

FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index

v1.3



Contents

Section 1 Introduction	3
Section 2 Management responsibilities	4
Section 3 Custom inclusion criteria.....	5
Section 4 ESG data inputs.....	6
Section 5 Periodic review of constituents	8
Section 6 Corporate actions and events.....	9
Appendix A Product and conduct exclusion criteria	11
Appendix B Further information	14

Section 1

Introduction

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the Ground Rules for the construction and management of the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index.
- 1.1.1 The FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index is designed to reflect the performance of companies selected from FTSE All-Share ex Investment Trusts Index using FTSE ESG scores.
- 1.1.2 Prior to the selection of companies using ESG scores, ESG exclusion lists are applied as well as minimum average daily trading turnover and market capitalisation selection criteria.
- 1.1.3 The FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index takes into account ESG factors in its index design.
- 1.1.4 The base currency of the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index is British Pounds (GBP).
- 1.1.5 These Ground Rules should be read in conjunction with the FTSE UK Equity Index Series Ground Rules and associated index policy documents, which are available at www.lseg.com/en/ftse-russell/. Unless stated in these Ground Rules, the index will follow the same process as the FTSE UK Equity Index Series.
- 1.1.6 Price and total return indexes will be calculated on a real-time basis. Decrement indexes will be calculated on an end-of-day basis.

1.2 FTSE Russell

FTSE Russell is a trading name of FTSE International Limited, Frank Russell Company, FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Limited (and its subsidiaries FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc. and FTSE Fixed Income Europe Limited), FTSE Fixed Income LLC, FTSE (Beijing) Consulting Limited, Refinitiv Benchmark Services (UK) Limited, Refinitiv Limited and Beyond Ratings.

- 1.2.1 FTSE Russell hereby notifies users of the index series that it is possible that circumstances, including external events beyond the control of FTSE Russell, may necessitate changes to, or the cessation of, the index series and therefore, any financial contracts or other financial instruments that reference the index series or investment funds which use the index series to measure their performance should be able to withstand, or otherwise address the possibility of changes to, or cessation of, the index.
- 1.2.2 Index users who choose to follow this index series or to buy products that claim to follow this index series should assess the merits of the index's rules-based methodology and take independent investment advice before investing their own or client funds. No liability whether as a result of negligence or otherwise is accepted by FTSE Russell for any losses, damages, claims and expenses suffered by any person as a result of:
- any reliance on these Ground Rules;
 - any inaccuracies in these Ground Rules;
 - any non-application or misapplication of the policies or procedures described in these Ground Rules; and/or
 - any inaccuracies in the compilation of the index or any constituent data.

Section 2

Management responsibilities

2. Management responsibilities

2.1 FTSE International Limited (FTSE)¹

2.1.1 FTSE is the benchmark administrator of the index series.

2.1.2 FTSE is responsible for the daily calculation, production and operation of the index series, and will:

- maintain records of the index weightings of all constituents;
- make changes to the constituents and their weightings in accordance with the Ground Rules;
- carry out the periodic index reviews of the index series and apply the changes resulting from the reviews as required by the Ground Rules;
- publish changes to the constituent weightings resulting from their ongoing maintenance and the periodic reviews; and
- disseminate the indices.

2.2 Amendments to these Ground Rules

2.2.1 These Ground Rules shall be subject to regular review (at least once a year) by FTSE Russell to ensure that they continue to best reflect the aims of the index. Any proposals for significant amendments to these Ground Rules will be subject to consultation with FTSE Russell advisory committees and other stakeholders if appropriate. The feedback from these consultations will be considered by the FTSE Russell Index Governance Board before approval is granted.

As provided for in the Statement of Principles for FTSE Russell Equity Indices, where FTSE Russell determines that the Ground Rules are silent or do not specifically and unambiguously apply to the subject matter of any decision, any decision shall be based as far as practical on the Statement of Principles. After making any such determination, FTSE Russell shall advise the market of its decision at the earliest opportunity. Any such treatment will not be considered as an exception or change to the Ground Rules, or to set a precedent for future action, but FTSE Russell will consider whether the rules should subsequently be updated to provide greater clarity.

