD	Total Physical metals		Backing note 31-Mar-22 USD	Total 31-Mar-22 USD
			31-Mar-23 USD	31-Mar-22 USD		
Investment in Precious metals	846,315,389	-	846,315,389	512,895,103	-	512,895,103
Investment in Backing note	-	140,815,168	140,815,168	-	221,644,257	221,644,257
	<u>846,315,389</u>	<u>140,815,168</u>	<u>987,130,557</u>	<u>512,895,103</u>	<u>221,644,257</u>	<u>734,539,360</u>

The financial assets are secured in favour of The Law Debenture Trust Corporation p.l.c. (the "Security Trustee") for the benefit of itself and the Securityholders. The non-cash transactions relate to physical delivery of Precious metals/ Backing note against delivery of Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities.

The Physical metals are held as collateral for Metal Securities issued and the loan payable by the Company. The Backing note is held as collateral for Carbon Securities issued by the Company. The allowances are in turn held by Backing issuer, who actually holds the allowance, as collateral for the Backing note.

The carrying value of the assets of the Company represents their maximum exposure to the credit risk. The credit risk is eventually transferred to the Securityholders. Refer to Note 18 for credit risk and currency risk disclosures relating to the holders of the Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities.

	Physical metals 31-Mar-23 USD	Backing note 31-Mar-23 USD	Total Physical metals		Backing note 31-Mar-22 USD	Total 31-Mar-22 USD
			31-Mar-23 USD	31-Mar-22 USD		
At the start of financial year	512,895,103	221,644,257	734,539,360	340,389,768	-	340,389,768
Contributions*	576,906,342	91,269,886	668,176,228	324,407,455	245,753,193	570,160,648
Redemptions*	(286,301,606)	(186,213,671)	(472,515,277)	(195,741,690)	(26,515,482)	(222,257,172)
Redemptions for TER**	(1,100,735)	(1,862,562)	(2,963,297)	(849,723)	-	(849,723)
Realised gain on disposal	(7,089,417)	16,052,057	8,962,640	11,193,229	8,798,690	19,991,919
Unrealised fair value movement	51,005,702	(74,799)	50,930,903	33,496,064	(6,392,144)	27,103,920
At end of financial year	<u>846,315,389</u>	<u>140,815,168</u>	<u>987,130,557</u>	<u>512,895,103</u>	<u>221,644,257</u>	<u>734,539,360</u>

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2023

9 Physical metals and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (continued)

	Physical metals 31-Mar-23 Fine Troy Ounces	Backing note 31-Mar-23 EUAs	Physical metals 31-Mar-22 Fine Troy Ounces	Backing note 31-Mar-22 EUAs
At the start of financial year	264,086	2,618,510	201,289	-
Units contributed*	321,146	1,036,939	170,332	2,877,866
Units redeemed*	(157,110)	(2,184,472)	(107,066)	(259,356)
Units sold (for TER)**	(625)	(20,000)	(469)	-
At end of financial year	<u>427,497</u>	<u>1,450,977</u>	<u>264,086</u>	<u>2,618,510</u>

\*Contributions and redemptions of Physical metals/ financial assets are in-specie.

\*\*Physical metals/ Backing note sold in relation to the settlement of the TER.

As 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2022, the Physical metals and financial assets held by the Company was as follows:

	Physical metals 31-Mar-23 Fine Troy Ounces	Backing note 31-Mar-23 EUAs	Total Physical metals 31-Mar-23 USD	Physical metals 31-Mar-22 Fine Troy Ounces	Backing note 31-Mar-22 EUAs	Total 31-Mar-22 USD
Units held	427,497	1,450,977	987,130,557	264,086	2,618,510	734,539,360
Price (USD)	1,979.70	97.05		1,942.15	84.65	
Fair Value (USD)	<u>846,315,389</u>	<u>140,815,168</u>	<u>987,130,557</u>	<u>512,895,103</u>	<u>221,644,257</u>	<u>734,539,360</u>

Maturity analysis of Physical metals and financial assets

	Physical metals 31-Mar-23 USD	Backing note 31-Mar-23 USD	Total Physical metals 31-Mar-23 USD	Physical metals 31-Mar-22 USD	Backing note 31-Mar-22 USD	Total 31-Mar-22 USD
Less than 1 year	846,315,389	140,815,168	987,130,557	512,895,103	221,644,257	734,539,360
1-2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>846,315,389</u>	<u>140,815,168</u>	<u>987,130,557</u>	<u>512,895,103</u>	<u>221,644,257</u>	<u>734,539,360</u>

10 Cash and cash equivalents

	31-Mar-23 USD	31-Mar-22 USD
Cash at bank	<u>67,527</u>	<u>35,221</u>
	<u>67,527</u>	<u>35,221</u>

As at 31 March 2023, the cash and cash equivalents is held with European Depository Bank SA (100%) (2022: 100%).

