



Statement on sustainable growth

2024–25

Introduction

1. The Commissioner is committed to improving efficiency in how we function as an organisation and in how the office is managed. Under our [Environmental Policy](#) we aspire to improve our environmental performance and to protect the environment by reducing pollution and resource consumption and operating in a manner that supports and encourages biodiversity.
2. Under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 32(1)(a), as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, we must publish a statement of the steps we have taken during that financial year to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of our functions. This document is the Commissioner's published statement on sustainable growth for 2024-25.
3. The Commissioner's primary function is to enforce and promote Scotland's freedom of information legislation. Promoting and increasing sustainable growth is a challenge as we are a small, single site organisation. However, our office can make a direct contribution to sustainability through the management of its carbon footprint.

Carbon footprint

4. Our CO₂ emissions have continued to reduce since we established our baseline figure in 2007-08.
5. These figures illustrate the limited scope available to us to promote and increase sustainable growth but we remain committed to managing and, where possible, reducing further our carbon footprint and will continue to seek ways to do so, for example:
 - maintain our flexible approach to hybrid working to allow staff to work remotely
 - continue the no-paper policy
 - continue the use of telephone and video conferencing to replace in person face to face meetings where appropriate
 - select the most environmentally friendly products for cleaning where possible

Summary of Performance 2024-25

Area	Performance 2024/25
Total CO ₂ Emissions	There has been a 65.5% reduction in CO ₂ emissions from the 2007/08 baseline.
Building Energy	Emissions from energy consumption reduced this year. The decrease in electricity usage is in partly due to the removal of desktop pcs. We continue to manage heating using a time controlled boiler control which is adjusted according to the current weather forecasts.
Transport and Travel	Business travel continues to increase as meetings and events are increasingly taking place in-person. However, flights in 2024-25 only comprised European journeys, which means travel CO ₂ e compared to 2023-24 decreased substantially. We aim to travel by public transport as much as possible to ensure carbon emissions are as low as possible.
Recycling	As most of our work is digital the need for paper has reduced. We have been able to reduce the number of visits to the office premises for on-site shredding from 2023-24. This reduction in visits contributes to the reduction in emissions resulting from less shredding contractor travel.

Performance Breakdown 2024-25

Area	Actual Performance 2024-25	Target Performance 2024-25
Total CO2 emissions	20.18 tonnes CO2	40.5 tonnes CO2
Building Utilities (gas & electricity)	18.00 tonnes CO2	n/a
Business travel	1.43 tonnes CO2	n/a
Paper waste sent for recycling	0.63 tonnes CO2	n/a
Other	0.12 tonnes CO2	n/a

Core Sustainability Report 2024-25

Greenhouse Gas: Energy in building			2007-08 Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Gas	31.20	14.45	13.92	14.96
		Electricity	17.10	3.04	3.48	3.04
	Energy consumption (kWh)	Gas	151214	6887	6632	7172
		Electricity	32772	13064	14922	13026
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year	Gas	£5,329	£6,771	£6,442	£6,135
		Electricity	£5,815	£2,792	£5,811	£5,871

Greenhouse Gas: Business Travel			2007-08 Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Flights	7.23	0	2.16	0.64
		Bus	0.00	0.03	0	0
		Car	1.33	0.09	0.18	0.43
		Train	0.88	0.11	0.18	0.33
		Taxi	0.041	0	0	0.03
	Mileage (Miles)	Flights	38024	0	17382	3987
		Bus	0	132	29	25
		Car	4101	393	600	1477
		Train	9169	2042	3092	5548
		Taxi	0	0	20	130
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year	All Business Travel	£11,884	£740	£4,121	£3,471

Greenhouse Gas: Paper Waste Recycling			2007-08 Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Paper waste	0.59	0.38	0.63	0.63
	Paper Weight (kg)	Paper waste	465	500	500	500
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year		£227	£390	£797	£650

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