¹ The term administrator is used in this document in the same sense as it is defined in [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds](#) (the European Benchmark Regulation) and [The Benchmarks \(Amendment and Transitional Provision\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) (the UK Benchmark Regulation).

Section 3

Custom inclusion criteria

3. Custom inclusion criteria

- 3.1.1 At the quarterly reviews in March, June, September and December, the FTSE All-Share ex-Investment Trusts Index is ranked by investable market capitalisation (multiple lines are not combined) and the stock lines exceeding 1.5 billion Pounds Sterling are selected for further screening for inclusion in the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index.
- 3.1.2 The companies selected in step 3.1.1 above are sorted by average daily turnover in the last 120 trading days². Companies which have less than 120 days of trading history are excluded. Companies with the average daily traded volume in the 120 days prior to the assessment day below 3 million Pounds Sterling are excluded.
- 3.1.3 Following step 3.1.2, any remaining companies with involvement in certain products or conduct (see Appendix A) are excluded.
- 3.1.4 At the final step, the companies remaining after exclusions at step 3.1.3 are sorted by the latest available ESG score in descending order. In case of equal ESG score, companies with higher investible market capitalisation are ranked above the companies with lower market capitalisation. The highest ranked 150 companies are selected for inclusion in the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index. If the number of companies after step 3.1.3 is less than 150 companies, all companies after step 3.1.3 are included in the index.

² Prior to the Wednesday before the first Friday of the review month.

Section 4

ESG data inputs

4. ESG data inputs

4.1.1 The following ESG datasets are used in the construction of the indices.

ESG data inputs	Details	Used for selection, weighting or exclusion ³
FTSE ESG scores	FTSE Russell's ESG Scores and data model allows investors to understand a company's exposure to, and management of, ESG issues in multiple dimensions. More information can be found here: https://www.lseg.com/en/ftse-russell/esg-scores and Guide to FTSE and Third Party ESG Data used in FTSE Russell Indices	Selection
Product-related data – FTSE Russell	FTSE exclusion lists on the activities of companies with exposure to specific products or services. More information can be found in Section 7 of the Guide to the Construction and Maintenance of FTSE Exclusion Lists.pdf .	Exclusion
Product-related data – Sustainalytics	Sustainalytics Product Involvement data identifies the nature and extent of a company's involvement in a range of product and business activities. More information can be found here: https://www.sustainalytics.com/investor-solutions/esg-research/esg-screening/esg-criteria	Exclusion
Conduct related data – Sustainalytics	Sustainalytics Global Standards Screening (GSS) assess companies' impact on stakeholders and the extent to which a company causes, contributes or is linked to violations of international norms and standards. More information can be found: https://www.sustainalytics.com/investor-solutions/esg-research/esg-screening/global-compact-norms-based-screening	Exclusion

4.1.2 Further information on ESG data provided by FTSE Russell and third parties used in this index (index series) can be found in the following guide:

[Guide to FTSE and Third Party ESG Data used in FTSE Russell Indices](#)

This includes information on the data and standards used for these ESG data inputs. These data sets may include estimated data.

³ Definitions

Selection – ESG data is used to select or rank constituents or calculate minimum scores or thresholds.

Weighting – ESG data is used to calculate the weight of a constituent in an index.

Exclusion – ESG data is used to exclude companies from the index.

4.2 ESG Metrics

4.2.1 Please see the FTSE Russell [ESG Metrics](#) website for the scores and values of the environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors listed in Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1816, which are taken into account in the benchmark methodology for the benchmarks within this index series.