The Company also has bank accounts with Bank of New York Mellon.

11 Other receivables

	31-Mar-23 USD	31-Mar-22 USD
Unpaid share capital receivable	22,469	22,469
Corporate benefit receivable	3,664	2,576
Fees receivable*	672,407	-
	<u>698,540</u>	<u>25,045</u>

\*As at 31 March 2023, EUA 7000 relating to payment of TER fees on Carbon Securities was not yet settled. The corresponding financial assets amounting to USD 672,407 (eur 617,680) was receivable as at year end.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2023

12 Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss

	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Metal ETC Securities	845,150,755	-	845,150,755	512,514,449	-	512,514,449
Carbon ETC Securities	-	140,805,642	140,805,642	-	221,011,515	221,011,515
<b>Total ETC Securities issued</b>	<b>845,150,755</b>	<b>140,805,642</b>	<b>985,956,397</b>	<b>512,514,449</b>	<b>221,011,515</b>	<b>733,525,964</b>

	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
At the start of financial year	512,514,449	221,011,515	733,525,964	339,901,317	-	339,901,317
Issuances*	374,050,004	91,269,886	465,319,890	293,865,755	245,753,193	539,618,948
Redemptions*	(83,695,412)	(186,213,671)	(269,909,083)	(165,153,564)	(26,515,482)	(191,669,046)
Realised gain on redemption	(4,041,945)	14,940,843	10,898,898	8,119,719	8,751,708	16,871,427
Unrealised fair value movement	46,323,659	(202,931)	46,120,728	35,781,222	(6,977,904)	28,803,318
At end of financial year	<b>845,150,755</b>	<b>140,805,642</b>	<b>985,956,397</b>	<b>512,514,449</b>	<b>221,011,515</b>	<b>733,525,964</b>

	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22
	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units
At the start of financial year	26,511,668	2,620,453	29,132,121	20,149,099	-	20,149,099
Units issued*	21,057,300	1,046,967	22,104,267	15,576,200	2,880,474	18,456,674
Units redeemed*	(4,577,799)	(2,198,232)	(6,776,031)	(9,213,631)	(260,021)	(9,473,652)
At end of financial year	<b>42,991,169</b>	<b>1,469,188</b>	<b>44,460,357</b>	<b>26,511,668</b>	<b>2,620,453</b>	<b>29,132,121</b>

\*ETC Securities trades are carried out in-specie

As 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2022, the financial liabilities in issue was as follows:

	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22
<b>Units held</b>	42,991,169	1,469,188		26,511,668	2,620,453	
<b>NAV (USD)</b>	19.66	95.84		19.33	84.34	
<b>Fair Value (USD)</b>	<b>845,150,755</b>	<b>140,805,642</b>	<b>985,956,397</b>	<b>512,514,449</b>	<b>221,011,515</b>	<b>733,525,964</b>

Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities can be issued and redeemed daily, therefore this is the earliest maturity date for the purpose of the maturity analysis.



Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2023

12 Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss (continued)

Maturity analysis

	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Less than 1 year	845,150,755	140,805,642	985,956,397	512,514,449	221,011,515	733,525,964
1-2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>845,150,755</u>	<u>140,805,642</u>	<u>985,956,397</u>	<u>512,514,449</u>	<u>221,011,515</u>	<u>733,525,964</u>

As at 31 March 2023, Series 1 - Metal ETC Securities are listed on the London Stock Exchange, Deutsche Borse (Xetra), Borsa Italiana, Euronext Paris and Mexican Stock Exchange (BMV).

As at 31 March 2023, Series 2 - Carbon ETC Securities are listed on the London Stock Exchange, Xetra, Borsa Italiana and BMV.

