



*"Santander's goal is to be a responsible, ethical business across all our activities and as one of our key suppliers you play a key role in our ability to do this. We want to positively and proactively engage with you to understand your impact upon the environments we work within, seeking to learn together and improve our mutual impact. My personal goal is for us to lead the market, collaborating to maximise the positive impact we can have on these environments, improving the outcomes for all our stakeholders and creating a better place for us and the next generation. I look forward to working with you on delivering these visions and thank you in advance for your participation."*

To our Santander UK supply chain partners,

### **Our Sustainability and Responsible Banking journey at Santander UK**

Every day, we're working hard to become the most sustainable and responsible bank that we can be. To help us achieve this ambition we have developed a new Sustainability and Responsible Banking strategy based on three key pillars, Thriving Workplace, Better Communities and Healthy Environment, underpinned by a clear commitment to be responsible in everything we do.

We have also set ourselves ambitious targets, both in the UK and at Group, to measure our progress and help focus on key initiatives where together we can make the greatest impact.

The Sustainability and Responsible Banking agenda is fundamental to our business and future success. We want to be an agent for change for our employees and our customers, becoming pioneers and positively impacting people's lives and the communities in which, they live.

#### **Thriving Workplace**

Creating and nurturing a culture of inclusivity and belonging where everyone can bring their whole self to work and learn and grow is the first of our three pillars. Key programmes include diversity, inclusion and belonging, social mobility, employee wellbeing and talent and culture.

#### **Better Communities**

Helping our customers and communities prosper is what defines us, it is our purpose and at the centre of what we do every day. All of our work on community engagement, financial inclusion, inclusive innovation and digitisation, cybersecurity and data protection as well as our charity partnership define our work in this area. This is supported by our amazing education, skills and entrepreneurship programmes and the Santander Foundation.

#### **Healthy Environment**

Fighting climate change and supporting the green economy drives the environmental element of our strategy. This includes managing climate risks and supporting our customers to transition to a low carbon economy, while reducing emissions in our own operations and fostering a green culture, where we can all contribute by making personal choices and inspire others.

#### **Being responsible in everything we do**

To push the boundaries on our strategic pillars we must first get the basics right and this pillar is what we consider good hygiene. This includes a commitment to transparency through effective reporting and disclosures, sound governance to ensure consistent sustainability and responsible banking practices in every part of the bank and specific

policies to maintain human & labour rights, ethics & compliance, responsible supply chain & procurement in addition to fighting financial crime.

### **Our partnership with EcoVadis**

At Santander UK we are looking to improve sustainability performance across our entire value chain. From our customers (e.g. providing affordable finance to all and being inclusive), to our own operations (e.g. reducing our own GHG emissions), to our suppliers (e.g. working to eradicate modern slavery). A steppingstone in facilitating our supplier's sustainability journeys is to understand your ESG performance today.

To kick start this process Santander UK has chosen EcoVadis, a global CSR rating company based on international standards, to conduct individual sustainability performance assessments of our supply chain partners. We are asking you to please register on the EcoVadis platform and take the sustainability assessment. Your assessment participation will make up a key aspect in our sourcing and supplier review processes. Additionally, the platform will give you areas of improvement for you to become more sustainable, so it is also for your own benefit.

As a responsible bank we need to ensure that our supply partners share our commitment to sustainability and that we can work together to make progress. The first step in our sustainable procurement agenda is to gain transparency on our suppliers' ESG performance. You are receiving this letter today because the goods or services we purchase from you are directly linked to our sustainability goals.

By participating in the assessment, you will receive a sustainability scorecard from EcoVadis with detailed insights into your strengths along with areas of improvement. Our team at Santander UK will be notified when you register. After taking the assessment some suppliers will be invited to participate in corrective action plans which specifically target a sustainability aspect which can be improved. You can find more information about the [EcoVadis program](#) and the [associated fees](#) on the EcoVadis website.

Your participation in this process is crucial to the understanding and progress of sustainability within the Santander UK supply chain. On behalf of Santander UK, I personally thank you in advance for your investment in our relationship by completing this assessment.

Best regards,

Jarrold Glover