Further details on the metrics methodology and calculation are available using the following links:

[Sustainability and ESG data](#)

[ESG Disclosures Methodology and Calculation Guide](#)

Section 5

Periodic review of constituents

5. Periodic review of constituents

5.1 Index reviews

5.2 The FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index is reviewed quarterly in March, June, September and December.

5.3 The index review will use market, ESG and exclusion lists' data as at the close of business on the Tuesday before the first Friday of the rebalance month.

5.4 Changes arising from the quarterly review of the underlying index will be implemented after the close of trading on the third Friday in March, June, September and December, and will be implemented at the start of the next trading day.

5.4.1 Deletions from the FTSE All-Share ex-Investment Trusts due to quarterly reviews are removed from the exclusion list.

5.5 Intra-review exclusion changes

If the exclusion status of an existing constituent of the underlying index changes due to a corporate action or event, the consequent change to the membership of the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index will be considered at the next index review. Further details on the treatment of events leading to intra-review exclusion status changes is set out in Guide to the Construction and Maintenance of FTSE Exclusion Lists which can be accessed using the following link:

[Guide to the Construction and Maintenance of FTSE Exclusion Lists.pdf](#)

Section 6

Corporate actions and events

6. Corporate actions and events

6.1 Full details of changes to constituent companies due to corporate actions and events can be accessed in the Corporate Actions and Events Guide using the following link:

[Corporate Actions and Events Guide.pdf](#)

A corporate action is an action on shareholders with a prescribed ex-date. The share price will be subject to an adjustment on the ex-date. These include the following:

- capital repayments;
- rights issues/entitlement offers;
- stock conversion;
- splits (sub-division)/reverse splits (consolidation); and
- scrip issues (capitalisation or bonus issue).

A corporate event is a reaction to company news (event) that may impact the index depending on the index rules. For example, a company announces a strategic shareholder is offering to sell their shares (secondary share offer) – this could result in a free float weighting change in the index. Where an index adjustment is required, FTSE will provide notice advising of the timing of the change.

6.2 Intra-review additions

6.2.1 If a constituent is added to the underlying index, for example as a fast entrant, it will not automatically be added to the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index. Eligibility of the new entity will be assessed in full at the next index review.

6.3 Mergers and takeovers

6.3.1 Where two FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index constituents merge, or one FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index constituent is acquired by another constituent, the resulting company will remain a constituent.

6.3.2 If a constituent of the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index acquires a non-constituent, the resultant entity will remain a constituent of the index.

If an existing constituent is acquired by a non-constituent, the resultant entity will be deleted from the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index. The eligibility of the resultant entity will be assessed in full at the next review.

6.4 Shares in issue

6.4.1 Changes to the number of shares in issue for constituent securities are covered in the Corporate Actions and Events Guide.

6.5 Investability weightings

6.5.1 Changes to free float for constituent securities are covered in the Corporate Actions and Events Guide.

Appendix A

Product and conduct exclusion criteria

As per rule 3.1.3 of these Ground Rules, at each quarterly review, FTSE Russell will exclude companies from the relevant underlying eligible universe that meet the criteria in the tables below.

Product-related exclusions

	Product involvement categories	Involvement threshold for exclusion	Data source
Non-renewable energy	Fossil fuel reserves – coal, oil and gas		
	Companies that own proved or probable reserves in coal, oil or gas	Equal to or greater than 50% ownership	FTSE Russell
	Thermal coal – extraction		
	Companies extracting thermal coal	Greater than 0% of revenues	Sustainalytics
	Companies with significant ownership of other companies extracting thermal coal	Greater than 10% ownership	Sustainalytics
	Thermal coal – generation		
	Companies generating electricity from thermal coal	Equal to or greater than 10% of capacity	Sustainalytics
	Companies with significant ownership of other companies generating electricity from thermal coal	Greater than 10% ownership	Sustainalytics
	Oil and gas – production		
	Companies involved in oil and/or gas exploration, production, refining, transportation or storage	Equal to or greater than 10% of revenues	Sustainalytics
	Arctic oil and gas exploration		
	Companies involved in oil and gas exploration in Arctic regions	Equal to or greater than 10% of revenues	Sustainalytics
Oil sands extraction			
Companies involved in oil sands extraction	Equal to or greater than 10% of revenues	Sustainalytics	
Shale energy			
Companies involved in shale energy exploration and/or production	Equal to or greater than 10% of revenues	Sustainalytics	
Vice products	Alcohol		
	Companies manufacturing alcoholic beverages	Equal to or greater than 5% of revenues	Sustainalytics