13 Loan payable

	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total	Metal ETC Securities	Carbon ETC Securities	Total
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Loan Payable to The Royal Mint Limited	629,055	-	629,055	378,911	-	378,911
	<u>629,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>629,055</u>	<u>378,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>378,911</u>

The Company holds Physical metals in a secured allocated account in the form of gold bars to secure the Metal Entitlement for each Note Issued. As the unit of measurement of a gold bar is fixed, there can be differences to the requirement under the Metal Entitlement. To fund the purchase of this difference, the Company has entered into a loan agreement with The Royal Mint Limited. This loan is payable in the form of Physical metal, and at 31 March 2023 is priced at the current close bid price at the end of the day using the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) gold price. In the event of wind-up of the Company, the repayment of this loan will be made prior to the repayment of the holders of Metal Securities. A fee is charged by The Royal Mint Limited for this agreement, which is paid by the Arranger under the terms of the TER.

14 Other payables

	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	USD	USD
Accrued fee payable*	1,217,512	634,485
Other payables**	60,683	28,377
Corporation tax payable	917	645
	<u>1,279,112</u>	<u>663,507</u>

\*The accrued fee payable relate to the TER payable to the Arranger.

\*\*This refers to the order fees amount payable by the Authorised Participants as part of a subscription or redemption order.

15 Called up share capital

	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	EUR	EUR
<i>Authorised:</i>		
25,000 ordinary shares of EUR 1 each	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
<i>Issued and partly paid</i>		
25,000 ordinary shares of EUR 1 each (25% paid)	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
<i>Presented as follows:</i>		
Called up share capital presented as equity	<u>29,313</u>	<u>29,313</u>

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**16 Ownership of Company**

The sole shareholder of the Company is Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited holding 25,000 shares of the Company. All shares are held in trust for charity under the terms of declaration of trust.

The Share Trustee has appointed the Directors to run the day to day activities of the Company. The Directors have considered the issue as to who is the ultimate controlling party. It has been determined that the control of the day to day activities of the Company rests with the Directors.

**17 Related party transactions**

*Transactions with Administrator*

For the year ended 31 March 2023, Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited provides administration services to the Company amounting to EUR 30,000 (2022: EUR 28,500) which is settled by the Arranger of the Company. Two of the Directors are employees of Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited, which is the Administrator of the Company. Niall Vaughan and Ciaran Connolly, as Directors of the Company, have an interest in this fee in their capacity as Directors of Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited.

*Transactions with Arranger*

HANetf Limited is the Arranger of the Company. The Arranger paid the Company USD 1,088 (2022: USD 1,110) during the year, which has been recognised in the financial statements as the Corporate Benefit. All of this was receivable as at 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2022. During the year ended 31 March 2023, the Arranger earned USD 2,873,917 (2022: USD 1,421,094) under the TER. USD 1,217,512 (2022: USD 634,485) was payable as at 31 March 2023. In return for this, the Arranger pays all operating expenses as described in Note 6 to the financial statements.

*Transactions with The Royal Mint Limited*

The Royal Mint Limited is the custodian of the Physical metals held in the Secured Accounts in relation to The Royal Mint Physical Gold ETC Securities. The fair value of Physical metals held with The Royal Mint Limited are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements and the loan repayable to The Royal Mint Limited is disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements. The Royal Mint Limited also acts as the promoter of, and an authorised participant to, the Metal Securities for the Company. Payments to The Royal Mint Limited, for the provision of these services to the Company, are paid for by Arranger in return for the “all in one” operational fee described in Note 6 to the financial statements. In The Royal Mint Limited's role as Authorised Participant to the Company, it partook in USD Nil (2022: USD 44,615,212) of redemptions of Metal Securities during the financial year.

*Transactions with Spark Change Jersey Issuer Limited*

The Backing Issuer, Spark Change Jersey Issuer Limited, has been incorporated for an indefinite period. The Backing Issuer is a special purpose company which has been established for the sole purpose of issuing any Backing Note pursuant to the Backing Issuer Programme and entering into agreements relating to the Backing Note and the Underlying Allowances. The fair value of the Backing Note is disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements. Payments to Spark Change Jersey Issuer Limited, for the provision of the services to the Company, are paid for by Arranger in return for the “all in one” operational fee described in Note 6 to the financial statements.

The Directors are of the view that there are no other related party transactions requiring disclosures. The Directors received no remuneration from the Company in the financial year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: Nil).

**18 Financial risk management**

*Introduction and overview*

The Company has been established as a SPV for the purpose of issuing asset-backed securities, including Metal Securities backed by the underlying metal, and other asset-backed exchange traded securities (including Carbon Securities), and entering into agreements relating to the Metal Securities, and Carbon Securities, and the underlying assets thereof. The aggregate number of Metal Securities issued under the Programme will not at any time exceed 10,000,000,000, being the Programme maximum number of Metal Securities and the aggregate number of Carbon Securities issued under the Programme will not at any time exceed 10,000,000,000, being the Programme maximum number of Carbon Securities.

The Company was set up as a segregated multi issuance SPV which ensures that if one Series defaults, the holders of that Series do not have the ability to reach other assets of the Company, resulting in the Company's bankruptcy and the default of the other Series of Notes. The segregation criteria include the following:

- The Company is a bankruptcy remote SPV, organised in Ireland;
- The Company issues separate Series of debt obligations;
- Assets relating to any particular Series of Notes issued are held separate and apart from the assets relating to any other Series;
- For each Series of Notes issued, only the trustee is entitled to exercise remedies on behalf of the Noteholders; and
- Each Series of Notes issued is reviewed by a rating agency prior to issuance regardless of whether it is to be rated or not.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**18 Financial risk management (continued)**

***Risk management framework***

The Company is not engaged in any other activities.

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Company's risk management framework.

The Company's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Company, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions and the Company's activities.

The risk profile of the Company is such that market, credit, liquidity and other risks of the financial assets are borne fully by the Securityholders.

The Company has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- (a) Operational risk;
- (b) Credit risk;
- (c) Market risk; and
- (d) Liquidity risk.

This note presents information about the Company's exposure to each of the above risks, the Company's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk and the Company's management of capital.

**(a) Operational risk**

Operational risk is the risk of direct or indirect loss arising from a wide variety of causes associated with the Company's processes, personnel and infrastructure, and from external factors other than credit, market and liquidity risks such as those arising from legal and regulatory requirements and generally accepted standards of corporate behaviour.

Operational risk arises from all of the Company's operations. The Company was incorporated with the purpose of engaging in those activities outlined in the preceding paragraphs. All management and administration functions were outsourced to Apex Corporate Services (Ireland) Limited.

**(b) Credit risk**

Credit/Counterparty risk refers to the risk that the Custodian will default on its contractual obligations resulting in the Company being unable to make payment of amounts due to the Securityholders. Accordingly, the Company and the Securityholders are exposed to the creditworthiness of the Custodian/ Backing Issuer.

***Physical Metal Securities Programme***

In the event of an insolvency of the Custodian, the allocated Metal held by the Custodian in the relevant Secured Allocated Account for the benefit of the Company should be protected as such Metal should be identified separately from the assets of the Custodian and its other clients. However, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to obtain delivery of and/or realise the Metal (whether in full or in part) held in the Secured Allocated Account(s) with the Custodian on a timely basis. In addition, the Company could incur expenses in connection with having to assert its claims against the relevant Metal, even where it can ascertain that it has title to such Metal. Securityholders will be at risk if the Custodian does not, in practice, maintain such a segregation.

Further, the Company's limited rights in this regard mean that there is a risk that the Company would have limited recourse to the Custodian in circumstances where the Metal is lost or stolen in custody and/or the records of the Custodian are inconsistent, which could result in the Company not being able to satisfy its obligations in respect of the Metal Securities resulting in a loss to Securityholders.

Accordingly, if any Metal attributable to any Metal Securities is lost, damaged, stolen or destroyed under circumstances rendering a party liable to the Company and/or the Trustee and/or the Security Trustee, the Custodian's insurance coverage may not be sufficient to satisfy the claim and the Company may not be able to satisfy its obligations in respect of the Metal Securities resulting in a loss to Securityholders.

HSBC has been engaged as sub-custodian. At 31 March 2023, HSBC has a credit rating of A+ (S&P) (2022: A+ (S&P)).

As at 31 March 2023, the Custodian, The Royal Mint Limited, is not rated (2022: not rated).