	Product involvement categories	Involvement threshold for exclusion	Data source
	Companies supplying alcohol-related products/services to alcoholic beverage manufacturers	Equal to or greater than 10% of revenues	
	Companies involved in distribution and/or retail sale of alcoholic beverages	Equal to or greater than 10% of revenues	
	Gambling		
	Companies that own and/or operate a gambling establishment	Equal to or greater than 5% of revenues	Sustainalytics
	Companies manufacturing specialised equipment used exclusively for gambling	Equal to or greater than 10% of revenues	
	Companies providing supporting products/services to gambling operations	Equal to or greater than 10% revenues	
	Tobacco		
	Companies manufacturing tobacco products	Greater than 0% of revenues	Sustainalytics
	Companies supplying tobacco-related products/services	Equal to or greater than 5% of revenues	
	Companies involved in distribution and/or retail sale of tobacco products	Equal to or greater than 5% of revenues	
Weapons	Chemical and biological weapons		
	Companies that produce chemical or biological weapons and their components, including all precursors, munitions, devices or equipment specifically designed for, and used directly in connection with, these weapons	Greater than 0% of revenues	FTSE Russell
	Cluster munitions		
	Companies that produce cluster munitions as defined in the Convention on Cluster Munitions or that produce specific and critical parts or services for cluster munitions	Greater than 0% of revenues	FTSE Russell
	Anti-personnel landmines		
	Companies that produce anti-personnel mines as defined in the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction or that produce specific and critical parts or services for anti-personnel mines	Greater than 0% of revenues	FTSE Russell
	Nuclear weapons		
	Companies that produce nuclear weapons or their components. This includes companies that provide delivery systems (e.g. ballistic missile submarines) or critical services (e.g. maintenance or IT) that are directly related to and specifically designed for nuclear weapons	Greater than 0% of revenues	FTSE Russell
	Conventional military weapons		
Companies manufacturing military weapons systems and/or integral, tailor-made components or these weapons	Greater than 0% of revenues	Sustainalytics	
Companies providing tailor-made products and/or services that support military weapons	Equal to or greater than 5% of revenues		
Companies providing non-weapons related tailor-made products and/or services related to the military or defense industry	Equal to or greater than 5% of revenues		

Conduct-related exclusions

	Exclusions	Data Source
<p>Controversies</p>	<p>Human rights</p>	<p>Sustainalytics</p>
	<p>Companies causing or contributing to, or at risk of causing or contributing to, severe or systematic violations of norms related to Principles 1 and 2 of the UN Global Compact, which are derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</p> <p>Principle 1: businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and</p> <p>Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.</p>	
	<p>Labour</p>	
	<p>Companies causing or contributing to, or at risk of causing or contributing to, severe or systematic violations of norms related to Principles 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the UN Global Compact, which are derived from the International Labour Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.</p> <p>Principle 3: businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;</p> <p>Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;</p> <p>Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and</p> <p>Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.</p>	
	<p>Environment</p>	
<p>Companies causing or contributing to, or at risk of causing or contributing to, severe or systematic violations of norms related to Principles 7, 8, and 9 of the UN Global Compact, which are derived from the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.</p> <p>Principle 7: businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;</p> <p>Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and</p> <p>Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.</p>		
<p>Anti-corruption</p>		
<p>Companies causing or contributing to, or at risk of causing or contributing to, severe or systematic violations of norms related to Principle 10 of the UN Global Compact, which is derived from the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.</p> <p>Principle 10: businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.</p>		

Appendix B

Further information

A Glossary of Terms used in FTSE Russell's ground rule documents can be found using the following link:

[Glossary.pdf](#)

For further information on the FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index, please e-mail FTSE Russell client services at info@ftserussell.com.