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**18 Financial risk management (continued)**

**(b) Credit risk (continued)**

*Physical Carbon Securities Programme*

The Programme and the Backing Issuer Programme are designed to ensure that credit risks posed by the Backing Issuer are minimised. The key aspect of this is to ensure that the only permitted activity of the Backing Issuer under the Backing note Terms and Conditions is to (a) issue the Backing note, (b) hold property securing the Backing note (including the Underlying Allowances and activities incidental to them), (c) ensure that the Company is the only holder of Backing note, and (d) to ensure that the Carbon Entitlement of the Backing note always matches the Carbon Entitlement of all Carbon Securities then outstanding.

The Backing Issuer is a special purpose company but it is not a segregated cell company under which the company is divided into separate cells which each have separate assets and liabilities. Accordingly, the Backing Issuer uses contractual limited recourse clauses and non-petition limitations to prevent assets held in relation to any particular class of Backing note being made available to satisfy the claims of holders of a different class of Backing note. However, it is possible there may be situations where the Backing Issuer might become subject to claims which are not themselves subject to limited recourse. If this were to happen it could increase the likelihood of the Backing Issuer entering insolvency proceedings potentially leading to the early redemption of the Backing note and in turn the Carbon Securities.

As at 31 March 2023, the Backing Issuer, Spark Change Jersey Issuer Limited, has not been assigned a credit rating and it is not intended that any Backing Note will be assigned credit ratings.

The maximum exposure to the credit risk at the reporting date was:

	<b>Physical metals</b>	<b>Backing note</b>	<b>Total Physical metals</b>		<b>Backing note</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>
	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>
Investment in Precious metals	846,315,389	-	<b>846,315,389</b>	512,895,103	-	<b>512,895,103</b>
Investment in Backing note	-	140,815,168	<b>140,815,168</b>	-	221,644,257	<b>221,644,257</b>
	<u>846,315,389</u>	<u>140,815,168</u>	<b><u>987,130,557</u></b>	<u>512,895,103</u>	<u>221,644,257</u>	<b><u>734,539,360</u></b>

*Cash and cash equivalents*

As at 31 March 2023, the Company held cash and cash equivalents with European Depositary Bank SA. amounting to USD 67,527 (2022: USD 35,221) which represents its maximum credit exposure on these assets. The Company also has bank accounts with The Bank of New York Mellon.

*Other receivables*

Other receivables mainly include unpaid share capital, corporate benefit receivable and fees receivable as at the financial year end. Other receivables are due to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date and the Board considers the probability of default to be close to zero, resulting in minimal credit risk exposure.

*Financial assets*

There were no credit events during the financial year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: Nil).

**(c) Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices of the Physical metals/ Backing note will affect the Company's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The Securityholders are exposed to the market risk of the assets portfolio. Market risk embodies the potential for both gains and losses and price risk.

*(i) Interest rate risk*

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of the ETC Securities will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Changes in exchange rates and interest rates may have a positive or negative impact on the price, demand, production costs, direct investment costs of Physical metals/ Backing note and the returns from investments in Physical metals/ Backing note are therefore influenced by and may be correlated to these factors. The Company has deemed the effect of these valuation fluctuations insignificant. As a result, the Company is not subject to significant interest rate risk.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**18 Financial risk management (continued)**

**(c) Market risk (continued)**

*(ii) Currency risk*

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

Currency risk is the risk which arises due to the assets and liabilities of the Company held in foreign currencies, which will be affected by fluctuations in foreign exchange rates.

The Company issued Carbon ETC Securities in EUR and invested in Backing note denominated in EUR. The Company mitigates its exposure to currency mainly by matching the foreign currency assets with foreign currency liabilities. The Company is exposed to movement in exchange rates between the USD, its functional currency, and other foreign currency, namely EUR.

The Company's net exposure to currency risk as at 31 March 2023 is shown in the following table:

	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>
	<b>EUR</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>EUR</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>
Investment in Backing note	140,815,168	140,815,168	221,644,257	221,644,257
Cash and cash equivalents	67,527	67,527	35,221	35,221
Unpaid share capital receivable	22,469	22,469	22,469	22,469
Corporate benefit receivable	3,664	3,664	2,576	2,576
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>140,908,828</b>	<b>140,908,828</b>	<b>221,704,523</b>	<b>221,704,523</b>
Carbon ETC Securities	140,805,642	140,805,642	221,011,515	221,011,515
Corporation tax payable	917	917	645	645
Other payables	60,683	60,683	28,377	28,377
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>140,867,242</b>	<b>140,867,242</b>	<b>221,040,537</b>	<b>221,040,537</b>
<b>Net exposure</b>	<b>41,586</b>	<b>41,586</b>	<b>663,986</b>	<b>663,986</b>

The following significant exchange rates have been applied at the financial year/period end:

	<b>Closing rate</b>	
	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>
EUR : USD	1.0875	1.1101

*Sensitivity analysis*

The impact of any change in exchange rates is borne by the Securityholders.

At 31 March 2022, had the USD strengthened against EUR by 1% with all other variables held constant, the fair value of the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss would have decreased by USD 1,408,056 (2022: USD 2,210,115). A 1% weakening of the EUR against the USD would have an equal but opposite effect on the fair value of the Securities issued.

This analysis is based on foreign currency exchange rate variances that the Company considered to be reasonably possible at the reporting date. The analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates which is zero coupon, remain constant.

The impact of any change in the exchange rates on the financial assets relating to any Series is offset by the foreign exchange rate changes on the Securities issued under the Series and will be borne by the Securityholders.

*(iii) Price risk*

Price risk is the risk that the fair value of Physical metals or Metal Securities will fluctuate because of changes in market prices whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the metals, the individual Metal Securities or its issuer, or factors affecting similar assets or Metal Securities traded in the market. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issue, recessions, or other events could have a significant impact on the Company and market prices of its investments.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**18 Financial risk management (continued)**

**(c) Market risk (continued)**

*(iii) Price risk (continued)*

*Physical Metal Securities Programme*

Securityholders are exposed to market risk arising from market price of the Metal Securities and Physical metals arising from its holding of precious metals. The movements in the prices of these holdings result in movements in the performance of the Metal Securities. The value of Metal Securities will be affected by movements in the market price of the metal to which a particular Series is linked.

The market price of each Series of ETC Securities will be affected by a number of factors, including, but not limited to:

- (i) the value and volatility of the Physical metals referenced by the relevant Series of ETC Securities;
- (ii) the value and volatility of metals in general;
- (iii) market perception, interest rates, yields and foreign exchange rates;
- (iv) the creditworthiness of, among others, the Custodian, any applicable Sub-Custodian, the Administrator, the Registrar, and the Authorised Participants; and
- (v) liquidity in the ETC Securities on the secondary market.

The Company does not consider market risk to be a significant risk to the Company as any fluctuation in the value of the Physical metals will ultimately be borne by the Securityholders of the relevant Series.

Therefore, assuming all other variables remain constant any increase/(decrease) in the market price of the Physical metals would have an equal increase/(decrease) on the value of the Metal Securities issued in the relevant Series. As at 31 March 2023, a hypothetical 1% increase in the market price of the Physical metals would have an increase of USD 8,451,508 (2022: USD 5,125,144) on the value of the Metal Securities issued. A hypothetical 1% decrease in the market price of the Physical metals would have an equal but opposite impact on the value of the ETC Securities issued in the relevant Series. The Series offer investors instant, easily-accessible and flexible exposure to the movement in spot prices of the relevant Physical metal. Each Series' performance is correlated to the performance of the Physical metal invested into. The correlation of the Series' performance against this is a metric monitored by key management personnel.

*Physical Carbon Securities Programme*

The Carbon Securities are linked (through the Backing Note) to emissions Allowances. The value of a Class of Carbon Securities will be affected by movements in the price of the underlying type of Allowance. The value of Carbon Securities will be affected by movements in the market price of the Allowances to which a particular Series is linked.

The price of Allowances which back the Carbon Securities may fluctuate widely and is affected by numerous factors, including, but not limited to:

- (i) global or regional political, economic, environmental or financial events and situations (including pandemics);
- (ii) the activities and emissions of energy-intensive sectors such as those that are subject to the respective compliance schemes (including manufacturing facilities, oil refineries, power stations and, aviation);
- (iii) the rate of progress in the innovation, introduction and expansion of technologies and techniques in the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases;
- (iv) governmental goals or policies with respect to climate change and the imposition of environmental plans or climate goals such as achieving carbon neutrality; and
- (v) the cost and implications of non-compliance with the relevant compliance schemes (including both monetary and non-monetary penalties on operators subject to such compliance scheme for failure to surrender sufficient Allowances).