Disclaimer

© 2024 London Stock Exchange Group plc and its applicable group undertakings ("LSEG"). LSEG includes (1) FTSE International Limited ("FTSE"), (2) Frank Russell Company ("Russell"), (3) FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc. and FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Limited (together, "FTSE Canada"), (4) FTSE Fixed Income Europe Limited ("FTSE FI Europe"), (5) FTSE Fixed Income LLC ("FTSE FI"), (6) FTSE (Beijing) Consulting Limited ("WOFE"), (7) Refinitiv Benchmark Services (UK) Limited ("RBSL"), (8) Refinitiv Limited ("RL") and (9) Beyond Ratings S.A.S. ("BR"). All rights reserved.

The FTSE Custom UK 150 ESG Leaders Index is calculated by or on behalf of FTSE International Limited or its affiliate, agent or partner. FTSE International Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority as a benchmark administrator. Refinitiv Benchmark Services (UK) Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority as a benchmark administrator.

FTSE Russell® is a trading name of FTSE, Russell, FTSE Canada, FTSE FI, FTSE FI Europe, WOFE, RBSL, RL and BR. "FTSE®", "Russell®", "FTSE Russell®", "FTSE4Good®", "ICB®", "WMR™", "FR™", "Beyond Ratings®" and all other trademarks and service marks used herein (whether registered or unregistered) are trade marks and/or service marks owned or licensed by the applicable member of LSEG or their respective licensors and are owned, or used under licence, by FTSE, Russell, FTSE Canada, FTSE FI, FTSE FI Europe, WOFE, RBSL, RL or BR.

All information is provided for information purposes only. All information and data contained in this publication is obtained by LSEG, from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. Because of the possibility of human and mechanical inaccuracy as well as other factors, however, such information and data is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind. No member of LSEG nor their respective directors, officers, employees, partners or licensors make any claim, prediction, warranty or representation whatsoever, expressly or impliedly, either as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, merchantability of any information or LSEG Products, or of results to be obtained from the use of LSEG products, including but not limited to indices, rates, data and analytics, or the fitness or suitability of the LSEG products for any particular purpose to which they might be put. The user of the information assumes the entire risk of any use it may make or permit to be made of the information.

No responsibility or liability can be accepted by any member of LSEG nor their respective directors, officers, employees, partners or licensors for (a) any loss or damage in whole or in part caused by, resulting from, or relating to any inaccuracy (negligent or otherwise) or other circumstance involved in procuring, collecting, compiling, interpreting, analysing, editing, transcribing, transmitting, communicating or delivering any such information or data or from use of this document or links to this document or (b) any direct, indirect, special, consequential or incidental damages whatsoever, even if any member of LSEG is advised in advance of the possibility of such damages, resulting from the use of, or inability to use, such information.

No member of LSEG nor their respective directors, officers, employees, partners or licensors provide investment advice and nothing in this document should be taken as constituting financial or investment advice. No member of LSEG nor their respective directors, officers, employees, partners, or licensors make any representation regarding the advisability of investing in any asset or whether such investment creates any legal or compliance risks for the investor. A decision to invest in any such asset should not be made in reliance on any information herein. Indices and rates cannot be invested in directly. Inclusion of an asset in an index or rate is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold that asset nor confirmation that any particular investor may lawfully buy, sell or hold the asset or an index or rate containing the asset. The general information contained in this publication should not be acted upon without obtaining specific legal, tax, and investment advice from a licensed professional.

No part of this information may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission of the applicable member of LSEG. Use and distribution of LSEG data requires a licence from LSEG and/or its licensors.