The Company does not consider market risk to be a significant risk to the Company as any fluctuation in the value of the Allowances will affect the value of the Backing note which in turn will ultimately be borne by the Securityholders of the relevant Series.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**18 Financial risk management (continued)**

**(c) Market risk (continued)**

*(iii) Price risk (continued)*

Therefore, assuming all other variables remain constant any increase/(decrease) in the market price of the Backing note would have an equal increase/(decrease) on the value of the Carbon Securities issued in the relevant Series. As at 31 March 2022, a hypothetical 1% increase in the market price of the Backing note would have an increase of USD 1,408,056 (2022: USD 2,210,115) on the value of the Carbon Securities issued. A hypothetical 1% decrease in the market price of the Backing note would have an equal but opposite impact on the value of the ETC Securities issued in the relevant Series. The Series offer investors instant, easily-accessible and flexible exposure to the movement in spot prices of the relevant Backing note. Each Series' performance is correlated to the performance of the Backing note invested into, and in turn related to the value of the underlying Allowances. The correlation of the Series' performance against this is a metric monitored by key management personnel.

**(d) Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset and thus, the Company will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

Liquidity risk in a limited recourse vehicle is managed, where possible, by having the same maturity profile of financial liabilities and related financial assets.

The Company's obligation to the Securityholders is limited to the net proceeds upon realisation of the asset of the Series and should the net proceeds be insufficient to make all payments due in respect of a particular Series of Securities, the other assets of the Company are not contractually required to be made available to meet payment and the deficit is instead borne by the Securityholders according to the priority of payments mentioned in the agreements.

The Company does not have a significant exposure to liquidity risk due to the buy-back of Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities being settled in transfer of Physical metal/ underlying Allowances except in certain limited circumstances. The subscriptions and redemptions of the Physical metals/ underlying Allowances that backs such Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities (through the Backing note) are primarily non-cash transactions of the Company as they are carried out in-specie, excluding the disposal of the Physical metals/ Backing note in relation to the payment of the total expense ratio. Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities can be issued and redeemed daily, therefore this is the earliest maturity date for the purpose of the maturity analysis.

The ability of the Company to generate enough arranger fees for the Arranger to fund the Company's operational expenses on a long term basis is impacted by the value of the Company's investment in Physical metals/ Backing note which is in turn principally impacted by investor appetite for the Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities and movements in the market value of the Physical metals/ Backing note.

*Contractual undiscounted cashflows*

At any time, the price at which Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities trade on any stock exchange may not reflect accurately the value of the Physical metal/ underlying Allowances that backs such Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities. Therefore, the subscription and redemption procedures for Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities are intended to minimise this potential difference. However, the market price of Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities will be a function of supply and demand amongst investors wishing to buy and sell Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities.

Investors are dependent on there being Authorised Participants making a market in Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities to minimise the difference between the secondary market price and the value of the Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities, and to provide investors with liquidity. There can be no assurance as to the depth of the secondary market (if any) in Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities, which could affect their liquidity and market price.

An Authorised Participant is under no obligation to make a market in Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities and it is impossible to guarantee that one or more Authorised Participants would purchase Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities on a given day and/or at a particular price, which may result in a lack of liquidity at any given time. If there is limited liquidity, the price at which a Securityholder may be able to sell its Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities at any time may be substantially less than the price paid by that Securityholder for the same Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities.

The financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss are carried at fair value through profit or loss. The ultimate amount repaid to the Securityholders will depend on the proceeds from the Physical metals/ Backing note.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**18 Financial risk management (continued)**

**(d) Liquidity risk (continued)**

The following are the earliest contractual maturities of financial liabilities as at 31 March 2023:

	Carrying amount	Gross contractual cash flows	Less than one year	One to five years	More than five years
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	985,956,397	985,956,397	985,956,397	-	-
Loan payable	629,055	629,055	629,055	-	-
Other payables	1,279,112	1,279,112	1,279,112	-	-
	<u>987,864,564</u>	<u>987,864,564</u>	<u>987,235,509</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The following are the earliest contractual maturities of financial liabilities as at 31 March 2022:

	Carrying amount	Gross contractual cash flows	Less than one year	One to five years	More than five years
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	733,525,964	733,525,964	733,525,964	-	-
Loan payable	378,911	378,911	378,911	-	-
Other payables	663,507	663,507	663,507	-	-
	<u>734,568,382</u>	<u>734,568,382</u>	<u>734,568,382</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**(e) Fair values**

The fair value of a financial asset and liability is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The carrying amounts of all the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities at the reporting date approximated their fair values.

The Company's financial assets and financial liabilities carried at fair value are analysed below by valuation method. The different levels have been defined as follows:

- Level 1: Quoted market price in an active market for an identical instrument.
- Level 2: Valuation techniques based on observable inputs. This category includes instruments valued using: quoted market prices in active markets for similar instruments; quoted prices for similar instruments in markets that are considered less than active; or other valuation techniques where all significant inputs are directly or indirectly observable from market data.
- Level 3: Valuation techniques using significant unobservable inputs. This category includes all instruments where the valuation technique includes inputs not based on observable data and the unobservable inputs could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation. This category includes instruments that are valued based on quoted prices for similar instruments where significant unobservable adjustments or assumptions are required to reflect differences between the instruments.

At the reporting date, the carrying amounts of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss issued by the Company, for which fair values were determined directly, in full or in part and determined using valuation techniques are as follows:

Fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Investment in Precious metals	846,315,389	-	-	846,315,389
Investment in Backing note	-	140,815,168	-	140,815,168
Loan payable	(629,055)	-	-	(629,055)
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	-	(985,956,397)	-	(985,956,397)
	<u>845,686,334</u>	<u>(845,141,229)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>545,105</u>



**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

**18 Financial risk management (continued)**

**(e) Fair values (continued)**

	Fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Investment in Precious metals	512,895,103	-	-	512,895,103
Investment in Backing note	-	221,644,257	-	221,644,257
Loan payable	(378,911)	-	-	(378,911)
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss	-	(733,525,964)	-	(733,525,964)
	512,516,192	(511,881,707)	-	634,485

No transfers between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 have taken place during the financial year (2022: USD nil).

Although the directors believe that their estimates of fair value are appropriate, the use of different methodologies or assumptions could lead to different measurements of fair value as fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on market conditions and information about the financial instrument. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgement e.g. interest rates, volatility, credit spreads, probability of defaults, estimates cashflows etc and therefore, cannot be determined with precision.

For recognised fair values measured using significant unobservable inputs, changing one or more assumptions used to reasonably possible alternative assumptions would not have any effect on the profit or loss or on equity as any change in fair value of the Physical metals/ Backing note will be borne by the Securityholders due to the limited recourse nature of the Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities issued by the Company.

The valuation inputs for the physical metals are based on quoted market prices in active markets (as published by the London Bullion Market Association ("LBMA")) and therefore, the Physical metals are classified as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy.

The valuation inputs for the Backing note (underlying Allowances backing the Carbon Securities) are based on market prices as calculated by the administrator to the Backing note which in turn is calculated using observable inputs and therefore, the Backing note is classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities issued by the Company are classified within level 2. The fair value of the Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities issued is determined by reference to the exchange quoted value of the underlying Physical metal/ Backing note and adjusted for the Total Expense Ratio payable to the Arranger. This valuation technique represents the price of the Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities at which Authorised Participants subscribe and request buy-backs of Metal Securities/ Carbon Securities directly with the Company. There are no significant unobservable inputs to this valuation technique.

**19 Capital management**

The Company view the Called up share capital as its capital. The primary objective of the Company's capital management is to maintain shareholder value. The Company manages its capital structure and makes adjustments in light of changes in economic conditions. Share capital of EUR 25,000 was issued in line with Irish Company Law and is not used for financing the investment activities of the Company. The Company is not subject to any other externally imposed capital requirements.

**20 Subsequent events**

On 17 July 2023, David Murphy was appointed as Alternate Director to Niall Vaughan.

There are no other significant events after financial period end up to the date of signing this report that require disclosure and/or adjustment to the financial statement.

**21 Commitments and Contingencies**

The Company had no commitments or contingencies as at 31 March 2023 (2022: Nil).

**22 Approval of financial statements**

The Board of Directors approved these financial statements on .....2023.